

AMENDED REPORT
Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

Summary of Request:

Consider the Texas A&M University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was provided electronically to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board). A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #2).

Historical Perspective:

- A&M-Texarkana is one of eleven (11) higher education institutions and seven (7) agencies governed by the Texas A&M University System. A nine-member Board of Regents, appointed by the Governor of Texas for six-year rotating terms, meets quarterly to provide governing oversight to all A&M System components. Each institution has its own Chief Executive Officer (President) who reports to an A&M System Chancellor, selected by the Board of Regents to serve an undefined term.
- A&M-Texarkana originated in 1971 as a campus of East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Both institutions joined the A&M System as stand-alone institutions in 1996. For thirty-nine (39) years, the institution offered only upper division courses for undergraduate programs and graduate degree programs and shared a campus with Texarkana College, its primary transfer institution.
- In 2005, A&M-Texarkana received approval from the Texas Legislature for downward expansion. In Fall 2010, the institution began accepting freshman and sophomore students and relocated to a new campus on a 375-acre tract of land near Bringle Lake, north of Texarkana.
- The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award baccalaureate and master's degrees. Discipline specific accreditations include the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Practices and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Carnegie Classification of the university is Master's Colleges and Universities Level I.
- The University is organized into three (3) colleges: the College of Business; the College of Education and Liberal Arts; and the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Nursing. Baccalaureate degrees are offered in seventeen (17) majors and master's degrees in seventeen (17) majors. The top five (5) undergraduate majors are psychology, nursing, interdisciplinary studies (teacher education), business, and applied arts and sciences. A&M-Texarkana offers online undergraduate programs in Nursing, Applied Arts and Sciences, and Mathematics, and online graduate programs in Nursing, Instructional Technology, and Business Administration.
- Total enrollment at A&M-Texarkana for Fall 2014 was 1,812 students with 1,455 undergraduate students, 357 graduate students, and 9 doctoral students. The student to faculty ratio is 17:1; one of the lowest in the state. The student body is 63% female and 37% male. The student ethnic composition is 68% White, 16% African-American, 10% Hispanic, and 6% other.

- A&M-Texarkana launched a Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN completion program in 2002. The post-licensure program was initially accredited in 2004 by CCNE and reaccredited with no recommendations in 2009. In 2012, the Department of Nursing became a part of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. TAMU-Texarkana established a graduate program in nursing in 2008.
- A well-developed, comprehensive first draft of the proposal was received in the Board office on March 30, 2016 and reviewed by Board Staff. The proposal was deemed complete in May 2016.
- A site visit was conducted on June 28, 2016 by Board education consultant Gayle Varnell, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- A&M-Texarkana proposes to establish a new generic BSN Education Program in Texarkana, Texas. The proposal projects an initial annual cohort of thirty (30) students in summer 2017 followed by an admission of thirty-five (35) students in year two and forty (40) students in year three (3) through five (5). The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be May 2019.
- The content will be delivered in a hybrid format, combining face-to-face classroom, skills practice, and simulation with online content delivery using the “flipped classroom” approach. Students will be provided course information in an electronic format to be reviewed on their own time. In-class sessions will be designed as small group activities and discussions to encourage interaction and engagement.
- Clinical learning experiences are designed to combine skills practice, simulation, and direct-care clinical practice, emphasizing real-world applications to strengthen critical thinking, clinical decision-making, and clinical judgment. Clinical experiences will be conducted in health care facilities in the East Texas area to include Wadley Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, Hospice of Texarkana, and Riverview Behavioral Health.
- The program will require a total of 120 semester credit hours (SCH), 118 SCH in required courses and one 2 SCH elective. The curriculum plan reflects a total of 59 SCH in nursing courses that will incorporate over 900 clock hours of clinical practice and simulation, 59 SCH in prerequisite courses, and 2 SCH of elective hours.
- The balance between nursing and non-nursing courses is essentially equal, with 61 SCH in non-nursing courses and 59 SCH in nursing courses. This ratio was designed to emphasize the importance of providing the nursing student with a firm foundation in science, math, and liberal arts knowledge and skills with which to apply in nursing practice. The SCH in nursing are sufficient to establish the graduate in beginning generalist practice, prepared to work with a diverse population.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data presented in the proposal indicate a need for the professional nursing education program in the Texarkana area.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicated the availability of rich clinical learning experiences to accommodate the A&M-Texarkana BSN students.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the East Texas area indicate strong support for the proposed nursing education program.

