

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Educational Program
Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider Sam Houston State University proposal to establish a new baccalaureate degree nursing educational program in Huntsville, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was mailed to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Sam Houston State University (SHSU) was founded in 1879 and was named after General Sam Houston.
- In the fall of 2009 SHSU had an enrollment of approximately 16,795 students.
- The university offers 79 undergraduate degree programs, 54 masters' programs, and 5 doctoral programs.
- 72% of the faculty members hold doctoral or terminal degrees.
- SHSU boasts a diverse student body with students from 53 countries.
- A formal letter of intent to establish a BSN program was received in the Board office from Sam Houston State University in August 2009.
- Dr. Louise Plaisance, the prospective director of the new BSN program has years of experience in baccalaureate nursing education in Louisiana. She has been working with board staff since 2009 in proposal development.
- A qualified nursing education consultant, Dr. Ellarene Sanders, has been assisting with the proposal development.
- A first draft of the proposal was received in board office in June 2010 and a revised draft in August 2010.
- A site visit was conducted on September 13, 2010.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- SHSU proposes to establish a new four-year baccalaureate degree nursing (BSN) educational program with the last two years devoted to the nursing curriculum.
- A first cohort of thirty-five (35) Junior-level students is planned for the January 2011 enrollment with a new cohort of thirty-five (35) students enrolled in each subsequent year.
- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be May 2013.
- The required curriculum includes a balance of 58 credit hours in Arts and Science courses and 63 credit hours in nursing courses.
- Classes will be conducted in a traditional classroom setting with clinical experiences in nearby health care facilities.
- The curriculum will provide clinical experiences in a variety of acute care, long-term care, and community settings.
- Research and evidence-based nursing practices will be a strong component of the curriculum.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- There are no professional nursing educational programs within a 40-mile radius of SHSU and there is only one vocational nursing program about 7.3 miles away from the SHSU campus.
- The Huntsville area is home to numerous acute care, long term care and community health care facilities who are eager to hire graduates of this program.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicated available clinical space will support additional student clinical groups without negative effects on students currently receiving clinical education there.

- Letters of support from community leaders in the Huntsville and surrounding communities indicate endorsement of the proposed nursing program.
- There are currently over 240 pre-nursing students at SHSU and students surveyed have expressed a strong interest in the new BSN program.

Administration and Organization:

- SHSU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award bachelors, master's, and doctoral degrees.
- SHSU is a member of the Texas State University (TSU) System, a public university within the state of Texas.
- During Spring 2009 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) authorized SHSU to develop a BSN program.
- The final approval of the SHSU BSN program by THECB will be considered at their October 28, 2010 meeting.
- The proposed nursing program has the full support of SHSU administration.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- SHSU has received applications from a number of qualified nursing faculty in the area.
- Three qualified nursing faculty have been employed.
- Written information from area health care facilities indicate clinical space is available and SHSU students will be welcome.
- SHSU has established contacts with other nursing programs in the region and plans to work cooperatively in scheduling clinical learning experiences in commonly-used facilities.

Financial Support and Resources:

- A full range of student and academic services is available to SHSU students.
- The university administration is committed to providing funding and resources for this program.

Program of Study:

- The mission of the Department of Nursing is to educate students to become accountable, competent, critical thinkers who can function independently and collaboratively in professional nursing roles now and in the changing world of the future.
- The curriculum is designed for students to gain nursing skills through skills laboratories simulation experiences before hands-on patient care learning activities.
- The curriculum includes a plan for ongoing testing, evaluation and remediation.
- Clinical evaluation tools have been developed with progressive expectations of student behaviors.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan follows the Commission on Collegiate Education (CCNE) Model and includes all required areas in Rule 215.13.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Staff met with administration, prospective director, three nursing faculty, and eight pre-nursing students. SHSU will provide a beautiful campus setting for this new BSN program. The program will originally be housed in a building previously used by the Dance Department and the spaces for the nursing program are spacious and accommodating. All areas have been refurbished and repainted, and will easily house the nursing program. It is expected that the next building constructed on campus will provide a new home for allied health, including the nursing program. The nursing director and three nursing faculty are on the planning committee for the new building. The opportunities for nursing and other new health care programs at SHSU are very positive.

Pros:

- SHSU provides an excellent setting for a BSN nursing program and offers all student and academic services.

- The administration at SHSU is fully supportive of this program.
- The educational space allocated to the nursing program is spacious and will provide an appropriate educational environment.
- The proposed director has 28 years of nursing education and administrative experience.
- The program has received a number of employment applications from full qualified nursing faculty.
- There are presently about 240 prenursing students at SHSU.
- The community openly expressed positive anticipation for this new program in the area.

Cons:

- The final approval for the new BSN program at SHSU is on the October 28, 2010 agenda for THECB.
- The nursing skills lab was not completely furnished at the time of the survey visit. Equipment and supplies are either on order or have arrived but not in place.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Sam Houston State University for a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Huntsville, Texas, contingent upon approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on October 28, 2010, with an initial cohort of thirty-five (35) students to begin in January 2011, based upon the proposal and survey visit and issue the requirement as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Professional Nursing Educational Programs

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Sam Houston State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

DEAN OR DIRECTOR:

DATE APPOINTED Proposed Director: Louise Plaisance, DNS, RN
REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal DATES: September 13, 2010

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: The program intends to seek CCNE accreditation.

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
<p>(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.</p>	<p>The spaces provided for the nursing program are spacious and adequate. Classrooms will be shared with other disciplines in a building nearby. Classrooms are roomy and are furnished with audio-visual equipment. Tables and chairs are provided and a stadium section is in the rear of each classroom. The building which will house nursing has a large furnished lounge just inside the main doors. Secretarial assistance is near the lounge. A full range of student services is available. Staff visited the learning/writing center and the math lab.</p>	<p>The setting provided for nursing offers large spaces which are newly refurbished and newly painted.</p> <p>The campus provides a beautiful, wooded setting with many spaces to invite students to socialize and study.</p> <p>The award-winning learning/writing center offers instruction and students in writing assignments. A major emphasis on the campus is writing.</p> <p>Administration expressed a commitment to meeting the needs of the program. A future constructed building will house allied health programs including nursing.</p>
<p>(b) The dean or director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>Presently the program has a .5 FTE secretarial assistant. This position will be moved to one FTE as soon as the position is posted and an applicant hired.</p>	<p>Adequate.</p>

<p>(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.</p> <p>(1) The dean or director shall have a private office.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>The director and each faculty member will have private offices along a wing of the building. Each office has a private bathroom (left from the dance program). Three very large rooms provide space for two skills/simulation labs and a supply/computer laboratory. Currently the skills labs have 4 curtained-off areas equipped with patient beds. Walls are wired for acute care equipment. Supplies and equipment have been ordered and some received, but was not in place for the site visit. The room which will be the supplies/computer lab has not been furnished.</p> <p>A private office for the secretary is provided. Locked cabinets are in place for records. Most records will be maintained electronically. A conference room for faculty meetings or student conferences is available and furnished.</p>	<p>Offices, classrooms and spaces for skills and simulation labs are adequate and will provide ample space. The space is conducive to educational activities.</p> <p>Full time secretarial assistance will be in place before the program begins in January 2011.</p> <p>Some equipment and supplies were not in place in the laboratories during the survey visit.</p> <p>Requirement: The director shall provide photographs of the furnished laboratories prior to the beginning of classes in January.</p>
<p>(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.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>The campus library presently has begun subscriptions to nursing journals and has a collection of current nursing texts. Students will have access to search engines (including CINAHL) and full articles for download. The library will provide full assistance to students.</p>	<p>Students will have adequate library resources through hard copies and online access. A healthy library budget is projected for nursing.</p>
<p>§215.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) transcripts/permanent record cards of graduates</p> <p>(3) faculty records;</p> <p>(4) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, annual reports, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(5) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(6) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(7) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>File cabinets are in place in the secretary's office and in the director's office.</p>	<p>Adequate</p>
<p>(b) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>	<p>Most records will be stored electronically. Paper files will be in secured areas.</p>	
<p>(c) Copies of the program's Annual Reports and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate.</p>		

DRAFT LETTER

October 25, 2010

Louise Plaisance, DNS, RN-BC
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program
Sam Houston State University
Box 2209
Huntsville, TX 77341

Dear Dr. Plaisance:

At the October 21-22, 2010 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Sam Houston State University Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Huntsville, Texas, and the report of the September 13, 2010, survey visit.. The members of the Board wish to thank you; Dr. Jaimie L. Hebert, Dean; and----- for being present 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 Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, contingent upon approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and allow the admission of thirty-five students beginning in January 2011.

The Board also issues the following requirements as stated in the Board Order:

Requirement #1: The program shall provide a copy of the approval letter from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Requirement #2: The program shall submit evidence (photographs) that the nursing skills laboratories have been completed with furnishings and supplies prior to January 2011.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President of the Board

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Sam Houston University

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of Sam Houston State University

For approval to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Sam Houston State University

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 21st day of October 2010, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program and obtain Approval from 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
Patricia Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leder-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, 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

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering a Baccalaureate Degree.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Sam Houston State University is approved contingent upon approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program to prepare professional nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing educational program and prior to admission of students, all requirements of Chapter 215 Professional Nursing Education shall be met.

Specifically, the Board requires the following conditions as described below to be met prior to the beginning of nursing classes in the Sam Houston State University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program. The governing institution and the nursing program director will provide board staff:

1. Evidence of program approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
2. Evidence that the nursing skills laboratories have been completed and furnished prior to the beginning of classes in January 2011.

DATED THIS 21st day of October, 2010.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Agenda: 3.7.2.a.

Attachment #3

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Sam Houston State University

To Establish A

Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

in Huntsville, Texas

Date and Time: October 21, 2010 at 2:00 PM

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 October 7, 2010.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942