

**Notification of Closure of a Nursing Education Program
Lone Star College – Montgomery in Conroe, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the notification received from the Lone Star College (LSC) – Montgomery Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Conroe, Texas, to voluntarily close the VN Education Program effective September 30, 2022.

Historical Perspective:

- LSC Montgomery VN Program in Conroe, Texas, was approved in 1995 as the Montgomery College VN Program extension by the Board of Vocational Nursing Examiners before the merger of the Boards in 2004.
- NCLEX-PN® examination pass rates for the past five years has been between 91% and 100%. The last two reports were for 17 and 18 first-time test-takers.
- The Program Director is Mischelle Hopper, MS, RN, CNE, who also serves as the Associate Degree Nursing Education Program at LSC Montgomery.
- Board Staff received notification of closure from Ms. Hopper on January 23, 2021 (Attachment #1). Rationale for the decision for closure includes the following reasons:
 - Difficulties locating clinical sites for the past two to three years, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Declining enrollments and graduating students;
 - Difficulty retaining faculty; and
 - Available option to direct future VN students to the VN programs in the other Lone Star College sites (Cy-Fair, Tomball, and Kingwood campuses).
- The current VN students are scheduled to graduate on August 15, 2022, with a planned closure date of September 30, 2022, to allow extra time for teach-out if needed. All VN requirements and standards will remain intact through the teach-out.
- VN student and faculty records will be maintained according to LSC retention policies. Records and transcripts will be available to students upon request.

Rationale for Recommendations:

- Rule 215.3(d) places certain responsibilities on nursing programs when they close. The program will have met all requirements when all enrolled students are taught out with late program completers graduating by September 30, 2022.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to acknowledge the notification of closure of the Lone Star College – Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program in Conroe, Texas, effective September 30, 2022, as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING NOTIFICATION FORM
CLOSING A NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR AN EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS**

<p>NAME OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM</p>	<p>Lone Star College- Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program Program Code: 27- 206400JH</p>
<p>TYPE OF PROGRAM</p>	<p>Vocational Nursing Education</p>
<p>NAME OF DEAN/DIRECTOR</p>	<p>Mischelle Hopper Phone No: 936-273-7352 Email: mischelle.a.hopper@lonestar.edu</p>
<p>LOCATION OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION SITE/CAMPUS</p>	<p>Lone Star College- Montgomery 3200 College Park Drive Conroe, Texas 77384-4500</p>
<p>REASON FOR CLOSURE</p>	<p>BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: The Vocational Nursing program at LSC-Montgomery has had difficulty over the last 2-3 years finding Clinical sites and maintaining relationships with them. This difficulty has been aggravated by the Covid pandemic but has been persistent. Due to this, faculty retention issues, and a declining number of graduates, the LSC College System plans to consolidate Vocational Nursing programs from our current four programs down to three programs at our Cy-Fair, Tomball, and Kingwood campuses.</p>
<p>DATE OF CLOSURE</p>	<p>September 30, 2022</p>
<p>ACADEMIC PROVISIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS OF NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM OR EXTENSION PROGRAM</p>	<p>BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: The current class of Vocational Nursing students will have completed their program as of August 15th, 2022. No further students will be accepted into the program. Students who receive an incomplete grade during the Summer semester will have until September 30, 2022 to complete the requirements for a grade assignment. Approval of teach-out arrangements is pending with the THECB and the Lone Star System Board of Directors.</p>
<p>PROVISIONS FOR ACCESS TO AND SAFE STORAGE OF VITAL SCHOOL RECORDS</p>	<p>BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: The LSC-Montgomery campus and nursing department will maintain and store VN Program records and transcripts as per the College System's usual processes. Records and transcripts will be accessible to students on demand.</p>
<p>METHODS TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS UNTIL THE PROGRAM CLOSES</p>	<p>BRIEFLY DESCRIBE: All current Vocational Nursing program requirements and standards will be maintained until the last cohort of students has graduated in August of 2022.</p>

COMMENTS:

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

SIGNATURE:

DATE: September 23, 2021

Date Presented at Board Meeting: _____

Draft Letter

January 20, 2022

Mischelle Hopper, MS, RN, CNE
Program Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Lone Star College – Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive
Conroe, TX 77384-4500

Dear Ms. Hopper:

At the January 20, 2022 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) discussed the notification of closure of the Lone Star College – Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program in Conroe, Texas, following graduation of the August 2022 cohort.

Based upon the discussion and review of information, it was the decision of the Board to acknowledge the notification of closure from the Lone Star College – Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program in Conroe, Texas, effective September 30, 2022.

If you have any questions or if we may provide any assistance, please contact Board Staff at Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-6814. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Rebecca Riley, President