

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing in Bryan, Texas**

Summary of Request:

Consider Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) College of Nursing proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program in Bryan, 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:

- The history of Texas A&M University dates back to 1876 as Texas' first public institution of higher learning.
- TAMHSC is one of sixteen (16) colleges and schools in the TAMU system and has campuses in Bryan-College Station, Dallas, Temple, Houston, Round Rock, Kingsville, Corpus Christi, and McAllen.
- The TAMHSC College of Nursing baccalaureate degree nursing (BSN) education program was approved by the Board of Nursing (BON) in July, 2008, and has experienced NCLEX examination pass rates of above 97% for the four (4) years since they graduated their first cohort. The current enrollment in the BSN program is 142 students.
- TAMHSC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and professional degrees.
- The College of Nursing began a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Education in February, 2014, and an accreditation site visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) is scheduled for February, 2015. The enrollment in the MSN program is 14 students.
- In addition, 32 students are enrolled in the RN-to-BSN program.
- Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, Professor and Dean of the College of Nursing, submitted a letter of intent dated November 8, 2013, to submit a proposal for a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program at TAMHSC.
- Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) was received on June 25, 2014.
- The proposal was received in Board office on July 18, 2014, and has been reviewed by three (3) nursing education consultants.
- TAMHSC is requesting approval for the new FNP program to begin in January 2015 with an initial cohort of twenty (20) students and a projected enrollment of twenty (20) students each year.
- A site visit was conducted on September 12, 2014, by Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC to ensure readiness of the physical site (See Attachment #2).

Summary of the Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- The FNP program is designed to prepare registered nurses to deliver primary health care through an advanced scope of practice to individuals of all ages.
- Emphasis is placed on the collaborative role of the NP within the integrated health care system to provide care through health promotion, disease prevention, and management of common acute and chronic illnesses.
- The FNP program didactic content will be delivered entirely in an online format using a variety of teaching strategies.
- Courses are structured to foster interactive learning through faculty/student, student/student, and student/content.

- Each clinical course will require comprehensive examination using online proctoring to ensure academic integrity.
- The curriculum includes nine (9) credits in:
 - Advanced physical assessment;
 - Advanced pathophysiology; and
 - Advanced pharmacology.
- Four core courses (12 credits) include:
 - Quality improvement/Informatics (interdisciplinary course);
 - Scholarship (interdisciplinary course);
 - Leadership and Policy (interdisciplinary course); and
 - Prevention/Population Health.
- The clinical courses follow the NONPF Core Competencies for Nurse Practitioners focusing on family.
- The clinical experiences will be conducted in the student's own community and will be precepted by qualified practitioners and monitored by program faculty.
- The program requirements include a total of 635 clinical practice hours.
- The program will be offered in a full-time (5 semesters) and in a part-time (8 semesters) plan of study. An accelerated track will also be available for BSN students to move directly into the MSN program from the BSN program.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The proposal discusses the need for the establishment of the FNP program as three (3) integrated factors:
 - Texas residents are faced with a need for quality primary health care due to physician shortage, lack of rural health care services, changing population demographics, and a projected need for increased number of providers as a result of national health care reforms.
 - The unmet need for primary care can be met by nurse practitioners.
 - The current advanced practice educational programs cannot accommodate qualified candidates interested in becoming nurse practitioners.
- In addition, the ratio of NPs per 100,000 population is less than the national average.
- Letters of support for the establishment of the program from health care settings in the Bryan community are included in the proposal.

Administration and Organization

- The Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System approved the establishment of the FNP program on January 30, 2014.
- Funding will be provided by State support, tuition and fees, local funds, and externally funded grants.
- The TAMHSC has committed to providing \$1,045,942 of institutional funds during the first two (2) years to support the program start-up.
- A projected budget for the program is included in the proposal.
- The proposed coordinator for the FNP program is Kara Jones-Schubart, DNP, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing.

Faculty

- Current and projected faculty for the FNP program include Family Nurse Practitioners, Nurse Midwives, Women's Health Nurse Practitioners, and other doctorally prepared faculty to teach other required graduate courses in the program.
- All faculty will teach at the undergraduate level as well as the gradual level.
- The faculty recruitment plan is designed to reach a wide range of professional applicants through personal contact, advertisements, announcements, media, job fairs, internet, professional organizations, resume banks, letters, and phone calls.
- The NP faculty will be allowed one day a week release time to maintain their practice requirements.
- 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

- Results from a 2013 Needs Assessment Survey that was sent to BSN nurses in central Texas indicated strong interest in the projected program.
- The respondents to the survey will be contacted as prospective candidates for the program.
- Program representatives will provide information to education/recruitment officers in local hospitals as an awareness campaign. Education fairs will be held to attract potential students. The program will also advertise in local newspapers and publications.
- Applicants who meet the admission criteria will be evaluated and the Admission and Progression Committee will select candidates based upon a scoring rubric.
- The Graduate Nursing Student Handbook provides information and policies required in Rule 219.

