

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
TEXAS A&M HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER, COLLEGE OF NURSING, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS  
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas, proposal to establish a Baccalaureate Nursing (BSN) Educational Program and the results of the survey visit conducted by board staff. The final revised proposal with appendices, the Nursing Student and Nursing Faculty Handbooks, and digital photos of the facility and resources were sent to each of the members of the Board on two (2) separate computer disks. A Notice of Public Hearing has been posted (See Attachment One).

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- In January 2008, TAMHSC, College of Nursing, in College Station began the proposal process by submitting a proposal to establish a Baccalaureate Nursing (BSN) Educational Program.
- Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, the author of the proposal, has been identified as the prospective dean/director of the proposed program.
- Board staff reviewed the original proposal and the review was sent to Dr. Wilkerson on May 5, 2008. The original proposal was revised and received in the Board office on June 12, 2008.
- After review of the revised proposal, board staff conducted a survey visit of the proposed program facilities and resources in College Station on June 23, 2008. The report of the survey visit is included (See Attachment Two).
- After the survey visit and a proposal consultation on June 23, 2008, the program completed final revisions to the proposal and the final revised proposal with appendices, the Nursing Student and Nursing Faculty Handbooks, and digital photos of the facility and resources were sent to each of the members of the Board on two (2) separate computer disks.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL:**

Overview:

- The TAMHSC, College of Nursing, in College Station is requesting to establish a Baccalaureate Nursing Educational Program in College Station, Texas with two (2) different "tracks" within the curriculum design of the proposed program.
  - The first option will be a standard generic Bachelor of Science, Nursing (BSN), that will require two (2) years of prerequisite courses plus two (2) years of Nursing curricula (2 + 2 program).
  - The second option will be an alternative entry accelerated or "fast track" BSN program for individuals who have already earned a bachelor's degree in another field and will require 18 months to complete.
- The proposed program has Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval to create a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with a major in Nursing.
- The program is projecting an initial enrollment for the 2008-2009 academic year of forty (40) students, twenty (20) students for the generic program and twenty (20) students for the alternative entry accelerated program.

Present and Anticipated Need for Program:

- Evidence presented in the proposal indicates that there is sufficient student demand for the proposed program and strong employment needs for the program's future graduates.
- Letters of support for the proposed program from the three (3) local hospitals were included in the proposal.

#### Potential Student Population:

- Based on findings from surveys conducted by TAMHSC, College of Nursing, numerous potential students have expressed interest in the program.
- A comprehensive student recruitment plan was presented in the proposal.

#### Impact on Existing Programs:

- A letter of support from Blinn College in Bryan, Texas, was provided in the proposal. Blinn College in Bryan operates both a vocational and an associate degree nursing educational program within the 25-mile radius of the proposed program.
- The proposed program will provide clinical learning experiences in local health care facilities and utilize preceptors with minimal impact on existing programs in the area. TAMHSC, College of Nursing, is working cooperatively with Blinn College to ensure that there is not undue strain placed on clinical resources at the three (3) local hospitals.

#### Director/Faculty:

- The proposal identifies a proposed dean/director of the proposed program, Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN and at least eleven (11) prospective nursing faculty members.
- All individuals have the required qualifications.

#### Budget

- A projected budget for the first five (5) years includes salaries, secretarial/clerical support, and supplies/equipment and materials.
- The budget projections address the required elements of Rule 215.

#### Program of Study:

- Proposed curriculum is well-developed.
- Syllabi for all courses were included in the proposal.
- The Sim Center laboratory at the TAMHSC will be utilized by the program for students in the proposed program.

#### Systemic Plan of Evaluation:

- A beginning Program Evaluation Plan that was included in the proposal addresses all required items and benchmarks for most criteria.
- Numerical benchmarks will need to be included/revised as data is collected after the program is implemented.

#### **SUMMARY OF SURVEY VISIT:**

- The prospective dean /director of the proposed program, Dr. Sharon Wilkerson, conducted the tour of the facility and resources, and provided additional information to the board visitor during the proposal consultation conducted by board staff after the tour of the facility.
- A report of the survey visit is included in this document (See Attachment Two).
- There were no concerns noted during the survey visit of the facilities and resources regarding adequacy of facilities, resources, and services.

#### **PROS AND CONS:**

##### Pros:

- A qualified dean/director and at least eleven (11) prospective nursing faculty have been identified for the proposed program.
- The proposed program of study/curriculum is well-developed.
- Adequate clinical facilities for clinical learning experiences have been secured for the program and the plan to utilize preceptors is in place.
  
- Adequate budget projections to operate the program and acquire the necessary facilities, resources and services were included.
- Nursing students must complete all prerequisite courses prior to beginning the nursing courses.

