

**Report of Follow-up Survey Visit
 Lamar State College Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas
 Upward Mobility Nursing Education Program (LVN-RN)**

Summary of Request:

Consider the report of the April 22-23, 2013, follow-up survey visit to Lamar State College, Port Arthur LVN to RN Upward Mobility Professional Nursing Education Program (LVN-RN) in Port Arthur, Texas (See Attachment #1.) The survey visit was conducted by Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN and Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, Board Consultants for Nursing Education. A previous survey visit was conducted on November 7, 2012.

Historical Perspective:

- Lamar State College LVN-RN Upward Mobility Associate Degree Nursing Program has been in operation since 1995.
- In May 2012, Dr. Lisa Gongre was approved as the program director.
- Lamar State College - Port Arthur (LSC-PA) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The last reaffirmation visit was in 2003.
- The LSC-PA LVN - RN program approval status was changed to conditional at the January 2013 Board meeting
- In 2010, the program delivery method changed from face-to-face to entirely on-line and became available statewide to licensed vocational nurses.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past six (6) years are shown in the table below:

Exam Year	NCLEX-RN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)	BON Approval Status
2012	66.18%	90/136	Full with Warning
2011	78.08%	57/73	Full
2010	67.67%	26/39	Full
2009	96.00%	24/25	Full
2008	86.49%	32/37	Full
2007	75.00%	27/36	Full

Synopsis of the Survey Visit:

- LSC-PA administration expressed commitment to implementing corrective actions for the nursing program to be in full compliance with Board Rule 215.
- The total number of students enrolled in the program was not available at the time of the visit.
- Faculty are experienced in online delivery of an educational program.
- Students do not receive clinical learning experiences which encompass the lifespan and include caring for patients with acute and chronic illnesses and rehabilitative care.
- The program of study is delivered totally online with all precepted clinical experiences.
- Three (3) full-time faculty and twenty (20) part-time faculty are responsible for program instruction.
- Eighteen (18) academic coaches, contracted nurse educators, assist the full-time faculty with assignment grading, class discussion, and responding to student questions.
- Written policies for faculty committees were not evident at the time of the visit.
- The program director does not have authority for hiring or approving teaching staff.
- Faculty are not members of the clinical review or program evaluation committees.

Pros and Cons from the Survey Visit:Pros:

- Responses to the January 2013 six (6) requirements and three (3) recommendations were provided to Board staff by the timeline specified.
- Program full-time faculty are experienced, enthusiastic and dedicated to the program and its students.
- The program coordinator is an experienced educator and meets Board qualifications for the role of dean/director.

Cons:

- The director does not have full authority for the program operations.
- Clinical learning experiences are not in compliance with Rule 215 requirements.
- Faculty participation in program evaluation and the utilization of affiliating agencies is not evident.
- The program does not have a sufficient number of faculty to develop, design, and teach courses.
- Clear, current student enrollment, progression completion, and readmission data was not available to Board staff at the time of the visit.

Rationale for Recommendations:

The program is not in compliance with Rule 215. The program director does not have full authority to direct the program in all its phases. The program of study does not include instruction in the required four (4) content areas. Faculty bylaws were not evident. Required faculty committee structure is lacking.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of findings from the Board authorized follow-up survey visit to the LSC-PA LVN - RN Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and to issue three (3) requirements:

Requirement # 1:

§ 215.6 (l) *related to Administration and Organization*: The administration shall assure that the program director is given the authority to direct the professional nursing education program in all its phases, including approval of teaching staff, selection of appropriate clinical sites, admission, progression, probation, dismissal of students, and enforcement of student policies. The program shall be required to submit to the Board staff examples of minutes that reflect the director has full authority for the program of study by September 15, 2013.

Requirement #2:

§ 215.7 (n)(1)(2)(A-B) *related to Faculty*: The program director shall assure policies are developed and implemented related to faculty organization, including committee membership and documentation of meetings. Policies related to faculty bylaws and committee membership shall be provided to Board staff by September 15, 2013.

