

**Notification of Closure of a Nursing Education Program  
West Coast University in Dallas, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the notification received from West Coast University (WCU) in Dallas, Texas, to voluntarily close its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program, effective April, 2021.

**Historical Perspective:**

- West Coast University (WCU) in Dallas received Initial Approval from the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) to establish an ADN Education Program at the October 2019 Board meeting.
- West Coast University (WCU) is an incorporated private, for-profit, degree-granting, post-secondary educational institution administered by a board of trustees. WCU was originally chartered in California in 1909 as an ophthalmology school. During World War II the university developed a reputation for its programs in the mathematical and physical sciences, including engineering and applied physics. In 1953, WCU became one of the first schools to offer evening-only programs that allowed working adults to earn baccalaureate degrees. Since 1997, WCU's focus has been on healthcare-related educational programs. The WCU main campus is located in Los Angeles, California, and there are branch campuses in Anaheim and Ontario, California; Dallas, Texas; and Miami, Florida. Each of these campuses offers a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN).
- WCU's regional accreditor, Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior Colleges (WASC) Accrediting Commission for Schools, approved the implementation of the ADN program.
- WCU was awarded a Certificate of Authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on October 30, 2018, to add the ADN program to WCU's program inventory in Texas.
- WCU holds national nursing accreditation for the BSN program from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through December 31, 2024.
- The WCU Dallas campus BSN program was approved by the Board in January 2012 as a generic track. The BSN degree consists of 120 semester credit hours (SCH) for the generic BSN track that can be completed in 39 months. The WCU Dallas campus also offers post-licensure programs [Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN; RN to Master's Degree (MSN); and MSN].
- The current Director/Dean of Nursing, Kathy Smith, DHA, MSN-ED, BSN, RN, has been in this role since October 2018.

- Notification to the Board for closing the program was received in the Board office March 8, 2021 (See Attachment #1).
- The program cited the following factors as the basis for the decision to close the ADN program:
  - The location of WCU in an area of high crime and the increased expense for additional security led to the decision to find a new campus location, in Richardson, Texas which is currently under construction;
  - The COVID-19 pandemic imposed the need to focus on supporting the current students;
  - The decision was made to focus on the current bachelor's degree program and add a master's level family nurse practitioner (FNP) track, adult-gerontology nurse practitioner (AGNP) track, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree with a focus in healthcare leadership. There are also plans to offer a Physician Assistant and Occupational Therapy degree at the master's level; and
  - It was noted that the ADN programs at other locations had few applicants.
- WCU has not recruited or admitted any ADN students to the program so there is no teach-out required nor need for storage of student records.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the voluntary closure of the West Coast University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, effective April 22, 2021, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (Attachment #2).

| <b>TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING NOTIFICATION FORM<br/>CLOSING A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR AN EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS</b> |  |
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| NAME OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM   | West Coast University<br><br>Program Code: US27411000 GV   |
| TYPE OF PROGRAM   | Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)  |
| NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR   | Kathy Smith, DHA, MSN-Ed, BSN, RN<br>Phone No: 214-453-4234<br><br>Email: KaSmith@westcoastuniversity.edu  |
| LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS  | West Coast University<br>8435 N. Stemmons FWY<br>Dallas, Texas 75247   |
| REASON FOR CLOSURE  | <p>West Coast University (WCU) actively pursued approval for the Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) program with the Texas Board of Nursing in 2019, being granted approval for an initial cohort of 50 students in a letter from the Board on October 24 of that year. WCU believed then, as it does now, that there is an urgent need for more well-educated nurses in the workforce. We are extremely grateful for the Board's approval of the ADN program at that time.</p> <p>Since then, several factors have influenced our desire to discontinue our development of the ADN program, and we want to convey these factors to the Board. It is important to note that the campus has not recruited or enrolled any students in the ADN program at this juncture, and so there is no teach-out required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As we received approval for the ADN program, another phenomenon was occurring at our campus location. We witnessed the steady decline of the area where our campus is located at 8435 North Stemmons. Crime has steadily increased leading to an increased expenditure in security and safety on behalf of our students, faculty, and associates. This has led us to the decision to find a new campus home, which is currently under construction in Richardson, Texas. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. With an emphasis on a new location came the opportunity to revisit WCU's strategy in the DFW Metroplex. With an investment of over \$60 million in the new facility, WCU has determined to pursue bachelor's degree programs and above. We anticipate continuing to develop, mature, and refine the BSN program at the new location for pre-licensure RN preparation and RN-BSN, both which support the Institute of Medicine goal that 80% of all nurses be prepared at the BSN.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. We have also added Advanced Practice (APRN) tracks to prepare family and adult gerontologic primary care nurse practitioners, and</li> <li>c. the Doctor of Nursing Practice with a focus in healthcare leadership.</li> <li>d. Soon a Physician Assistant, and Occupational Therapy set of graduate programs will be offered.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The COVID-19 pandemic has created an urgent need for us to focus on supporting our associates and students during this unprecedented time. The development and implementation of the ADN program would require additional focus that could distract the campus team from providing needed support.</li> <li>3. We continue to hear from our clinical partners of their desire to have bachelor's prepared nurses. They seek not only more, but better prepared nurses to join them in the workforce.</li> <li>4. WCU pursued the ADN program at our sister campus in Miami and found that we had limited response. At that location, the BSN continues to be the degree of choice for prospective students.</li> </ol> <p>For these reasons, we believe it is in our best interests to discontinue our pursuit of the ADN program, and instead continue to refine and mature our BSN and graduate program offerings. As expressed, we are very grateful to the Texas Board of Nursing for its 2019 approval of the ADN program and appreciate your understanding of how our change in circumstances has led to this decision.</p> |
| DATE OF CLOSURE  | 3/4/2021  |
| ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM | There is no impact to current students, as we have yet to recruit or admit any.   |
| PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS                          | NA  |
| METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSURES       | NA  |

COMMENTS:

**\*Please attach additional pages if needed.**

SIGNATURE: Kathy Smith/Campus Dean

DATE: 3/4/2021

**Date Presented at Board Meeting:** \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT LETTER

April 22, 2021

Kathy Smith, DHA, MSN-ED, BSN, RN  
Campus Director of Nursing  
West Coast University  
8435 N. Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, Texas 75247-3900

Dear Dr. Smith:

At the April 22, 2021 virtual meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the voluntary closure of the West Coast University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the West Coast University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas.

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

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Texas Workforce Commission  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

**In the Matter of:**

West Coast University  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Dallas, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held virtually on April 22-23, 2021, to consider the voluntary closure of the West Coast University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, based upon the March 8, 2021 notification from West Coast University of its intent to voluntarily close its Associate Degree Nursing Program and the program's history of compliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials and history of the program, including currently having never recruited or admitted any students, as well as the presentation by representatives from West Coast University in Dallas Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the West Coast University Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Dallas, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2021

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