Program of Study

- The FNP program consists of 21 semester credit hours of core courses, designed to fulfill the requirements of the *AACN Master's Essentials (2011)*, and 27 semester credit hours of coursework to prepare the student as a primary care practitioner.
- In addition, the curriculum reflects the *Criteria for the Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (2012)*.
- The courses included in the FNP major are:
 - Diagnostics & Procedures
 - Primary Care of Families I
 - Primary Care of Families II
 - Advanced Practice Roles
 - Primary Care of Families III
 - Primary Care of Families Practicum
- The clinical practice component of the curriculum consists of 635 hours and may be supervised by preceptors in the student's home community.
- Formative and summative feedback will be provided to students in the clinical evaluation process.
- All students will participate in on-campus activities four (4) to five (5) times a year.
- Students may enroll in full-time or part-time tracks.
- The program is designed to prepare the graduate to take the Family Nurse Practitioner National Certification Exam through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).
- Syllabi for all courses are included with the proposal.

Clinical Learning Experiences

- Since there are no other advanced practice nursing programs in the immediate area, the impact on clinical placements for other nursing programs should be minimal.
- In anticipation of working with clinical settings across the state, the College of Nursing has clinical contracts with a total of 75 agencies located throughout the state that will be appropriate for FNP students.
- After students are enrolled in the program, immediate attention will be given to searching (in partnership with the students) for suitable clinical sites in the students' home communities.
- Preceptor qualifications as well as student, faculty, and preceptor responsibilities are outlined in the Clinical Handbook for the Graduate Program of the College of Nursing.
- Faculty will evaluate preceptors and clinical sites each semester, basing their evaluation on direct observations from clinical site visits as well as electronic and telecommunications.
- Clinical experiences in the FNP program will include skill seminars, objective structured clinical examinations, and precepted clinical rotations.
- On-campus simulation experiences in the Clinical Learning Resource Center (CLRC) will augment precepted clinical rotations and offer opportunities to provide formative evaluation of student performance.

Facilities, Resources, and Services

- The College of Nursing plans to add four (4) new staff positions following Board approval to assist with the FNP program.
- The Health Profession Education Building located on the Bryan Campus was designed specifically to facilitate the mission and expansion of the institution.
- The facility houses clinical simulation centers and audio-video equipment to facilitate distant education, learning, and communication.

- The Clinical Learning Resource Center has a simulated home environment, nursery, two (2) adjacent hospital rooms, labor and delivery room, and an operating and trauma room.
- The FNP Program Coordinator and faculty will have private offices in a spacious area with access to conference rooms, a kitchen/break area, and a work room.
- Support staff will have assigned work stations or offices with adequate storage space for records, files, and equipment.
- TAMHSC has a full range of student services available to the FNP students.
- Texas A&M University Libraries serves both the research and study needs of students and faculty across campus and ranks 23rd in collection expenditures (\$18.4 million) among U.S. academic libraries.
- One of these libraries, the Medical Sciences Library (MSL), serves as the anchor library for the nursing program, with an ever expanding collection of resources in medicine, life sciences, and public health areas that are relevant to the nursing program.
- The Teaching Learning Resource Center provides centralized support for scheduling classrooms, seminars, and meetings throughout the HSC. It was established to facilitate faculty development, student learning, and staff collaboration.

Records and Reports

- Records and sensitive materials are securely stored in locked file cabinets with limited access to assigned personnel.
- The Texas A&M University System is committed to maintaining records in compliance with federal and state law.

Total Program Evaluation

- The Total Program Evaluation Plan for the FNP program is designed to measure the achievements of the AACN (2013) Standards as well as the NTF (2013) *Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs*.

Rationale for Staff Recommendation:

The proposal to establish a MSN Program at Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing 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 grant Initial Approval to Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing to establish a new Master's Degree in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Bryan, Texas, beginning in January, 2015, and impose the conditions/requirements in the Board Order (See Letter and Board Order in 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 A&M Health Science Center
School of Nursing
To Establish A
Master's Degree in Nursing
Family Nurse Practitioner Program
in Bryan, Texas

Date and Time: October 23, 2014 at 2:00 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 October 9, 2014.

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

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Texas A&M Health Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Bryan, Texas**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texas A&M Health Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Bryan, Texas

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Kara Jones-Schubart, DNP, RN, FNP-BC

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal **DATE:** September 12, 2014

SURVEY VISITOR: Gayle P. Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC

Met with: Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, Dean
Kara Jones-Schubart, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor
Kathryn Willis Cochran, MSN, FN, Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Nicole Ellis, Assistant to the Dean
Becky McKay, Library Service Coordinator
Sara Williamson, BSN, RN, Clinical Teaching Assistant

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.

