

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program  
Texas State University Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
at St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider Texas State University (TSU) San Marcos proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program in Round Rock, Texas. The final revised proposal was made available online to members of the Board. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

**Historical Perspective:**

- TSU is a comprehensive, four-year university, located in San Marcos, Texas.
- The nursing program is offered only on the Texas State University Round Rock Campus (TSU-RRC).
- The first class of 100 juniors began nursing studies at TSURRC in fall 2010.
- TSU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award baccalaureate degrees in nursing and has received permission to offer master's degrees beginning with the MSN with a major in Family Nurse Practitioner in Fall 2013.
- National accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) was granted to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program effective November 7, 2011.
- Students make application to the graduate college at Texas State University (TSU) in San Marcos and all qualified applicants are referred to the St. David's School of Nursing Admission's office located in Round Rock, Texas, for review. The school will provide the graduate college with the completed list of students to be accepted. Formal acceptance letters are issued by the graduate college.
- TSU is proposing to add a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a major in a Family Nurse Practitioner program to the St. David's School of Nursing campus in Round Rock, Texas in response to strong interests from the community.
- In 2012, Board Staff were notified by Dr. Marla Erbin-Roesemann, Director of the St. David's School of Nursing at TSU, that they were working on the proposal. She has communicated with Board Staff as questions have arisen.
- The Texas State University System Board of Regents authorized TSU to offer the new MSN on November 15, 2012.
- The proposed degree program received approval from The Texas Higher Education Board (THECB) on January 7, 2013.
- TSURRC is requesting approval for a new MSN program to begin in Fall 2013 with an initial cohort of forty (40) students entering the MSN FNP nursing program of study and an annual enrollment of forty (40) students. The first cohort is expected to graduate in May 2015.
- A site visit was conducted on March 19, 2013, by Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC, PLLC to ensure readiness of the physical site (See Attachment #2).

**Summary of the Proposal:**

Overview of the Proposal:

- The proposed TSU MSN program consists of a total of forty-eight (48) semester credit hours:
  - Advance Practice Core nine (9) credits
    - advanced pathophysiology - three (3) credits
    - advanced pharmacotherapeutics - three (3) credits
    - advanced health assessment - three (3) credits
  - Theoretical Foundation six (6) credits
  - Family Population skills twenty-one (21) credits
  - Integrative Nursing Specialty twelve (12) credits

- The proposed curriculum is designed to prepare the MSN graduate to be a family nurse practitioner in primary care and to develop competence in the theory and techniques of integrative health.
- Dedicated space on campus has been allocated to house the MSN nursing program.

#### Rationale and Need for the Program:

- There is a need for nurse practitioners (NPs) in general to fulfill short-term need for primary care.
- The proposal cites the projected need for more MSN-FNP prepared nurses to meet the need for primary care providers (PCP) in the state of Texas.
- In order for NPs to continue filling only 25% of primary care roles in Texas, education for another 1,460 NPs is needed.
- Fewer physicians are entering primary care practice.
- In Texas, there is a poor distribution of PCPs, geographically and demographically.
- There is an existing and sustainable student demand for NP programs such as this proposal.
- Surveys of local acute care facilities in the Central Texas area indicated a growing need for NPs in the near future.
- There are three (3) major hospitals within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of the university and all are seen as potential employers for the TSU nursing graduates.
- Letters of support from a number of health care facilities in the area are included in the proposal.

#### Administration and Organization

- After the proposed nursing program is approved by the BON and THECB, the program will be a part of St. David's School of Nursing within the College of Health Professions.
- The core faculty will include:
  - the Director, St. David's School of Nursing, Professor
  - the proposed FNP Program Director
  - at least six (6) faculty
  - additional staff member- clinical education placement coordinator 50% FTE
- Substantial funding for the program has already been secured.
- The proposed director of the program is Shirley Levenson, PhD, MSN. Her academic credentials and experience in nursing practice meet Board qualifications for this position.

#### Faculty

- The first faculty member was hired in September, 2011, to assist in developing the proposal. The proposed director was hired in December 2012.
- Though their faculty pool is presently robust, there is a need for more FNPs to teach in the program.
- The university is currently advertising for potential nursing faculty and have identified ten (10) qualified candidates.
- The Nursing Faculty Handbook incorporates all aspects of the graduate program and provides all required faculty policies and by-laws for the faculty organization and committee structure.

#### Students

- In the beginning of the program, there will be an emphasis on recruiting students, as well as raising awareness of the program's existence in the community.
- Recruitment efforts will target nurses currently living or interested in practicing in rural areas, in order to mitigate the burgeoning shortage of primary care providers both rurally and overall.
- Information about the program will be sent to nurse practitioner organizations, hospitals, and nursing and health organizations.
- A potential student pool will come from their own past BSN graduates.
- In the fall of 2012, the School of Nursing conducted a survey of BSN-prepared RNs (n = 49) to assess the student demand for the FNP program. Fifty-six percent indicated an interest in an FNP program.
- Admission requirements include one year of work experience as an RN and a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale in previous course work.
- Selection of students will be determined by the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee, which consists of the Admission and Retention Coordinator, and nursing faculty who

review each qualified applicant.

