

**Consideration of the Voluntary Closure of a Nursing Education Program
Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received from Universal Health Services (UHS) School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas, to close its vocational nursing (VN) education program, effective April 30, 2014.

Historical Perspective:

- The UHS School of Vocational Education VN program has been in operation since Fall 2008.
- The NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates since the program began are provided below:

Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-PN® Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2013	Conditional (April 2013 Board meeting)	64.29%	9/14
2012	Full with Warning (April 2012 Board meeting)	62.50%	15/24
2011	Full	61.54%%	24/39
2010	Full (January 2010 Board meeting)	60.87%	14/23
2009	Initial	88.89%	8/9

- Due to the 2010 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate of 60.87%, the program was required to submit a Self-Study Report. The program identified the following areas for correction: unique needs of English as a Second Language (ESL) students; lack of rigor in admission criteria; inadequate tutoring and remediation services; ineffective teaching methods; and failure to follow policies.
- Although multiple and ongoing corrective measures to improve candidate success were initiated, the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates continued to be below the 80% benchmark.
- The program was placed on Full with Warning Approval Status at the April 2012 Board meeting.
- A survey visit was conducted on October 31, 2012 by Board representative Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC.
- The program was placed on Conditional Approval Status at the April 18, 2013 Board meeting and several conditions and requirements were issued. The program has not been allowed to enroll new students since April 2013.
- Notification to the Board for closing the program was received in the Board office February 18, 2014 (See Attachment #1). The communication articulated the steps to assist students, faculty, and staff who will be affected by the program termination of the VN program.
- The program is committed to provide broad access to resources and support to ensure the success of the graduates. The faculty and teaching staff will remain employed with UHS School of Vocational Education VN Education Program until September 1, 2014, the closure date, to be available for the cohorts.

- According to the notification documents, the decision to close the program is based on the UHS School of Vocational Education commitment to quality healthcare for all Texans. The stated goal is to develop a new proposal for submission to the Board in one (1) year.
- The sixteen (16) enrolled VN students will complete the program on April 30, 2014.
- Each student will be provided an individualized academic map to enable the student to complete the program requirements within the teach-out period. Course offerings in the terminated program will continue until spring 2014. Cohorts will receive didactic and clinical instruction under the same curriculum plan that is in place.
- The UHS School of Vocational Education will retain all permanent educational files indefinitely at its Fort Worth, Texas campus.
- The program elected to close the vocational program. If this decision had not been made, Board Staff would have recommended withdrawal of approval to the Board at the April 2014 meeting based upon four (4) consecutive years of the NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates falling below 80%.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the voluntary closure from Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas, effective September 1, 2014, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (Attachment #2).

DRAFT COVER LETTER

April 21, 2014

Ana Naccarato, BSN, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education
1208 Country Club Lane
Fort Worth, Texas 76112

Dear Ms. Naccarato:

At the April 16, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the voluntary closure of the Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education Vocational Nursing Education Program in Fort Worth, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education Vocational Nursing Education Program in Fort Worth, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions, please contact Board Staff at (512)305-7660 or Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director



Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education

February 14, 2014

Dr. Virginia Ayars
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Dr. Ayars,

In our 2013 program review report, Universal discussed program revisions/additions that have been implemented to strengthen the framework of the Universal VN program. The most pressing concern for Universal after being placed on Conditional status by the board during the April 2013 meeting has been stabilizing and improving our NCLEX-PN passing rates. We have demonstrated slow, steady progress to our recent pass rates. However, our annual pass rates reflect less than 80% pass rate and have proven to be a challenge to stabilize.

The success of our students/graduates in meeting their desired career goals is the hallmark of our VN program. It is to this end that the administration, advisory board, faculty and staff have decided that it is in the best interest of our current students and the school to voluntarily surrender the VN program. The current class that is scheduled to graduate in April of 2014 will be our last VN co-hort. The teach out plan for Universal is to continue with the current curriculum teaching and clinical training through the end of April. The April class of students will be required to complete a NCLEX review course. The faculty will encourage the students and be available to ensure that the members of this co-hort receive every support possible to succeed on the NCLEX-PN. Opportunities for review are based on the availability of our graduates and are flexible. Universal is committed to provide broad access to resources and support to ensure the success of our graduates. The faculty and teaching staff will remain employed with Universal and will be available for the co-horts. The VN program closure date will be September first, 2014.

Our commitment to quality healthcare for all Texans continues to be steadfast. Universal will implement an overall thorough evaluation of the VN program in an attempt to more definitely identify causative barriers that impeded our successful achievement of the required NCLEX-PN passing rate. It is our most sincere hope to re-design a program that will be effective in providing didactic and clinical experiences worthy of your reconsideration as we prepare to submit a new proposal within a year.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.
Respectfully,



Ana Naccarato, RN, BSN, Dean



Dr. Kathy Walls, School Owner

Attached Documents:

Teach out map for students

Teach out plan



Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education

Universal School of Vocational Education is taking the following steps to assist students, faculty, and staff who will be affected by the program terminations of Universal's VN program. Other programs are currently offered and not affected by the termination of the VN program.

