

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas
Family Nurse Practitioner Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program in Nacogdoches, 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).

Historical Perspective:

- SFASU was founded in 1923 and has an enrollment of 13,000 students.
- SFASU has six colleges. The University has 46 master's programs and three doctoral programs within the six colleges.
- SFASU is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The next scheduled reaffirmation visit is in 2021.
- The DeWitt School of Nursing is located in the College of Science and Mathematics which offers six master's degree programs, none of which is in nursing.
- SFASU's first nursing program was an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and enrolled their first class in 1978. In 1981 SFASU's Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) was approved by the Board of Nursing and began admitting students.
- The BSN program has been accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) since December 1980. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for fall 2021.
- The BSN program began a totally online RN to BSN program in Fall 2007.
- Sara Bishop, PhD, RN, RNC-OB, CNE, Director of the Nursing Department, Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP, and Janice Hensarling, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC submitted a proposal for a MSN FNP Program at SFASU in November 2016.
- The proposed Coordinator of the FNP Program is Dr. Chris Bray and the Assistant Director is Dr. Janice Hensarling.
- Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is pending. The program proposal is on the THECB April 2017 agenda.
- SFASU is requesting approval for the new FNP program to begin in Fall 2017 with a cohort of 25 students each year for the first five years.
- A site visit was conducted on February 28, 2017, by Board Education Consultant Gayle Varnell, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC (See Attachment #1).

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- SFASU proposes to establish a new MSN-FNP Program designed to prepare registered nurses to deliver primary health care through an advanced scope of practice to individuals of all ages with a focus on culturally sensitive care for the underserved.
- The proposed program will be offered in a part-time (46 semester hour) plan of study.
 - Didactic courses will be delivered online with campus activities including simulation laboratory experiences in each clinical course for validation of competencies prior to preceptor experiences in the clinical areas.
 - Final clinical validation will occur in the clinical with direct faculty evaluation.
- The curriculum includes nine credits in:
 - Advanced physical assessment,
 - Advanced pathophysiology, and
 - Advanced pharmacology.
- The program requirements include a total of 720 clinical practice hours.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The identified needs for the establishment of the FNP program include the following factors:
 - access to health care is a growing concern in East Texas as well as many parts of the state.
 - ten of the 12 counties in Deep East Texas are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas.
 - qualified students are being turned away from other FNP programs while the number of medically underserved continues to increase.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the East Texas area indicate strong support for the proposed nursing education program.
- There are no other MSN programs within a 25-mile radius.
- The program will recruit and retain underrepresented minorities and nurses who live in rural East Texas with the goal that they will remain in their communities to provide access to health care.

Administration and Organization:

- The philosophy of the Department of Nursing reflects the mission and goals of SFASU, "... to engage students in a learner-centered environment and offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in a global community." The FNP program will provide students with the skills and expertise to provide advanced level nursing to patients from diverse cultures. Care of vulnerable populations is integrated throughout the curriculum.
- The proposed FNP Program Coordinator is Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP. Dr. Bray has 46 years experience as a Registered Nurse (RN), 32 years as a FNP, 36 years of teaching including 26 years teaching at the graduate level and more than 16 years in administration. Dr. Bray has recent experience in administration of an FNP

program. She is active and recognized at the local, state, and national level. Dr. Bray has been an item writer for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board Family Nursing Practitioner Exam.

- The proposed FNP Program Assistant Coordinator is Janice Hensarling, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC. Dr. Hensarling has 40 years experience as a RN, including 20 years as a FNP and 16 years as an instructor in the BSN program at SFASU. She worked four years full-time in a rural health clinic and continues to practice part-time as an FNP.
- Dr. Bray will serve as Dr. Hensarling's mentor for three years at which time Dr. Hensarling will meet the §219.6 administrative requirement of having a minimum of three years teaching experience in a program appropriately related to the type of program being administered and will assume the role of Coordinator of the FNP program.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Currently 30 faculty are employed in the BSN program.
 - There are seven faculty who have an active APRN license as an FNP. Six of the seven faculty practice a minimum of one day a week and/or concentrated time during the summer.
 - Thirteen full-time and one part-time faculty are doctorally-prepared, and two other faculty are currently enrolled in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs.
 - The School of Nursing has a sufficient number of doctorally prepared faculty to teach the theoretical and research components as well as APRNs to teach the clinical courses and supervise the clinical preceptors.
- The majority of faculty have minimal teaching experience at the graduate level.
- The Department of Nursing plans to add one administrative assistant and four new faculty positions over the first five years.
- The SFASU FNP program will have no impact on the use of clinical resources in the acute care facilities or community health departments in the local area or the Deep East Texas region. Students in the FNP program will seek clinical learning experiences in primary care offices and clinics where SFASU already has clinical affiliation agreements or, in consultation with the faculty, will initiate agreements in new offices and clinics.
- The program has secured commitments for clinical learning experiences from a variety of health care institutions in the Deep East Texas area.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The Board of Regents of SFASU approved the establishment of the MSN degree in January 2016. The University is committed to providing appropriate facilities, resources, and services to support a successful MSN-FNP program.
- SFASU receives state financial appropriations directly from the Texas Legislature.
- In the fall of 2016, a grant to begin an MSN/FNP program was requested from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation. The program received \$750,000 to be divided over a five-year period.