Requirement #3:

§ Rule 215.9 (e)(2) *related to Program of Study*: The faculty shall provide didactic instruction and clinical learning experiences for all students that include, but are not limited to, the following areas: medical-surgical, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health nursing that teach students to use a systematic approach to clinical decision-making and prepare students to safely practice professional nursing through the promotion, prevention, rehabilitation, maintenance, restoration of health, and palliative end-of-life care for individuals of all ages across the life span. The program director shall provide evidence to Board staff of proposed curriculum changes which include the four (4) content areas by September 15, 2013.

**Summary of Survey Visit
Lamar State College Port Arthur in Port Arthur, Texas
Professional Nursing Education Program (LVN-RN)**

Purpose of Survey Visit: Follow-up survey visit per Board authorization

Dates of Visit: April 23 and 24, 2013

Board Staff Conducting Visit: Sandi Emerson, MSN, RN and Virginia Ayars, EdD, MS, RN

Board Staff met with:

- Annelises Gongre, EdD, MSN, RN, Program Coordinator
- Nancy Cammack, EdD, Dean of Technical Programs
- W. Sam Monroe, LLD, President, Lamar State College, Port Arthur
- Ben Stafford, EdD, Department Chair for Allied Health
- Gary D. Stretcher, EdD, Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Mark Douglas, MSN, RN, Instructor
- Shirley MacNeil, MSN, RN, CNE, Instructor
- W. Kathryn Smith, MSN, RN, Instructor
- Patricia Guidry, Admissions Facilitator
- Bethany Smith, BSN, RN, Clinical Contract Specialist
- Crystal Tait, Secretary I
- Donna Wolfe, Secretary II

Activities Carried Out by Board Staff During Survey Visit:

- Conducted an initial meeting with director and administration
- Interviewed full-time LVN-RN program faculty
- Met with program staff
- Interviewed nine (9) LVN-RN program students
- Reviewed program documents and records (Student and faculty files, faculty meeting minutes, handbooks)
- Observed students performing simulation scenario
- Toured facilities housing and supporting the nursing program
- Conducted exit conference with program director and administration

Findings Related to Administration and Organization:

- LSC-PA administration participated in the opening and closing interviews. They expressed a commitment to take corrective actions necessary to bring the program into compliance with Board Rule 215.
- Dr. Lisa Gongre, program director, is an experienced educator and is qualified by education and experience to lead the professional nursing education program.
- Dr. Gongre does not have full authority to direct the LSC-PA LVN-RN program.

Findings Related to Faculty:

- The three (3) full-time faculty meet BON qualifications. They are responsible for all didactic instruction in the online program of study.
- Faculty demonstrate competencies in online learning methodology and possess the expertise to teach in assigned areas.
- Faculty serve as members of only the progression and curriculum committees. Minutes for the two (2) committees document evidence of faculty discussion and decisions.

- Faculty report that program decisions regarding student progression and course design have been overridden by LSC-PA administration.
- Faculty report that the number of contracted nurse educators varies with each course.
- Faculty report being unaware of program admission criteria and policies.
- Faculty by-laws were not available at the time of the survey visit.
- Faculty report that the pre-requisite course, ITSC 1371, Computers in Nursing, is not being taught as designed by nursing faculty. The course was designed by faculty as a cornerstone to the online program.

Findings Related to Students;

- The Department Chair for Allied Health reported that 781 students were enrolled in the program at the time of the survey visit.
- Student attrition data was not available at the time of the survey visit.
- All currently enrolled students have completed a competency skills check-off.
- Nine (9) students from the local cohort were interviewed. They expressed that the three (3) full-time faculty members respond timely to e-mail inquiries.
- Students report that test reviews are conducted after each examination.
- Students report that tutoring or remediation sessions have been offered in previous courses and were helpful. No tutoring or remediation sessions are being offered in the current course.
- Students recommended that end of course testing be conducted at the conclusion of the didactic portion. They indicated that retention of course information suffered with the length of time between the last didactic course and the end of the program.

