

**Consideration of Notification of Voluntary Closure of Nursing Education Program
ITT Technical Institute in Richardson, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received on September 9, 2016 from ITT Educational Services, Inc. that all ITT Technical Institute locations in Texas voluntarily closed effective September 6, 2016, including the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) education program in Richardson, Texas.

Historical Perspective:

- The ADN Program at ITT Technical Institute in Richardson, Texas was approved by the Board in January 2011 and began enrolling students in June 2011. ITT Technical Institute also offered associate of applied science degrees in other disciplines on the Richardson campus.
- The first ADN students graduated in September 2013.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates since the program began are presented in the table below.

Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2016	Recommend accepting closure	46.34%	19/41
2015	Initial with Warning	50.00%	19/38
2014	Initial	45.83%	22/48

- The program was placed on Initial Approval with Warning at the January 2016 Board of Nursing (BON) meeting.
- On September 6, 2016, ITT unexpectedly ceased operation of all campuses. The only nursing program in the state of Texas was the ADN in Richardson.
- Program Director Judi Carosi, MSN, RN notified the BON immediately by telephone upon receiving an email on September 6, 2016 from the program headquarters stating that the program had closed.
- Formal notification of the closure was received by email from Thomas R. Brouwer, Regulatory Affairs Manager at ITT Educational Services, Inc. on September 9, 2016, establishing the end of the June 2016 quarter as the date of closure (See Attachment #1).
- At the time of closing, ITT was approved by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and held a letter of authorization from the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board to grant the degree based upon their accreditation from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).

Implications for Students:

- A U.S. Department of Education Blog Post authorized by Secretary John B. King addressed to ITT students regarding the ITT closure provides relevant background information (See Attachment #2).
- Academic provisions for current students were not formalized at the time of closing. The number of students enrolled in the ITT ADN program in Richardson on September 9, 2016 identified by Mr. Brouwer was fifty-nine (59) enrollees. Twenty-four (24) of the students were due to graduate in December 2016.
- Board staff has communicated frequently with representatives from TWC, ITT nursing students, the former ITT nursing director, as well as local nursing programs in an effort to assist ITT ADN students who were in the process of completing the nursing program.
- Board staff has communicated with Mr. Brouwer in an attempt to assist ITT nursing graduates who completed the program and who may be applying for licensure by exam and in need of affidavits of graduation to confirm program completion.
- Board staff has posted resources to assist ITT nursing students seeking transfer options on the Board website and developed a process to accommodate ITT graduates applying for licensure by examination on a case-by-case basis.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the voluntary closure notification from ITT Technical Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, effective September 6, 2016, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #3).

September 9, 2016

Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC
Nursing Consultant for Education
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, TX 78701-3942

RE: Notice of closure of ITT Technical Institute, and the associate degree of nursing program offered at the institution

Dear Ms. Varnell,

This letter is notification that as of the end of the June 2016 quarter, ITT Educational Services, Inc. has discontinued academic operations at all ITT Technical Institute locations located in Texas inclusive of the Associate degree in nursing program offered at these institutions.

The institution notified all nursing students on September 6, 2016 of this decision via email and simultaneously provided to the students internet links to receive information and directions on the following items:

- How to view June quarter grade postings
- How to request receipt of official transcripts
- A list of similar programs and institutions in the area for continued studies
- G.I. Bill and federal student loan information

Additionally, the institution has eliminated the graduation requirement to pass the Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) Exit Examination with a minimum score of 850 for all students of the Nursing program who have not yet graduated, but have satisfied all other nursing program graduation requirements. Therefore students' who had not yet passed the HESI exit exam as their only graduation requirement, including all students from program inception to the current cohort, will be notified of the change in the graduation requirements, and subsequently will be awarded a degree pursuant to the revised graduation requirements.

