



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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May 31, 2018

Catherine Tanksley-Bowe, DNP, MBA, MSN, CNM, RN, Dean, University-Wide Program Director
Stratford University Falls Church BSN Nursing Education Program
2900 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Certified Article Number

9414 7266 9904 2091 9358 46

SENDERS RECORD

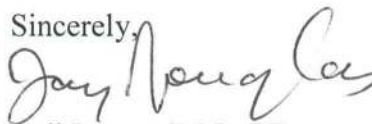
RE: Case Number 179222

Dear Dr. Tanksley-Bowe:

Enclosed is a certified true copy of the Order entered by the Virginia Board of Nursing ("Board"), following the Formal Hearing held on May 16, 2018.

In order to monitor your compliance with the terms and conditions of the Order, this matter will be forwarded to Tonya James, Compliance Case Manager for the Board. Please direct all questions, documents, and correspondence related to your compliance with the Order to Ms. James at (804) 367-4536, or to the Board of Nursing, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233-1463. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our office at (804) 367-4665.

Sincerely,


for Jodi Power, R.N., J.D.
Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

JPP/dg

cc: Anne Joseph, Deputy Director, Administrative Proceedings Division
David Kazzie, Adjudication Specialist
James E. Schliessmann, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Tonya James, Compliance Case Manager
Paula B. Saxby, R.N., Ph.D., Deputy Executive Director
Charlette Ridout, R.N., M.S., Senior Nursing Education Consultant
Stephen T. Chema II, Esquire, 11350 Random Hills Road, Suite 400, Fairfax VA 22030
Richard Shurtz II, Ph.D., President, Stratford University
David E. Brown, D.C., Director, Department of Health Professions
Barbara Allison-Bryan, M.D., Chief Deputy Director, Department of Health Professions

BEFORE THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING

**IN RE: STRATFORD UNIVERSITY – FALLS CHURCH BACCALAUREATE
 DEGREE REGISTERED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
 Program Code: US28502100
 Case Number: 179222**

ORDER

JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4020, 2.2-4024(F), and 54.1-2400(11), a panel of the Virginia Board of Nursing (“Board”) held a formal administrative hearing on May 16, 2018, in Henrico County, Virginia, to inquire into evidence that Stratford University – Falls Church Baccalaureate Degree Registered Nursing Education Program (“Stratford University”) may have violated certain laws and regulations governing the operation of a registered nursing education program in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Stratford University appeared at this proceeding and was represented by Stephen Chema, Esquire.

NOTICE

By letter dated April 24, 2018, the Board sent a Notice of Formal Hearing (“Notice”) to Stratford University notifying it that a formal administrative hearing would be held on May 16, 2018. The Notice was sent by certified and first class mail to the legal address of record on file with the Board.

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Board adopts the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and issues the Order contained herein.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Stratford University Falls Church Baccalaureate Degree Registered Nursing Education Program (“Stratford University”) was approved to operate a registered nursing education program on July 24, 2009. The program was placed on conditional approval on March 24, 2015 following two years of NCLEX cumulative passage rates below 80 percent.

2. By Order entered May 27, 2016 (“Board’s Order”), the Board continued Stratford University on conditional approval subject to certain terms and conditions, based on findings that the NCLEX passage rates for first-time test takers was below 80 percent for three years. Specifically, the NCLEX pass rate in 2013 was 68 percent; the NCLEX pass rate in 2014 was 74.29 percent, and the NCLEX pass rate in 2015 was 75 percent.

3. Term No. 1(a) of the Board’s Order required Stratford University’s NCLEX passage rate for first time test-takers for Calendar Year 2016 to be 80 percent or above. Term No. 1(c) of the Board’s Order required Stratford University to comply with the Board’s Regulations for maintaining an approved registered nursing education program.

4. Stratford University’s NCLEX passage rate for first-time test takers for Calendar Year 2016 was 60 percent. This was the fourth consecutive year that NCLEX scores were below 80 percent.