A. Students:

Students, who are currently enrolled in the VN program, will receive a notification letter from their respective dean informing them that their program has been terminated (see attached sample letter). The notification letters include the date of termination for the program and information describing the teach-out plan for each program. In addition each student will be provided an individualized academic map, which will enable him or her to complete the program requirements within the teach-out period. Course offerings in the terminated program will continue until spring 2014. Faculty and staff advisors will assist each student to complete the course of study. No new students have been enrolled in the program since April 2013.

A total of 16 students are currently enrolled in the VN program. Cohorts will receive didactic and clinical instruction under the same curriculum plan that is currently in place. Courses, by cohort are listed below. Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education will ensure and comply with Rule 214.3(d)(2).

Coursework for the cohort graduating in April 2014

Course 3000 Advanced Role Development

Course 3001 Health and Illness Care III

Course 3002 Clinical III

B. Transfer and Enforcement of Policies

The program will continue to maintain and enforce nursing student policies, which include those related to dismissal, progression, and graduation.

C. Faculty:

Faculty will receive a notification letter from their respective deans informing them of the program termination. The majority of faculty in the terminated

programs will be reassigned to teach in other areas. Faculty and staff who will be terminated will receive letters informing them of their employment status.

D. Records and Reports:

All vital school records, including transcript of all graduates will be stored under double locked storage at the Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education campus in Fort Worth, Texas.

E. Final Determinations:

Determinations will be made to allocate whatever financial resources and assets remain after the Universal provides for the basic needs of the current students, faculty, and staff. The proposed analysis of the financial resources reveals solvency to ensure adequate resources throughout the teach out period and post closure for analysis of the VN program and development of a newly designed VN program proposal for submission. All students will be expected to pay their tuition in full by 8-31-14. Failure to do so will result in termination from Universal's program. Two local VN programs accepting students are Concorde Career School and Teamworks. The student will be responsible for payment to complete their VN program.

F. Closing Date:

The final action of Universal's board and advisory committee will be to conduct a formal vote to terminate the VN program on 9-1-14. The owner of the school will accept all financial obligations associated with the VN program; this doesn't include unpaid tuition those students will be terminated from the VN program for nonpayment.

G. Disposition of Assets:

The school is not closing; the school is voluntarily closing the existing VN program.

Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education

Academic Map for Teach-Out

Degree Program: Vocational Nursing Program

Name of Student and Student ID: _____

Required Courses already completed for the Program

Clock Hours

Level	Course #	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab/Clinical Hours
I	1000	Disease Control and Prevention	16	0
I	1001	Nutrition, Fluid, Electrolytes, Acid-Base Balance	16	0
I	1002	Anatomy and Physiology	48	0
I	1003	Role Development	16	0
I	1004	Fundamentals of Nursing	32	0
I	1005	Health and Illness I	96	0
I	1006	Mental Health Nursing	32	0
	1007	Clinical I	0	242
16	Weeks	Total Clock Hours	256	242
II	2001	Advanced Nursing Skills/Pharmacology	123	72
II	2003	Pediatric Nursing	32	0
II	2004	Maternal Child Nursing	32	0
II	2005	Health and Illness Care II	96	0
	2006	Clinical II	0	288
18	Weeks	Total Clock Hours	283	360

Courses Remaining to be Completed

(Note: Include any incompletes as well, these must be completed prior to teach-out)

Level	Course #	Course Title	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours
III	3001	Advanced Role Development	43	72
III	3002	Health and Illness Care III	146	0
III	3003	Clinical III	0	288
III	NCLEX review	ATI review course for PN	0	Computer with coach
14	Weeks	Total Clock Hours	189	360
		Total Lecture Hours	728	
		Total Clinical Hours	962	
48	Weeks	Total Program Hours	1,690	

I have received and reviewed my academic map which enables me to complete my VN program within the teach-out period. I understand it is my responsibility to complete the program within the teach-out period.

Signature of Student

Date

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of:

Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education
Vocational Nursing Education Program
In Fort Worth, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 16, 2014, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the voluntary closure of Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education Vocational Nursing Education Program in Fort Worth, Texas, based upon the February 14, 2014 notification from Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education of its intent to voluntarily close its program; the current approval status of the program; NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates since the program opened in 2008; and the program's history of compliance and/or non-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 conditional status, as well as the presentation by representatives from Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education in Fort Worth, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the Universal Health Services School of Vocational Education Vocational Nursing Education Program in Fort Worth, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall submit to the Board no later than May 1, 2014, a plan for teach-out arrangements for all enrolled students, or evidence that all students either have completed the program or other academic provisions have been made; and
2. The program may not reapply for approval of a new proposal for a nursing education program until at least twelve (12) calendar months from the date of this order have elapsed.

Entered this 16th day of April, 2014

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director