- In recent years TSU has developed a collection of programs and services designed to increase the pool of college ready students coming from the Central Texas region and to increase their success in the educational pursuit.
- Students who attend the nursing program at TSU will have access to a full range of college activities.
- TSU has a good working relationship with community colleges in the Central Texas region to facilitate transfers from community colleges to the university.
- Central Texas has a significant Hispanic population that is underrepresented in the health professions, particularly in nursing, and they hope to recruit them into the program.
- Admission to the MSN FNP nursing program will be a separate admission activity than admission to the university.
- Plans for records maintenance and retention are in place.
- The Total Program Evaluation Plan is included in the proposal.
- A Student Handbook has been developed for MSN students only. A section of the handbook provides guidance for online learning.

### Program of Study

- The curriculum is consistent with requirements in Rule 219 *Advanced Practice Nurse Education*.
- The MSN program is a 21 month (5 semester, 48 semester credit hour) program in which registered nurses (RNs) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree advance their skills to the entry level for certification as a Nurse Practitioner (NP), and licensure as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).  
Instruction will be in an online format with required on-campus learning experiences twice per semester at the St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock. The on-campus learning experiences will augment the online course work and allow assessment of students to ensure that advanced level competencies have been met.
- Of the 48 semester hours required, 10 hours are allotted to practicum courses.
- Faculty facilitate practicum courses online and during the on-campus experiences; however, required clinical hours will be spent with individual preceptors in a clinical setting.
- The curriculum requires students to log 600 clinical clock hours with individual preceptors in a clinical setting over the course of the five (5) semesters.
- The focus of the NP program is primary care of families and individuals across the lifespan.
- Students will be taught to treat all members of the family and will be prepared to treat diverse populations, with knowledge to promote health and to assess patients of all ages.
- MSN graduates are required to meet professional competencies related to their focus area of study. The graduates are qualified to sit for one or more of the following certification examinations:  
American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Certification Exam (FNP)  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Certification Exam (FNP)
- The program has a unique focus on Integrative Nursing.
- The program is being designed around the standards listed in two documents which the CCNE uses for determining accreditation: the AACN's *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011a) and the National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education's *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs* (2008).
- Students will also meet all competencies listed in AACN's *The Essentials for Master's Education in Nursing* (2011a), the 8 NONPF competencies (Scientific Foundation, Leadership, Practice Inquiry, Technology and Information Literacy, Policy, Health Delivery System, Ethics, and Independent Practice), and the AACN's Consensus Model for APRN Regulation. Each of these competencies will be mapped to content in courses, lectures, exam questions, etc. to ensure compliance with each standard.

### Clinical Learning Experiences

- Most of the students' clinical practice will occur in primary care clinics under the guidance of a NP or medical physician. Additionally, some supplementary, community-based experiences will occur in area clinics and hospitals.
- Due to the distance education model of the program, some students may enroll from rural areas of Texas and fulfill their practicum hours at a clinical site close to them. This will minimize the

- impact on the practicum resources of the local Austin area.
- Each MSN student is responsible for identifying a clinical site and preceptor. The School of Nursing will approve all clinical sites and preceptors for each course.
- The program has requested information about preceptors available to serve in the central Texas area clinics and hospitals. The responses indicate there are adequate facilities for additional students in the area without compromising other NP programs in the area.
- Two signed responses confirming clinical placements at St. David's Healthcare and Bluebonnet Trails Community Services are included in the proposal.
- One staff position, a Clinical Placement Coordinator, will oversee the clinical arrangements and verify preceptors for each student.
- A Clinical Preceptor Packet will be provided to each preceptor with information pertaining to the responsibilities they must accept in this role.
- For clinical courses, students will be evaluated according to journals, logs of hours worked and patient populations served, preceptor recommendations, and/or letters from supervising mentors.
- Faculty and preceptors will be responsible for assessing students and provide both self- and peer-critiques to improve instructions.
- Students will be expected to attend in-person meetings and perform simulation lab assignments twice each semester. The students will be evaluated during the in-person experiences to determine that they have grasped the essential competencies of each course.
- Formative evaluation provides an ongoing process which provides data that can be used to develop a more complete evaluation of the student's performance in the course.
- Students will complete a self-evaluation at midterm and upon the completion of the course. This will include a rating of individual objectives and a narrative summary report.
- The summative (final) evaluation is the composite of the clinical behaviors for the course scheduled at the completion of the clinical experience. Successful completion of the course is dependent upon the summative evaluation.