5. Stratford University failed to publish and distribute the program’s annual NCLEX passage rates for the past five years.

6. Stratford University provided evidence that it has now complied with Term 1(c) of the 2016 Board order by publishing five years of its annual NCLEX pass rates on the program’s website.

7. Evidence revealed Stratford University’s NCLEX pass rate for the first quarter of 2018 to be 81.82%.

8. Stratford University presented evidence that they hired the current University Program Director and Dean of Nursing in March 2017. Further, Stratford University demonstrated that it has implemented new review courses, has provided one-on-one and group tutoring, and that it has involved faculty in the realignment of its courses in order to assist its students to be successful on the NCLEX.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Finding of Fact No. 4 constitutes a violation of 18 VAC 90-20-151 and 18 VAC 90-20-132(A)(1), (10), and (11) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-27-210 and 18 VAC 90-27-140(A)(1), (10), and (11) of the Regulations for Nursing Education Programs, effective February 24, 2017), Term Number 1(a) of the Board’s Order, and Term No. 1(c) of the Board’s Order.

2. Finding of Fact No. 5 constitutes a violation of 18 VAC 90-20-136(D)(1) of the Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing (currently found at 18 VAC 90-27-180(D)(1) of the Regulations for Nursing Education Programs, effective February 24, 2017) and Term No. 1(c) of the Board’s Order.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Virginia Board of Nursing hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. Stratford University Falls Church Baccalaureate Degree Registered Nursing Education Program is placed on CONDITIONAL APPROVAL subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. The cumulative passing rate for Stratford University Falls Church Baccalaureate Degree Registered Nursing Education Program’s first-time test takers taking the NCLEX in Calendar Years 2018 and 2019 shall be 80 percent or above.

b. Stratford University shall submit the name and credentials of the current Program Director within 30 days of entry of this Order.

c. The Program Director of Stratford University shall submit an NCLEX success plan that demonstrates faculty involvement within 30 days of entry of this Order.

d. Stratford University shall submit to the Board quarterly written reports demonstrating compliance with the NCLEX success plan and with the terms and conditions of this Order, with the first report due to the Board by September 1, 2018.

e. Stratford University shall provide a copy of this Order to all current and prospective students, to all faculty members, and to the dean of the school of nursing. Further, Stratford University shall publish this Order on its website.

f. The Board may conduct site visits to determine compliance with the Board regulations and with this order, at Stratford University's expense.

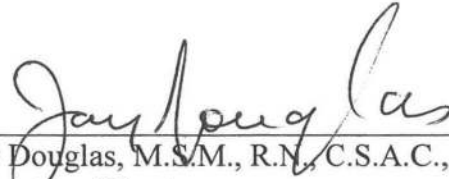
g. Should Stratford University's NCLEX cumulative pass rate fall below 80 percent for calendar year 2018, Stratford University shall appear before the Board at an informal conference for consideration of withdrawal of program approval.

h. Stratford University shall comply with the Board's regulations for maintaining an approved nursing education program.

i. Any violation of the terms and conditions of this Order or any law or regulation affecting the operation of nursing education programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia may constitute grounds for withdrawal of the conditional approval of Stratford University.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 2.2-4023 and 54.1-2400.2, the signed original of this Order shall remain in the custody of the Department of Health Professions as a public record, and shall be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

FOR THE BOARD



Jay Douglas, M.S.M., R.N., C.S.A.C., F.R.E.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Nursing

ENTERED AND MAILED ON:

May 31ST, 2018

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have 30 days from the date you are served with this Order in which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with Jay P. Douglas, R.N., M.S., C.S.A.C., F.R.E., Executive Director, Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, Virginia 23233. The service date shall be defined as the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first. In the event this decision is served upon you by mail, three days are added to that period.

Certified True Copy

By 
Virginia Board of Nursing