I would like to formally request acknowledgement of receipt of this correspondence and acknowledgement of the change in the graduation requirements. If you have additional questions I can be reached directly at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully,

Thomas R. Brouwer
Regulatory Affairs Manager
ITT Educational Services, Inc.
Phone: 317-582-0775
TBrouwer@itt-tech.edu

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A Message from the Secretary of Education to ITT Students (<http://blog.ed.gov/2016/09/message-secretary-education-itt-students/>)

Dear ITT student,

Today, ITT Educational Services, Inc. (ITT) announced that it is closing all of its ITT Technical Institute campuses. For most of the world, that news will be covered as a business story or a political one, but I know that for you it is deeply personal. You are probably wondering what this means for your future; how it is going to affect your finances and your ability to continue your education.

In recent years, ITT has increasingly been the subject of numerous state and federal investigations. In August, ITT's accreditor, the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) determined that ITT "is not in compliance, and is unlikely to become in compliance with [ACICS] Accreditation Criteria." This came amid increasingly heightened financial oversight measures put in place by the Department over the past two years due to significant concerns about ITT's administrative capacity, organizational integrity, financial viability, and ability to serve students.

The school's decisions have put its students and millions of dollars in taxpayer-funded federal student aid at risk. [Last week \(http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/increased-oversight-of-itt-and-the-impact-on-students/\)](http://blog.ed.gov/2016/08/increased-oversight-of-itt-and-the-impact-on-students/), the Department of Education took oversight actions to prevent ITT from continuing to add to that risk. When we made that decision, we did not take it lightly. One possible outcome of oversight actions is that a school may choose to close rather than take corrective actions, which can cause disruption and disappointment for current students. Ultimately, we made a difficult choice to pursue additional oversight in order to protect you, other students, and taxpayers from potentially worse educational and financial damage in the future if ITT was allowed to continue operating without increased oversight and assurances to better serve students.

We are committed to helping you as you consider next steps. Most immediately, you have two basic options to choose between:

1. If you are currently or were recently enrolled at ITT, you may be eligible to have your federal student loans for your program at ITT discharged. Your federal loan debt will be wiped away and you will have the option of restarting your education somewhere new. We will post and update information about how to receive a discharge at our [ITT announcements page \(https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/itt\)](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/itt).
2. If you wish to continue and complete your program at a different school – especially if you are close to graduating – you may be able to transfer your credits. It is important to note that transferring your credits may limit your ability to have your federal loans discharged. Closed school discharge may be an option if you enroll in a different program that does not accept your ITT credits.

Both of these options have pros and cons, depending on your unique circumstances, so it is important that you consider your specific situation carefully. You can find some information to start with at our [ITT announcements page \(https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/itt\)](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/itt). The Department's Office of Federal Student Aid is ready to support you with resources and information, including through this website, and will be updating you with more information in the coming days and weeks.

Whatever you choose to do, do not give up on your education. Higher education remains the clearest path to economic opportunity and security. Restarting or continuing your education at a high-quality, reputable institution may feel like a

setback today, but odds are it will pay off in the long run. There are people and tools – like our College Scorecard (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>) – out there to help you pick a program that gives you a real shot at success.

I am proud of your hard work and dedication, and we will do all we can to continue to provide information to you on your options.

Sincerely,

John B. King Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education

DRAFT LETTER

Thomas R. Brouwer
Regulatory Affairs Manager
ITT Educational Services, Inc.
13000 North Madison Street
Carmel, IN 46032-1404

Dear Mr. Brouwer:

At the October 27-28, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the notification from ITT Educational Services, Inc. of the voluntary closure of all ITT Technical Institute educational programs, including the Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, effective September 6, 2016.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of ITT Technical Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov or (512)-621-5179.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Texas Workforce Commission
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Accrediting Council for Independent Schools and Colleges

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
ITT Technical Institute
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Richardson, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on October 27, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the voluntary closure of ITT Technical Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, based upon the September 9, 2016 notification from ITT Educational Services of the intent to voluntarily close all ITT Technical Institute programs; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates since the program opened in 2011; and the program's history of compliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 214.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials and history of the program, including currently being on initial with warning approval, as well as the presentation by representatives from ITT Technical Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the ITT Technical Institute Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Richardson, Texas, and imposes the following condition/requirement:

1. The program may not reapply for approval of a new proposal for a nursing education program until at least twelve (12) months from the date of this order have elapsed.

Entered this 27th day of October, 2016

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing