

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Texas A&M University Commerce in Commerce, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Texas A&M University Commerce proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Commerce, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was made available online to members of the Board. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Texas A&M University Commerce (A&M Commerce) was founded in 1889 as East Texas Normal College, purchased by the State of Texas in 1917, and was renamed East Texas State Teachers College in 1923. It became East Texas State College in 1957 and then East Texas State University in 1962.
- The university became a component of the Texas A&M University System in 1996. In 2010, A&M Commerce had an enrollment of approximately 10,000 students with almost 50% (4,866) of its students coming from its rural 10-county service area. A&M Commerce is located in Commerce, Texas, a city with a population of 9,066 (2009) which is situated in Hunt County, a rural area of Northeast Texas.
- The university offers more than 100 major areas of study at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral levels. The Honors College provides a tuition free college experience for 50 qualifying students annually. Unique aspects of the University include a state-of-the-art planetarium, recreation center, and science building. Recent construction includes a multi-million dollar student center, alumni center, and music building.
- A&M Commerce has been accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1925 and its current accreditation is in effect until 2014, when it will undergo reaffirmation of accreditation. A&M Commerce is also accredited by the following: the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – AACSB International, the State Board for Educator Certification, the National Association of Schools of Music, the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the Council on Social Work Education, the American Chemical Society, the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs, and the Masters in Psychology Accreditation Council.
- A well-developed, comprehensive first draft of the proposal was received in the Board office in October 2011 and reviewed by Board staff. The proposal was deemed complete by the Board education consultants in February 2012 and is scheduled to be considered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on October 25, 2012.
- A site visit was conducted on September 17, 2012 by Board contract survey visitor Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- A&M Commerce proposes to establish a new generic Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Commerce, Texas.
- The proposal projects an initial cohort of 30 students, and a continuing annual enrollment of one cohort of 30 students, to begin in Spring 2013. All curriculum and resources are currently in place

to support the operation of the new program.

- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be December 2014.
- The program combines comprehensive didactic educational experiences focused on rural nursing with clinical experiences situated within the context of rural Northeast Texas and the unique challenges and opportunities for health promotion in the area.
- The program will be delivered full-time using a combination of traditional face-to-face instruction and on-line courses. Clinical learning experiences will be conducted via a modern simulation laboratory as well as traditional, hands-on, faculty supervised practice in a variety of clinical settings to provide a well-rounded clinical education experience.
- The proposed 120 credit hour curriculum for the generic BSN track integrates 57 hours from liberal arts and natural, social, and behavioral science courses and 63 semester credit hours in nursing. This equates to an almost even split between nursing and non-nursing courses, designed to produce a graduate with a well-developed knowledge base for critical thinking to support nursing care decisions. The generic program will be completed during six semesters, occurring in regular Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.
- Classes will be conducted at the A&M Commerce campus with clinical experiences in health care facilities in the Northeast Texas area. Clinical affiliations include Hunt Regional Medical Center, Hunt Regional Community Hospital, Lake Point Medical Center, Glen Oaks Hospital, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data presented in the proposal indicate a need for the professional nursing education program in the Commerce area.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicated available clinical space will accommodate and support A&M Commerce nursing students.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the Northeast Texas area indicate strong support for the proposed nursing program.

Administration and Organization:

- A&M Commerce is part of the Texas A&M University System. Through a statewide network of 11 universities, seven state agencies, and a comprehensive health science center, the A&M System educates nearly 123,000 students and makes more than 22 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year.
- The proposal to establish a BSN education program was presented to the THECB Committee on Academic and Workforce Success on September 19, 2012. The proposal was accepted by the committee to be recommended for approval at the October 25, 2012 THECB meeting.
- The proposed nursing program director is Barbara Tucker, PhD, RN, FAANP. Dr. Tucker has taught in pre-licensure and graduate nursing programs for more than 30 years. She has served as a course, team, and program coordinator in nursing programs as well as interim department chair for a large social work department. In addition, Dr. Tucker has experience in nursing program development. She was co-developer of the generic BSN program at the University of Texas-Pan American as well as the developer of the MSN, FNP, and PNP programs.
- A&M Commerce will employ the following individuals as nursing department faculty members: Cheryl McKenna, MSN, RN; Bonnie Smithers, MSN, MPA, RN, FNP; and Monica Tenhunen, DNP, RN, GNP. All proposed faculty members have had experience teaching in a BSN pre-licensure program. Two potential part-time faculty members have expressed interest in positions

and submitted curriculum vitae.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Local, state, and national searches for qualified faculty will be ongoing with advertisements appearing in state and national publications or websites for future recruitment. A&M Commerce will also have a “grow your own” philosophy. Helping local nurses obtain a baccalaureate degree will be an avenue toward future master’s prepared nurses. Eventually, the A&M Commerce nursing program hopes to expand to the masters level, enabling more local nurses to obtain graduate education and be available as qualified faculty and preceptors.
- The program has secured commitments for clinical learning experiences from a variety of health care institutions in the Northeast Texas area, including Hunt Regional Medical Center, Hunt Regional Community Hospital, Texas Health Presbyterian, Lake Point Medical Center, Glen Oaks Hospital, Hopkins Memorial Hospital, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.
- There are no BSN programs within 25 miles of A&M Commerce. Additionally, there are no associate degree nursing education programs within 25 miles. Letters of support from the clinical affiliates indicate an ability to accommodate proposed students and welcome the increase in graduating professional nurses in the Northeast Texas area.

Financial Support and Resources:

- A&M Commerce is committed to providing the resources needed for a successful generic BSN program. Evidence that A&M Commerce recognizes the value of a BSN program in the area is found in the funding and effort already expended in support of the program. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, almost \$60,000 was spent renovating a building to house the faculty offices and simulation laboratory. In FY 2012, \$51,545 is allocated to add a skills laboratory. Simulation equipment (SimMan, SimMom, SimJr., and SimBaby), sterile supplies, hospital beds, etc., valued at \$245,800 have been purchased with an allocation of \$110,000 for FY 2012. Over \$45,000 has been expended in Library support and an equal amount will be available in FY 2013 and 2014.
- The survey visit indicated that the requirements of Board Rule 215 regarding facilities, resources, and services are completely addressed in all categories.

Program of Study:

- The mission of the Nursing Department subscribes to the mission of the University and the College of Education and Health Services. The Nursing Department facilitates the development of competent practitioners with critical thinking skills to meet the diverse and evolving health care needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The leadership and service provided by baccalaureate prepared registered nurses is an essential component of health care for vulnerable, underserved, and culturally diverse groups in rural Northeast Texas.
- The nursing program is designed to prepare graduates at a high level of competency for beginning positions in culturally diverse health care settings. Graduates will be generalists who can provide nursing care within the context of the nursing process of assessment, planning, intervention, and evaluation for actual and potential health needs for individuals, families, groups, and communities. The concepts of critical thinking, life-long learning, and professionalism are interwoven throughout the curriculum.
- The ultimate outcome for the nursing program is to produce individuals prepared for licensure; for safe, entry-level, professional nursing practice; and ready to progress to graduate education. The curriculum is designed to result in this outcome and is guided by the mission and philosophy of the Nursing Department; by the strategic plan, mission, and guiding principles of A&M Commerce; by the Essentials of Baccalaureate Education of the American Association of Collegiate Nursing; and by the Differentiated Essential Competencies of the Texas Board of Nursing.

- Classroom and clinical experiences throughout the curriculum are designed to progress from simple to complex, beginning with general education courses that provide a foundation upon which to build nursing courses. Nursing courses similarly progress from nursing fundamentals, to generalist practice, and then to leadership-focused learning experiences.
- The proposed degree plan contains a total of 120 semester credits, including general education courses, didactic nursing courses, and skills lab and clinical learning experiences. Significant clinical practice hours (990) are planned throughout the program of study to promote the proficiency in skills necessary for competent nursing practice.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan is well developed and provides measurable indicators of achievement. The nursing program will be evaluated in the areas of Structure and Governance, Material Resources, Clinical Learning Experiences, Curriculum, Students, Graduates, and Faculty.

Comments from Survey Visit:

The Board representative met with administration, the proposed director of the program, proposed faculty members and support staff, as well as toured the facilities.

Pros:

- The administration have committed the resources to the implementation of this new program.
- The campus offers learners multiple resources appropriate to a well-established university that is part of a large university system.
- Multiple, comprehensive, and diverse clinical learning experiences have been secured.
- The proposed director and three proposed faculty members are qualified and experienced in pre-licensure professional nursing education.

Cons:

- None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Texas A&M University Commerce to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Commerce, Texas, with an initial cohort of 30 students, and a continuing annual enrollment of one cohort of 30 students, to begin in Spring 2013, based upon the proposal and survey visit (See Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Professional Nursing Education Program

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texas A&M University Commerce in Commerce, Texas Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Barbara Tucker, PhD, RN, FAANP

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATE: September 17, 2012

SURVEY VISITOR: Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC

Summary from Survey Visit: The Board representative met with Barbara Tucker, PhD, RN, FAANP, proposed nursing program chair, university administration, campus librarian, nursing faculty, and support staff. University President Dr. Dan Jones, expressed his enthusiasm regarding the proposed nursing program. The tour of the campus and nursing department provided additional information to the Board representative. The Texas A&M campus is located in the small, rural, northeast Texas town of Commerce. The campus is clean, well-maintained, well lighted, and has ample open parking. Comprehensive student services are available to students on campus.

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
(a) The controlling agency/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.	Strong administrative support was evident during the survey visit. The Board representative met with the university president, Dr. Dan Jones; interim associate provost and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Dan Edelman; Chief of staff and director of planning and governmental relations, Alicia Currin; and associate dean of instruction, Gail Johnson. Facilities and resources are adequate to start and maintain the nursing program.	Criteria met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. (2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment.	Two adjoining nursing skills lab are fully-equipped and ready for student instruction. Each lab has three beds and includes state-of-the-art simulation capabilities, hot and cold running water, as well as ample storage space.	Criteria met.
(c) The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	Secretarial and clerical staff members are in place. One full-time and one part-time administrative assistant are dedicated to the nursing education program.	Criteria met

<p>(d) 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 director/coordinator 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>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>The program chair, the three full-time faculty members, and the director of simulation have spacious, comfortable private offices. The offices are fully furnished with individual computers, printers, filing cabinets, and phone and internet access. Additionally, each nursing faculty member has been issued a laptop computer.</p> <p>The program chair's office includes a large conference table that will be used for faculty meetings.</p> <p>The nursing program has one central copy and fax machine.</p> <p>Mechanisms are in place to secure sensitive materials and documents.</p> <p>The classroom and skills/simulation labs are conducive for learning. Teaching aids and state-of-the art simulation capabilities are in place. Additionally, a full-time director of simulation has been hired for the nursing education program.</p> <p>Two large ADA-accessible restrooms will be shared among faculty and students. Additionally, there is a spacious, comfortably furnished centrally-located lounge area and break-room available for faculty and student use.</p> <p>Comprehensive student support services are available for students on the campus, including student housing, a large student life center, and a full-service cafeteria. Several national chain eateries are located on the campus, including Starbucks and Subway.</p> <p>Numerous computer classrooms are available for student use. The classrooms are accessible and conveniently located in the university library and throughout the university campus.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(e) 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 Board representative toured the large two-story library and discussed plans for the nursing department's virtual and traditional library with the program chair.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

§215.12 Records and Reports		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two (2) years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) faculty records;</p> <p>(3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>Both electronic and hard copy maintenance and storage of documents were discussed during the survey visit.</p> <p>The program has developed a receipt of written student policies form including information on eligibility for licensure.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school</p>	<p>Record forms have been developed by the school.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>	<p>The issue was discussed during the survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>	<p>Student academic records will be managed and controlled by the Registrar's office.</p> <p>Nursing department records will be maintained in locked metal cabinets that are located in the nursing program office as well as the program chair's office.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2012

Barbara A. Tucker, PhD, RN, FAANP, Director
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas A&M University Commerce
P. O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429

Dear Dr. Tucker:

At the October 18-19, 2012 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Texas A&M University Commerce Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Commerce, Texas, and the report of the September 17, 2012 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank <<.....>> and you for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to Texas A&M University Commerce in Commerce, Texas, and allow the admission of an initial cohort of 30 students, and a continuing annual enrollment of one cohort of 30 students, to begin in Spring 2013.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board staff at 512-305-7660.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President of the Board

Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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 Texas A&M University Commerce, Commerce, Texas
For approval to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 18th day of October 2012, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
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
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Verna Kathleen Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP, Representing Advanced Practice

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 Texas A&M University Commerce is approved having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program to prepare professional nurses.

The program is authorized to admit an initial cohort of 30 students, and a continuing annual enrollment of one cohort of 30 students, to begin in Spring 2013.

DATED THIS 22nd day of October, 2012.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND

FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By:

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

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 Texas A&M University Commerce

To Establish A

Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

in Commerce, Texas

Date and Time: October 18, 2012 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 4, 2012.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942