#### Facilities, Resources, and Services

- The nursing building, completed in April 2010, and funded by \$36 million in tuition revenue bonds, is a 77,740 gross square foot, three story building with a creative design based on best practices incorporated into recently designed nursing school facilities.
- The building includes simulation labs with current state of the art equipment and manikins.
- The building is wireless, includes a variety of classrooms and seminar rooms as well as student and faculty areas.
- The building is capable of accommodating research and enrollment expansion.
- There is ample office space for additional faculty as well as graduate assistants.
- The research wing includes facilities for focus groups, administering surveys, and compiling data.
- There is space to expand staff and records required to support the program.
- The facility is fully equipped to provide distance learning in a variety of formats, including via the internet, Adobe Connect, ITV, and video.
- There is an Office of Distance and Extended Learning and Instructional Technology Support available.
- There are plans to develop a satellite clinic of the Texas State University Student Health Center for the Round Rock campus to support the clinical practice requirements of MSN students and nursing faculty.
- The area includes more than adequate space for the Director's Suite, faculty offices and work areas, practice and simulation labs, storage area, seminar rooms, and classrooms.
- Each classroom is equipped with high-tech educational projection equipment and screens.
- Board Staff conducted a site visit (See Attachment #2) and determined the physical site meets Board requirements and is adequate for the program.
- The university has a full range of student services.
- The Texas State Albert B. Alkek Library is located on the San Marcos campus and supports the College of Health Professions. The Library supports the School of Nursing through online services and an onsite satellite library in the Avery Building on the Round Rock campus. The Library holdings consist of more than 1.5 million printed volumes of books, documents, and serials, over 122,922 electronic journals, and more than 491,291 eBooks.
- Texas State is fully equipped to provide distance learning in a variety of formats, including via the internet, Adobe Connect, ITV, and video. Online distance class formats are supported by

Instructional Technology Support. This department offers course-development workshops and support for all faculty, and especially for those teaching in an online distance format.

- The Avery Building, adjacent to the Nursing Building, provides student and faculty support services including a writing center, student services, food service, classrooms, and student/faculty areas.

#### Records and Reports

All records and reports will be stored according to the records retention policies at Texas State University.

#### Total Program Evaluation

All aspects of the MSN FNP program have been integrated into the nursing program Total Program Evaluation Plan. The evaluation plan follows the format of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) since the BSN program is accredited by CCNE and the MSN program will seek CCNE accreditation prior to the first graduating class.

#### **Rationale for Staff Recommendation:**

The proposal to establish a MSN Program at Texas State University with a Family Nurse Practitioner Track meets Board requirements in Rule 219, is consistent with the mission of the university, and has been designed to meet future needs for the provision of primary care to the citizens of Texas.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Move to approve the establishment of the new Master's Degree in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas, beginning in Fall; 2013, and impose the requirements as indicated in the attached order (See 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 Texas State University  
St. David's School of Nursing  
To Establish A  
Master's Degree in Nursing  
Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
in Round Rock, Texas

Date and Time: April 18, 2013 at 3:30 PM  
Place: Hobby Building  
333 Guadalupe Street  
Tower II, 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 office by April 4, 2013.  
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

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program  
 Texas State University Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
 at St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas  
 Compliance Summary and Survey Report**

**§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

STANDARDS/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>Provide a description of plans to recruit and hire support staff for operation of the proposed nursing program, including the need for support staff in the areas specified in Rule 219.</p>	<p>In addition to faculty, the program will require an additional staff member: a Clinical Education Placement Coordinator. This position will be 50% FTE and does not necessarily need to be a nurse. The primary responsibility of this individual will be to facilitate student clinical placements with the site locations. Activities will include reconciling clinical and SON policies and mediating misunderstandings between student, preceptors, and/or sites. The Clinical Education Placement Coordinator may also take on the responsibilities of the Clinical Education Placement Coordinator for the BSN program.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>
<p>Provide a description of existing and proposed physical facilities, including: office space for the nursing program director and nursing faculty members, space for clerical staff; space for maintaining and storing records, files and equipment; and number, size and types of classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms designated for use by the nursing program.            (Note: Floor plans, photographs, drawings, etc. may be submitted as supplemental evidence.)            *The Texas BON will only review this area specifically for the purpose of determining that the existing and proposed physical facilities meet the requirements of Rule 219.</p>	<p>The nursing building, funded by \$36 million in tuition revenue bonds, is a 77,740 gross square foot, three story building with a creative design based on best practices incorporated into recently designed nursing school facilities. Construction of the new nursing building was completed in April 2010. The building supports the innovative curriculum in a variety of clinical practice and simulation labs with the most current equipment and manikins, wireless capability, a variety of classrooms and seminar rooms, and spacious student and faculty areas. The curriculum has been designed to promote learning and research and to make maximum use of the facility resources. Additionally, the building is capable of accommodating research and enrollment expansion, as resources allow. The designers of the Nursing Building planned for future graduate level programs specifically. Ample office space exists for additional faculty members, as well as graduate assistants. The research wing includes facilities for focus groups, administering surveys, and compiling data. There is also space to expand staff and records required to support the program.            The nursing program was designed to be Hi Tech/Hi Touch with extensive use of the various levels of simulation. Simulation laboratories were built and equipped with state of the art equipment.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>
<p>Provide the time line for start-up and completion of new construction/remodeling projects, and evidence that the institution will provide funds for the required new construction or remodeling.</p>	<p>NA</p>	

