

**Report of Site Visit to New Program  
Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the findings from the June 25, 2013 site visit to the nursing facilities to house the newly approved Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

**Historical Perspective:**

A proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas, was approved at the January 2013 Board meeting contingent upon completion of construction and a site visit by Board Staff. Susan Wilkinson, PhD, RN, CNS, contracted Program Evaluator, conducted the site visit on June 25, 2013.

**Findings from the Site Visit (Attachment #1):**

Program Evaluator met with the director and staff

Program Evaluator made a walking tour of the campus and visited:

- Offices that provide student services
- Classrooms and lecture halls
- Student activity center
- Library
- Library learning commons
- Conference rooms, restrooms, and lounges
- Nursing skills laboratory
- Director and Faculty offices
- Storage area for equipment and supplies
- Secured records room

Program evaluator determined that facilities are in readiness and are adequate for the program to begin.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Accept the findings from the survey visit. (Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING  
SITE VISIT REPORT FOR NEW PROGRAM  
(Professional Nursing Education Programs)**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Abilene Christian University

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Becky Hammack  
DATE APPOINTED: Date of Approval

REASON FOR SURVEY: Site Visit for Proposed Program      DATE: June 25, 2013

SURVEY VISITOR: Susan Wilkinson, PhD, RN, CNS (Contract Program Evaluator)

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.

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p><b>§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services</b> (a) The governing entity shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the professional nursing education program.</p>	<p>Dedicated space on the ACU campus has been provided and remodeled for the nursing program. Contract program evaluator visited with student services on campus and found the following services available: new student orientation; and retention and student success programs. Full counseling services are available as well as a student mentoring program. The contract program evaluator toured classrooms and lecture halls in two buildings, and spoke with the director and staff. Dorms are already in place and housed nursing students when nursing students attended the consortium program at Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing. A student activity center which provides a venue for student meals and recreation is available. Also the contract program evaluator took a walking tour of the campus adjacent to the nursing building and found the library and several refreshment outlets and areas for study. There is a large student lounge in the nursing building in which the furnishings were planned by design students at ACU.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate the maximum number of students allowed for the program.</p> <p>(1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water.</p> <p>(2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment and supplies.</p>	<p>Visited newly constructed skills lab with six exam-care cubicles with mid-fidelity sim-pad mannequins and a separate task trainer room with exam tables and white boards, a high-fidelity simulation area with three areas for different simulation scenarios, a large debriefing room with TV-sized wall-mounted monitor to view taped scenarios, 3 automated medication dispensing systems as well as 3 virtual IV trainers, and a separate furnished area in the back of the debriefing room to stage community health scenarios. Hot and cold running water available.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(c) The dean/director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>An administrative assistant was employed to assist the program director and faculty. The director is currently housed in an office suite adjacent to the administrative assistant and 3 faculty offices.</p>	
<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 dean/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>(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>New individual offices are available for faculty near the director and administrative assistant on the second floor close to classrooms. All offices are furnished with a desk, computer and bookshelves. There is an additional faculty office on the first floor should a faculty member have special mobility issues.</p> <p>An immense room for storage of equipment and supplies is in the nursing department with movable shelving. A secured room is designated for records and files. All labs and learning spaces are locked and faculty, and staff have keys. Classrooms are all provided with modern audio-visual equipment. A conference room is available as well as a faculty workroom area. Adequate restrooms and lounges are available.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<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 contract program evaluator visited the library which has hard copies and access to online information and provides remote online accessibility to students. The library has computers available for student use. The library is open every day for long hours. Study rooms are available in the library. The learning commons in the center of the library has a Starbucks for refreshments.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

DRAFT LETTER

October 21, 2013

Becky S. Hammack, EdD, MSN, RN  
Director, Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program  
Abilene Christian University  
ACU Box 29103  
Abilene, Texas 79699-9103

Dear Dr. Hammack:

At the October 17-18, 2013 meeting, members of the Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the report of the site visit to the newly constructed facilities to house the Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. The Board accepted the findings in the report that indicate readiness of the facilities to begin enrolling students for Fall 2013.

This completes all aspects of the proposal. Best wishes as you proceed with the nursing program on your own campus. If Board Staff may be of assistance, please contact [Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov](mailto:Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov) or (512) 305-6814.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

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