

**Notification of Closure of a Nursing Education Program  
National American University in Georgetown, Texas  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the notification received from the National American University (NAU) Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Georgetown, Texas, to voluntarily close the BSN Education Program, effective February 21, 2021.

**Historical Perspective:**

- NAU is a private university founded by Clarence Jacobsen as the National School of Business in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1941. Harold D. Buckingham bought the school in 1962 and changed the name three years later to the National College of Business. Campus expansion began in 1974 with a second location in South Dakota and new locations in Colorado and Minnesota.
- In 1996, the name was changed to NAU; the university continued to grow and add campuses over the years including an online campus in 1998. NAU awarded associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees in technical and professional fields.
- The university has been regionally accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Higher Learning Commission since 1985. The BSN Program has achieved national nursing accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) through 2026.
- The BSN Program at NAU was approved at the July 2014 Texas Board of Nursing (Board) quarterly meeting and enrolled the first cohort of 12 students in March 2016. The 24-month BSN Program consisted of a nursing fundamental core of 79.5 quarter credit hours of general education courses and a nursing clinical core of 107 quarter credit hours.
- The program's approval status was changed from Initial Approval to Full Approval by formal Board action at the January 2019 quarterly Board meeting, based upon review of the NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for 2018 and compliance with Rule 215.
- Rhonda Winegar, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CCRN, CPN, has been the Program Director for the BSN Program since October 4, 2018.
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates for the past five years are provided in the following table:

NCLEX Examination Year	BON Approval Status	NCLEX-RN® Examination Pass Rate	Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total)
2021	Full	25.00% ( <i>Preliminary</i> )	3/12
2020	Full	78.57%	11/14
2019	Full	75.00%	6/8
2018	Initial	83.33%	5/6
2017	Initial	NA	No Candidates

- On November 7, 2018, Board Staff was advised that the NAU Board of Governors had voted to convert NAU to a fully online university and would provide a teach-out for all programs, including nursing. Enrollments into the nursing program were suspended. All students that were enrolled were placed in a teach-out.
- The teach-out was completed on February 21, 2021, as all students met the program outcomes/objectives. Final grades were recorded and all graduates were conferred a BSN degree.
- Student records are stored online with NAU and readily available through the NAU registrar.
- The program is closed, with no remaining students. Reports were filed with CCNE as well as with the Board (See Attachment #1).
- The program has served the Central Texas area by providing BSN-prepared nurses who are employed in the local community.

**Rationale for Recommendations:**

- Rule 215.3(d) places certain responsibilities on nursing programs when they close. The program has met all requirements since all enrolled students were taught out and the last students graduated on February 21, 2021.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to accept the voluntary closure of the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Georgetown, Texas, effective February 21, 2021, and impose the condition/requirement in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

<b>TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING NOTIFICATION FORM CLOSING A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR AN EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS</b>	
NAME OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM	National American University  Program Code: 27- US27510000
TYPE OF PROGRAM	Pre-licensure BSN
NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR	Rhonda Winegar  Phone No: 512-567-0592  Email: <a href="mailto:rwinegar@national.edu">rwinegar@national.edu</a>
LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS	1015 W. University Ave. #700, Georgetown, Texas, 78628
REASON FOR CLOSURE	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: Voluntary teach-out and closure of on the ground academic programs.
DATE OF CLOSURE	February 21, 2021
ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All students were taught out and have completed course work. Final grades have been recorded and all were conferred a BSN degree on 2/21/2021.
PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All students' records are stored online with National American University and are readily available with permission through the registrar: Diane Lang at <a href="mailto:dlang@national.edu">dlang@national.edu</a>
METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES	BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: Program is closed. No remaining students. Reports are being filed with CCNE as well as the BON.

COMMENTS: All students have been taught out throughout the nursing program.

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

SIGNATURE:  DATE: 02/22/2021

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

**Draft Letter**

July 22, 2021

Rhonda Winegar, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, CCRN, CPN, Director  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
National American University  
1015 W University Avenue, #700  
Georgetown, Texas 78628

Dear Dr. Winegar:

At the July 22, 2021, meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the voluntary closure of the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Georgetown, Texas.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to accept the voluntary closure of the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Georgetown, Texas, and impose the condition/requirement in the attached Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may provide any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Virginia.ayars@bon.texas.gov) or 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Ronald Shape, President/CEO

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

\*\*\*\*\*

**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
National American University  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Georgetown, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held virtually on July 22, 2021, to consider voluntary closure of the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education in Georgetown, Texas, based upon the February 21, 2021, notification from National American University of its intent to voluntarily close its Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program and the program's history of compliance with 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the materials presented by Staff and filed by the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Georgetown, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby ACCEPTS the voluntary CLOSURE of the National American University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Georgetown, 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) calendar months from the date of this order have elapsed.

Entered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2021

---

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