

**Notification of Closure of Nursing Education Program
Houston Baptist University in Houston, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary:

Rule 215.3(d) related to Closing a Program states that "A program shall notify the Board office in writing of their intent to close the program." Houston Baptist University's School of Nursing and Allied Health has provided notification to the Board of their intent to close the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program effective January 1, 2013.

Historical Perspective:

- HBU is a private Christian University that opened in 1963 with a freshman class of 193 students.
- Today HBU has more than 2,500 students and offers in excess of 40 majors through its six colleges.
- Houston Baptist University (HBU) has operated two Board-approved professional nursing programs: a Baccalaureate Degree (BSN) Program which began in 1969, and an ADN Program which began in 1983.
- The ADN program has graduated 378 nursing students since their first graduation date in 1985.
- The HBU School of Nursing and Allied Health faculty voted on January 31, 2010 and the HBU Academic Affairs Committee voted on April 23, 2010 to suspend the ADN Program on June 1, 2010, and no new students were enrolled in the program.
- During the last semester that the ADN students were participating in the program, they were provided equitable treatment without additional charge and all promised instruction was provided.
- Admission to the ADN program was suspended in Fall 2009 and the last student graduated in May 2012.
- The program has provided formal notifications of closure to the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Requirements of Notification of Closure:

Rule 215.3(d) requires that a program planning closure will submit a written plan including information about the reasons for closing, the date of closure, academic provisions for students to complete the program, provisions for record storage, and strategies to maintain requirements and standards through the program's closure. HBU detailed their plan as follows:

- Reason for closing the program:
 - limited clinical placements,
 - few ADN enrollments,
 - lack of opportunities for ADN graduates, and
 - difficulty hiring full time nursing faculty.
- Date of intended closure: January 1, 2013.
- Academic provisions for students to complete the nursing education program:
 - At the time of suspension, four (4) students were enrolled in the ADN program.
 - Each student was notified via email of the suspension and asked to schedule an appointment with his/her advisor to ensure timely completion of the program.
 - Students were provided with a degree plan and provided the program of study received by prior students.
 - A full report of the teach out plan has been submitted to the Board.
 - The faculty continued to teach until graduation of the last student in May 2012.

- Provisions made for access to and safe storage of vital school records, including transcripts of all graduates:
 - Specific plans have been made for the maintenance of the records pertinent to the program and each graduate such as student files, notification of graduates, provision for security and confidentiality, and processing of requests for information.

- Methods to be used to maintain requirements and standards until the program closes:
 - The teach out has been completed with all students receiving the same program of study that was provided prior to the suspension of enrollments.
 - HBU remained in compliance with all requirements in Rule 215.

Staff Recommendation:

Accept the notification of closure of the Houston Baptist University School of Nursing and Allied Health Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, and extend congratulations for their twenty-nine (29) years of providing nursing education at the Associate Degree level for three hundred seventy-eight (378) graduates. (See draft letter in the attachment.)

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2012

Carol Lavender, MSN, MBA, RN
Interim Dean
Houston Baptist University
School of Nursing and Allied Health
7502 Fondren Road
Houston, Texas 77074-3298

Dear Ms. Lavender:

At the October 18-19, 2012 meeting of the Board of Nursing, Board members acknowledged and accepted the Notification of Closure of the Houston Baptist University School of Nursing and Allied Health Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Houston, Texas, effective January 1, 2013. The program is in compliance with all requirements in Rule 215.3(d) Closing a Program. The Board wishes to acknowledge twenty-nine (29) years of successful nursing education at the Associate Degree level and to congratulate the faculty for their commitment as they have served the program, the nursing students and the community.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Nancy Yuill, PhD, RN, Executive Director of the School of Nursing
Robert B. Sloan, Jr., HBU President
National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
Southern Association of Schools and Colleges