STANDARDS/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>Provide a description of existing and proposed educational resources, including inventory of existing and proposed nursing skills laboratory equipment purchases, computer laboratory equipment, and inventory of teaching/learning aids for the nursing program, such as audiovisual hardware and software.</p> <p>*The Texas BON will only review this area specifically for the purpose of determining that adequate resources are available to ensure equal access for all nursing students to meet program/course outcomes and the requirements of Rule 219.</p>	<p>Since the BSN program began in 2010, the Library holdings in the field of nursing have increased substantially. At present they are more than sufficient for a Master's level program, specifically one with the planned foci. Journals concerning professional values, advanced practice nursing, nurse practitioner competencies, current research, and role development are now included in the holdings. The majority of Texas State's nursing literature is electronic rather than physical books and journals; this format will facilitate student access for a program that is primarily online. Databases and subscription services such as the Cochrane Library, ProQuest Nursing &amp; Allied Health Source, and the Nursing Reference Center have been purchased to specifically support the nursing program. Due to the recent launch of the BSN program, the SON will have new program funds available in addition to ongoing annual funding for the first two years of the MSN program. Prior to 2013, the SON will continue to recommend new sources to keep library resources current and adjust to any unforeseen shortcomings in library materials. The majority of requests for additional library materials are filled due to the generous library funding provided to the SON.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>
<p>Provide an inventory of library holdings and projected purchases to support the proposed nursing program.</p> <p>* The Texas BON will only review this area specifically for the purpose of determining the current inventory of nursing volumes, nursing journals, other nursing holdings, and projected purchases of nursing holdings.</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>
<p>Provide evidence of adequate restrooms and lounges sufficient to meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and compliance requirements.</p>	<p>Restrooms on all floors of the nursing building are more than adequate for both students and staff. There is even a private room for nursing mothers in the women's bathroom.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>
<p>Provide a description of existing and proposed student support services, including developmental learning programs, learning assessment programs, and counseling programs and resources to promote retention of nursing students.</p>	<p>The Avery Building, adjacent to the Nursing Building, provides student and faculty support services including on-site technical support, writing center, student services, food service, classrooms, and student/faculty areas.</p> <p>A satellite clinic of the Texas State University Student Health Center is proposed for the Round Rock campus to support the clinical practice requirements of MSN students and nursing faculty. The clinic will provide routine primary care services for Texas State students.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>

DRAFT LETTER

Shirley Levenson, PhD, RN, FNP  
Nurse Practitioner Program Director, St. David's School of Nursing  
Texas State University  
1444 University Blvd.  
Round Rock, TX 78665

Dear Dr. Levenson:

At the April 18-19, 2013 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the proposal from Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Degree Family Nursing Practitioner Program in Round Rock, Texas. The members of the Board wish to thank you and ---- 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 State University St. David's School of Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Round Rock, Texas, to begin Fall 2013 and issue the two requirements in the Board Order.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact staff at (512) 305-6814.  
Best wishes as you begin this new journey.

Sincerely,

Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President of the Board

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

Copy: Marla Erbin-Roesemann, PhD, RN, Director, St. David's School of Nursing, TSU  
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
The Southern Association of Schools and Colleges  
Dr. Ruth Welborn, Dean of the College of Health Professions, TSU

## BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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**In the Matter of:**  
Texas State University  
St. David's School of Nursing  
in Round Rock, Texas

### ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 18, 2013, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the proposal for a new Master Degree in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas, based upon information in the proposal and findings from the survey visit, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 219.

Board members in attendance were: Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP; Nina Almasy, MSN, RN; Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC; Tamara Cowen, MN, RN; Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR; Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA; Shelby Ellzey, BBA; Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN; Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN; Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN; and Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL to the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Texas State University St. David's School of Nursing in Round Rock, Texas, and hereby imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The next two (2) faculty employed by the program shall be Family Nurse Practitioners (FNPs).
2. The program shall admit no more than forty (40) students annually beginning Fall 2013 until the program's approval status has been changed to full approval.

Entered this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013

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Kathy Shipp, MSN, RN, FNP  
President of the Board