Findings Related to Program of Study:

- The 2010 Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) have been incorporated into the program curriculum.
- Didactic content is "front-loaded" in the curriculum, with students completing course work in the four (4) content areas prior to clinical learning experiences.
- Comprehensive end of program testing occurs approximately four (4) months after completion of didactic content.
- The current program length of ten and a half (10.5) months is being revised. All courses will be standardized to eight (8) weeks.

Findings Related to Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The program utilizes preceptors as the sole means of clinical instruction and supervision.
- The clinical placement specialist reports being overwhelmed securing clinical placements for up to one hundred sixty (160) students every two (2) months.
- Preceptor policies and signed contracts are in place.
- Clinical experiences for persons throughout the life span with acute and chronic illnesses and rehabilitative care is not provided for all students.
- It is unclear if all students are provided opportunities for participation in clinical conferences.
- Simulation experiences are constructed using both NLN and faculty prepared templates.
- It is unclear if written clinical objectives are shared with all clinical preceptors prior to or concurrent with individual student clinical experiences.
- Clinical learning experiences are not provided in the four (4) content areas: medical-surgical, maternal/child health, pediatrics, and mental health. Students are placed in one clinical setting for a clinical course. There are two (2) clinical courses in the curriculum.

Findings Related to Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- A simulation center, located within a short walking distance of the nursing building, is well-equipped with up-to-date hospital equipment, mannequins, and supplies. De-briefing rooms with the capability for viewing taped simulation activities are available.
- Faculty offices are private, spacious, and equipped with a computer, printer, desk, chair, side chairs, and bookcase.
- Additional clerical support has been acquired for the program operation.

Findings Related to Records and Reports:

- Student and faculty files are maintained in locked, secure filing cabinets.
- Records and files for the two (2) online tracks (local and distance) are maintained by separate personnel and in separate locations.
- Student and faculty files reviewed contained all documents required by Rule 215.
- A program faculty handbook was not available at the time of the survey visit.
- Other than course syllabi, all program documents available for review were dated 2008.

DRAFT LETTER

July 22, 2013

Anneliese Gongre, MSN, EdD, RN, CNE
Coordinator, Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Lamar State College, Port Arthur
P. O. Box 310
Port Arthur, Texas 77641-0310

Dear Dr. Gongre:

At the July 18-19, 2013 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the April 22-23, 2013 survey visit to the Lamar State College LVN-RN Professional Nursing Program in Port Arthur, Texas. Members of the Board wish to thank you andfor being present at the meeting to answer questions.

Based upon the discussion and review of the survey visit report, it was the decision of the Board to issue the requirements in the attached Board Order. A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board

Sandi Emerson MSN, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Sam W. Monroe, LLD President, Lamar State College, Port Arthur
THECB

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of:

Lamar State College, Port Arthur
Upward Mobility LVN-RN Nursing Education Program
in Port Arthur, Texas

ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing , hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on July 18, 2013, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the report of the Lamar State College Port Arthur Upward Mobility LVN-RN Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas. Based upon the the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past six (6) years, the follow-up survey visit conducted on April 22 and 23, 2013, and compliance with Rule 215 pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

Board members in attendance were: Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP; Nina Almasy, MSN, RN; Deborah Hughes Bell, CIU, ChFC; Patti Clapp, Bal Tamara Cowen, MN, RN; Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR; Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA; Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN; Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as presentation by representatives from Lamar State College, Port Arthur Upward Mobility LVN-RN Nursing Education Program in Port Arthur, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby issues the following requirements;

Requirement # 1:

§ 215.6 (l) *related to Administration and Organization:* The administration shall assure that the program director is given the authority to direct the professional nursing education program in all its phases, including approval of teaching staff, selection of appropriate clinical sites, admission, progression, probation, dismissal of students, and enforcement of student policies. The program shall be required to submit to Board staff examples of minutes that reflect the director has full authority for the program of study by September 15, 2013.

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Entered this 18th day of July, 2013.

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP
President of the Board