Cons:

- The following concern was identified in the proposal:
  - All the current clinical evaluation tools for the clinical nursing courses are essentially the same. There are not specific behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives in each clinical evaluation tool that demonstrate progression throughout the curriculum, critical behaviors have not been indicated, and the behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives are not written in measurable terms.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to approve a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program to be established by the Texas A&M Health Science Center, College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas, grant the program Initial approval status, authorize board staff to conduct a survey visits as necessary until the program is moved to Full approval status, and issue commendation ad requirement to be met, as indicated in the attached letter (See Attachment Three).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Texas A&M Health Science Center

To Establish A

Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

in

College Station, Texas

Date and Time: July 17, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

Place:

Hobby Building  
333 Guadalupe Street  
Tower 2, Room 225  
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal. Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by July 3, 2008.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director  
Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
SURVEY VISIT REPORT**

**NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM:** Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, Baccalaureate Nursing (BSN) Educational Program

**PROPOSED DIRECTOR:** Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN

**REASON FOR SURVEY:** Visit site to determine adequacy of facilities, resources, and services.

**DATE:** June 23, 2008

**SURVEY VISITOR:** Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN

**The following survey tool includes only the standard/criteria related to 215.11, Facilities, Resources, and Services which was the focus of the survey visit. No other standard/criteria were evaluated during the site visit.**

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<b>§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services</b>		
(a) The governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program.		Criteria met.
(b) The dean or director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.		Criteria met.
(c) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body. (1) The dean or director shall have a private office.(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work. (3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate. (4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records. (5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.		Criteria met.
(d) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty. (1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.		Criteria met.

**DRAFT LETTER**

Agenda Item: 3.2.16.c.  
Attachment Three

July 30, 2006

Nancy W. Dickey, M.D.  
President, Health Science Center and  
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs,  
Texas A&M System  
301 Tarrow, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
College Station, Texas 77840

Dear Dr. Dickey:

At the July 17-18, 2008 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) discussed the proposal from Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas, to establish a baccalaureate degree nursing educational program in College Station, Texas. The members of the Board wish to thank you and [ ] for being available to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant Initial approval status to the TAMHSC, College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas, baccalaureate degree nursing educational program and authorize board staff to conduct survey visits as necessary until the program is moved to Full approval status, and issue the following commendation and requirement to be met.

**Commendation:**

Dr. Sharon Wilkerson, author of the proposal, is commended for the well-written and comprehensive proposal and the timely manner in which Board staff requests and suggestions were addressed.

**Requirement:**

Rule 215.9(c) related to Program of Study requires that "Clinical objectives/outcomes shall be stated in behavioral terms and shall serve as a mechanism for evaluating student progression." Rule 215.9(g) related to Program of Study requires that "Faculty shall develop and implement evaluation methods and tools to measure progression of students' cognitive, affective and psychomotor achievements in course/clinical objectives according to Board guidelines." A review of the syllabi for all the clinical courses revealed that all the current clinical evaluation tools for the clinical nursing courses are essentially the same. There are not specific behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives in each clinical evaluation tool that demonstrate progression throughout the curriculum, critical behaviors have not been indicated, and the behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives are not written in measurable terms. **Therefore**, the dean/director and nursing faculty shall revise the clinical evaluation tools for each clinical course to include specific behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives in each clinical evaluation tool that demonstrate progression throughout the curriculum and that are written in measurable terms, indicate the critical behavioral expectations/outcomes/objectives on each clinical evaluation tool, and submit the clinical evaluation tool for each clinical course to the Board office for board staff approval prior to implementing the course.

Requirements are mandatory and are based on program assessment directly related to the rule. Requirements shall be addressed in the manner prescribed. Please report on the address of the above requirements as indicated above. Board staff will contact you to arrange for future survey visits. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6815 or by email at [robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us](mailto:robbin.wilson@bon.state.tx.us) .

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President  
Robbin Wilson, MSN, RN, Nursing Consultant for Education

cc: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, Acting Dean and Profession, TAMHSC, College of Nursing

Enclosure

## **DRAFT BOARD ORDER**

### **BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**

In the matter of the proposal of

Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas

For approval to establish a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

### **ORDER OF THE BOARD**

TO: Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas

The Texas Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008, considered the proposal for authority to establish a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program by the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member  
Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, Representing VN Programs  
George Buchenau, Jr., BSN, RN, Representing Practice  
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, Consumer Member  
Marilyn J. Davis, BSN, RN, Representing Practice  
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs  
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice  
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice  
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs  
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice  
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member  
Patti Campbell, Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

#### **FINDINGS**

That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.

That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.

That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the establishment of an approved program offering a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing.

## **ORDER**

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC), College of Nursing, in College Station, Texas, is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements and standards for establishing a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program to prepare registered nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned entity is authorized to proceed having met all requirements of the Board for Initial Approval. In no event will the program admit students until all the legal requirements and standards for professional nursing education as described in Rules and Regulations Relating to Professional Nursing Education, §215.1-§215.13 (effective 02/13/05) are met.

DATED THIS 17th day of July 2008.

THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

Seal

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President