Administration and Organization:

- The philosophy of the Department of Nursing reflects the mission and goals of A&M-Texarkana. The University and the Department of Nursing strive to provide academic excellence and support students in achieving academic success by providing challenging, engaging, and rewarding educational experiences.
- The proposed nursing program director is Kathy Missildine, PhD, RN, CNE. Dr. Missildine has forty (40) years of experience in nursing education at the associate, baccalaureate, masters', and doctoral levels. She has held faculty, as well as administrative, positions in nursing education programs in Arkansas and Texas. Dr. Missildine is a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) through the National League for Nursing and is currently licensed as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Medical Surgical Nursing in Texas through December 2016.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Dr. Heather McKnight is hired as an Assistant Professor and has experience in adult health and maternal/child nursing. Dr. McKnight has served as a nurse educator since 2010 in baccalaureate, masters', and doctoral degree nursing programs of study.
- Two (2) faculty members, one (1) doctorally prepared, will be hired in 2017, 2018, and 2019 as cohorts 1, 2, and 3 enter nursing courses. A Clinical Simulation Coordinator will be hired in Fall 2016 to coordinate the simulation program, and will teach up to six (6) SCH as workload allows.
- The faculty recruitment plan is designed to reach a wide range of professional applicants through personal contact, advertisements, announcements, media, job fairs, professional networking, professional organizations, letters and phone calls. The program draws interest from northeast Texas, southwest Arkansas and northwest Louisiana. Several family nurse practitioners have expressed an interest in teaching, and will be invited to interview for a position.
- One (1) nursing education program, an associate degree program at Texarkana College, leading to RN licensure is located within a 25-mile radius of A&M-Texarkana. Texarkana College offers a pre-licensure associate degree in nursing and a transition program for licensed vocational nurses. There are no Texas approved BSN programs within seventy (70) miles of A&M-Texarkana.
- The impact of the A&M-Texarkana BSN program on the use of clinical resources for other nursing programs in the area will be minimal. Clinical practice placement in the Texarkana area is governed by the area Clinical Placement Council (CPC) for the purpose of coordinated, equitable placement of students in health care agencies.
- A&M-Texarkana has been a part of the CPC since its inception for the placement of the RN to BSN students. The Department of Nursing will assume a more active role as the generic, RN to BSN, and graduate nursing programs grow.
- The program has secured commitments for clinical learning experiences from a variety of health care institutions in the East Texas area, including: Wadley Regional Medical Center (220 beds), CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System (312 beds), Heritage Plaza, Hospice of Texarkana, Riverview Behavioral Health, the Texarkana Public Health Department, and the Arkansas Department of Health.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The Board of Regents of the A&M-Texarkana System approved the establishment of the BSN degree in Fall 2015. The University is committed to providing appropriate facilities, resources, and services to support a successful generic BSN program.

- A&M-Texarkana receives state financial appropriations directly from the Texas Legislature.
- The annual budget for the nursing program is a component of the budget for the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and is sufficient to support its development, implementation, and evaluation, as well as its recruitment and retention of qualified faculty.

Program of Study:

- The mission of the Department of Nursing is to educate safe, quality practitioners for a professional practice that is evidence-based, compassionate, holistic, and affirms the intrinsic worth and value of each individual. Graduates will be prepared as accountable and knowledgeable practitioners in the rapidly changing healthcare system, contributing to and strengthening nursing as a profession. The Department of Nursing recruits, retains, and graduates students reflective of the diversity of the region in consideration of the need for diverse practitioners in the global healthcare arena.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs) (2010)* are embedded in the curriculum. Both the didactic and clinical learning experiences include the associated knowledge, behaviors, and clinical judgments required for the achievement of each competency.
- 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 faculty will use a hybrid approach to didactic instruction, drawing on the strengths of online learning combined with interactive classroom sessions. Emphasis will be placed on student immersion in learning, both in the classroom, online, and situational learning.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's Total Evaluation Plan is well-developed and provides measurable indicators of achievement. It is a systematic collection, review, and analysis of various aspects of the education program with the focus on improving student learning, development, and education success.
- Total program evaluation is achieved by the combination of the Systematic Plan of Evaluation (SPE) and the Student Professional Portfolio. The SPE is based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2013) *Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs*.
- The SPE includes the criteria to be evaluated, methodologies, frequency, indicators of effectiveness (benchmarks), and the individual(s) responsible. The SPE is designed to enable the faculty to evaluate the program according to four (4) standards as required by the CCNE for program accreditation: mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, curriculum and teaching-learning practices, and assessment and achievement of program.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Board Staff met with the proposed director of the program, one faculty member, and support staff, as well as toured the facilities.

Pros:

- The university has committed extensive resources to the establishment of the new program.
- The campus offers learners multiple resources appropriate to a well-established university.
- Multiple, comprehensive, and diverse clinical learning experiences have been secured.
- The proposed director and proposed faculty member 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 to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #3).

**Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Survey Visit Program Report**

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

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Kathy Missildine, PhD, RN, CNE, Associate Dean, Director of Nursing

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal **DATE:** June 28, 2016

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

MET WITH: Kathy Missildine, PhD, RN, CNE, Associate Dean, Director of Nursing
Heather McKnight, RN, DNP, Assistant Professor
Kyndel Sullivan, RN, DNP, Simulation Coordinator
Betsy Sanz, Academic Advisor
Kelly O’Keefe, Coordinator of New Student and Transition Programs
Teri Stover, Library Director

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
§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services		
(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 educational program.	<p>Texas A&M University secured land and built the present campus near Bringle Lake in Texarkana, Texas in 2004. The campus consists of four (4) buildings: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), University Center, Central Plant, and Bringle Lake Village Residence Hall.</p> <p>In spring 2015, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$32 million for an Academic and Student Services Building that will house the Nursing Department. Construction will begin in 2017 with completion in 2019. Plans for the nursing department were provided in the proposal and include sufficient resources.</p> <p>Currently, the Nursing Department is located on the third floor of the STEM building. There is a dedicated classroom that seats forty-eight (48).</p>	Criteria Met

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>The Clinical Simulation Center (CSC) will house a health assessment lab to accommodate fifty (50) students with five (5) debriefing/conference rooms to seat fifteen (15). The simulation lab will consist of six (6) standard patient rooms, a birthing/ICU bed, nursing station, equipment storage, and a control room.</p> <p>Room 304 of the STEM building serves as a temporary simulation center until the new building is completed. The 1,031 square foot room houses five (5) patient units. There are high and low fidelity mannequins, skills trainers, space and equipment for virtual simulation, and an electronic health record system. Hot and cold running water are available.</p> <p>Ample storage space for equipment and supplies is provided.</p>	Criteria Met
<p>(c) The dean/director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>There is one (1) full time administrative assistant for the nursing program.</p> <p>A CSC Coordinator has been hired.</p>	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 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</p>	<p>The proposed Program Director has a private office.</p> <p>All nursing faculty have private offices for meeting with students.</p> <p>Clerical office space is adequate to meet the needs of the program.</p> <p>Security for storage of sensitive records and materials is adequate and will meet the requirements for Board rules, federal regulations, and university policy.</p> <p>Three (3) flexible classrooms are on the second floor. Two (2) small classrooms seating sixty (60) students each will be furnished with tables and chairs for group work. The larger classroom will seat one-hundred (100).</p> <p>The classroom, computer lab, and nursing skills</p>	Criteria Met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>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>lab are adequate to meet the needs of the program until the new building is ready for occupancy.</p> <p>Multiple conference rooms are available across campus and these will be reserved to accommodate nursing student clinical conferences.</p> <p>The Nursing Department will include director, faculty, and staff offices; reception area; workroom; break/lounge areas for faculty and students; and conference rooms. All restrooms are and will be ADA compliant and convenient to the classrooms.</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>A computer lab is available in the STEM building and an additional computer lab is available in the library for testing purposes. The classrooms have appropriate audio/visual equipment.</p> <p>The John F. Moss Library has eleven (11) core databases. A nursing database supports the current RN to BSN students with plans for expansion. There is a full time-librarian and support services for students and faculty. The library has daily posted hours, with electronic holdings. Additionally, the library has a Knowledge Imaging Center (KIC) that gives students the ability to copy pages from books, resize, digitize, and e-mail documents or save as media files instead of printing documents.</p> <p>There is a campus-wide Student Success Center that provides professional and peer tutors. Other services include academic advising, career services, and counseling.</p>	Criteria Met

Pros and Cons from the Survey Visit:

Pros:

- Facilities, resources, and services are adequate to meet the needs of the proposed BSN program with plans for a state-of-the art nursing facility within the next two (2) years.

Cons:

- None identified.

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-Texarkana
To Establish A
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in Texarkana, Texas

Date and Time: July 21, 2016 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 July 15, 2016.

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

July 25, 2016

Kathy Missildine, PhD, RN, CNE, Director
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
Texas A&M University-Texarkana
7101 University Avenue
Texarkana, TX 75503

Dear Dr. Missildine:

At the July 21-22, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, and the report of the June 28, 2016 survey visit. The Board wishes to thank XXXXX, and you for being present to answer questions. Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant initial approval to Texas A&M University-Texarkana to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

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,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Emily Cutrer, President, Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Texas A&M University-Texarkana
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Texarkana, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on July 21, 2016, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the Texas A&M University-Texarkana proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas, based upon the review of the Proposal, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by the representatives from Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program in Texarkana, Texas and imposes the following condition/requirement:

1. The program shall not admit more than one (1) cohort of thirty (30) students in year one (1), thirty-five (35) students in year two (2), and forty (40) students in years three (3) through five (5).

Entered this 21st day of July, 2016

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director on behalf of the
Texas Board of Nursing