§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College of Nursing plans to add four (4) new staff positions following Board approval to assist with the FNP program. 	Criteria Met
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Profession Education Building located on the Bryan Campus was designed specifically to facilitate the mission and expansion of the institution. • The facility houses clinical simulation centers and audio-video equipment to facilitate distant education, learning, 	Criteria Met

<p>§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES</p>	<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>COMMENTS</p>
<p>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>and communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clinical Learning Resource Center has a simulated home environment, nursery, two (2) adjacent hospital rooms, labor and delivery room, and an operating and trauma room. 	
<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>N/A</p>	
<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. *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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAMHSC has a full range of student services available to the FNP students. • Texas A&M University Libraries serves both the research and study needs of students and faculty across campus and ranks 23rd in collection expenditures (\$18.4 million) among U.S. academic libraries. • One of these libraries, the Medical Sciences Library (MSL), serves as the anchor library for the nursing program, with an ever-expanding collection of resources in medicine, life sciences, and public health areas that are relevant to the nursing program. • The Teaching Learning Resource Center provides centralized support for scheduling classrooms, seminars, and meetings throughout the HSC. It was 	<p>Criteria Met</p>

<p>§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES</p>	<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>COMMENTS</p>
	<p>established to facilitate faculty development, student learning, and staff collaboration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clinical Learning Resource Center provides skills laboratories and standardized patients to facilitate learning. 	
<p>Provide an inventory of library holdings and projected purchases to support the proposed nursing program. * 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Medical Science Library (MSL) contains holdings of more than 150,000 print volumes. Those targeted collections include access to over 18,000 print and online serial titles, over 65,000 print and online books and nearly 500 databases. The broader-scope collection of the University Libraries includes over 1 million electronic books, over 870,000 graphic, cartographic, audio and visual materials, over 123,000 unique serial titles, and over 1,300 electronic databases • To support professional programs at TAMHSC, each year the MSL spends over \$2.7 million in collections expenditures. • In addition to the MSL, students have access to the Texas A&M University Libraries; a library system that encompasses 5 libraries with combined holdings of 4 million volumes. • Examples of online resources available to nursing students through the MSL include; Nursing Resource Center (evidence-based nursing resource), uCentral's Medicine, CINAHL Plus with full text, the Cochrane Library of Systematic Reviews, the Joanna Briggs Institute database, Pubmed/Medline, AccessMedicine, Bates' Visual 	<p>Criteria Met</p>

<p>§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES</p>	<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>COMMENTS</p>
	<p>Guide to Physical Examination, Epocrates and Lexi-Comp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty and students have access to library reference services in person, over the phone, through email and online via a live chat format. 	
<p>Provide evidence of adequate restrooms and lounges sufficient to meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility and compliance requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floor plan were reviewed and indicate required spaces are readily available. 	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division of Student Services provides student orientations and also publish a Student Guide that provides information about academic support services, and relevant student policies and procedures. TAMHSC provides a variety of ancillary or “student life” support services that include both short-term counseling and crisis intervention. Students requiring long-term care are referred to local providers. To ensure all students have access to health services, the TAMHSC requires each student to carry health insurance. Students may purchase health insurance through The Texas A&M System Student Insurance. Disability Services are provided to all TAMHSC students, regardless of campus location through an interagency contract with Texas A&M University in the Bryan-College Station area, or through a separate interagency contract with Texas A&M University Disability Services for students at all other locations. Texas A&M Disability Services offers students accommodations 	<p>Criteria Met</p>

§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
	<p>counseling, disability-related information, adaptive technology services, sign language interpreting, and transcription services. Wellness and Stress Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing Center for help with papers, and APA.• Retention Services in CON for academic success via action plans, tutoring, and other activities.	

DRAFT LETTER

Kara Jones-Schubart, DNP, RN, FNP
Family Nurse Practitioner Program Coordinator
Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing
8447 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807-3260

Dear Dr. Jones-Schubart:

At the October 23-24, 2014 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the proposal from Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Degree Family Nursing Practitioner Program in Bryan, 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 to Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing to establish a new Master of Science Degree Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Bryan, Texas, beginning in January, 2015, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached 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 program.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

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

Copy: Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, Professor and Dean, TAMHSC School of Nursing
Dr. Mark A. Hussey, Interim President, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
Dr. Brett Giroir, Executive Vice President and CEO, TAMUHSC, Bryan, Texas
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
The Southern Association of Schools and Colleges
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

In the Matter of:

Texas A&M Health Science Center
School of Nursing
in Bryan, Texas

ORDER OF THE BOARD

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on October 23, 2014, 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 A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing in Bryan, 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.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by representatives from Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing in Bryan, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Nursing in Bryan, Texas, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall admit no more than twenty (20) students annually beginning in January, 2015, until the program's approval status has been changed to full approval.

Entered this 23rd day of October, 2014

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director