- The annual budget for the nursing program is sufficient to support its development, implementation, and evaluation, as well as its recruitment and retention of qualified faculty.

Students:

- The major source of students for the program will be graduates from the BSN program at SFASU as well as baccalaureate-prepared nurses working in health care facilities in the area.
- Recruitment will occur through education information fairs held annually at local health care facilities, university website on-line advertising, and information provided at the Nursing Advisory Council semi-annual meetings.
- The focus is to recruit students who have ties to this rural East Texas area and who will remain in the area after graduation.

Program of Study:

- The proposed Master of Science in Nursing program with Family Nurse Practitioner focus reflects the mission of the parent institution in that it will offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in a global community. The FNP program will provide students with the skills and expertise to provide advanced level nursing to patients from diverse cultures.
- The MSN philosophy builds on the BSN nursing program philosophy, advancing the concepts of critical thinking, life-long learning, and professionalism.
- 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 Program Evaluation Plan:

- The program's Total Program Evaluation Plan (TPE) 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.
- The TPE Plan includes the criteria to be evaluated, methodologies, frequency, indicators of effectiveness (benchmarks), and the individual(s) responsible. The TPE Plan is designed to enable the faculty to evaluate the program according to four standards as required by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education 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 FNP Coordinator, the Proposed FNP Assistant Coordinator, the Director of the Nursing Program, the Dean of the College of Sciences & Mathematics, and support staff, as well as toured the facilities. During the visit, Board Staff also had the opportunity to observe faculty and students in the simulation lab.

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 coordinator is qualified and experienced in graduate professional nursing education.

Cons:

- A number of the faculty have minimal teaching experience at the graduate level.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Stephen F. Austin State University to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

Report of Program Survey Visit
Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas
Family Nurse Practitioner Program

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Stephen F. Austin State University Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, Texas

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal **DATE:** February 28, 2017

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

Met with: Sara Bishop, PhD, RNC-OB, CNE, Director
Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP, Proposed Coordinator
Janice Hensarling, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC. Proposed Assistant Coordinator
Kimberly Childs, PhD, Dean College of Sciences & Mathematics

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.	Upon approval of the FNP Program, an administrative assistant for the MSN program will be advertised and hired. This position will be paid for with Temple Grant monies. At the end of the grant, the position will be budgeted within the nursing 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	Stephen F. Austin State University's Richard and Lucille DeWitt School of Nursing moved from the SFASU campus to the new \$13 million state-of-the-art academic facility in January 2010. The entire nursing program is located in the new facility. A virtual tour of the new facility may be viewed at http://www.fp.sfasu.edu/nursing/MediaPlayer/Dewitt.htm The building is 41,000 square feet, including a 9,000 square	Criteria Met

§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>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.)</p> <p>*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>feet simulation laboratory. There are three wings to the building, an administration, an education, and a simulation laboratory wing.</p> <p>The simulation lab is designed as a hospital and includes an emergency room with an ambulance bay, an intensive care unit, a pediatric area, and a neonatal intensive care unit. The lab includes multiple features for computerized simulation for example five (5) SimMan 3G, two (2) each sim child, Sim Toddler, Sim Jr. and Sim NewBorn and one (1) pregnant female. In 2010, the simulation laboratory became one of the 17 designated Laerdal Simulation Center of Excellence. To qualify, the simulation center must demonstrate community partnerships to improve patient care in the area.</p> <p>The education wing has four 100-seat classrooms. One of the classrooms is a computer testing-center with 100 computers built into the desks. There is one divided classroom which can be set up to accommodate two classes. There is a computer lounge with 29 computers and a printer. There is also a student lounge with a kitchen, refrigerator, three microwaves, coffee pots, and a vending machine. There also is an outdoor patio with picnic benches.</p> <p>The administrative wing has a main lobby with a reception area staffed by work study students. There are 34 faculty offices as well as offices for the senior secretary, the nursing advisor, the director's administrative assistant, and the director. There is a large workroom with a copy machine, fax, faculty mailboxes, and a supply and storage room. There is a conference room which seats 12. The faculty lounge has a kitchen with two microwaves, a refrigerator, and seating for approximately 16. There is a secure file room where student records are kept. Every faculty office has a desk, bookcase, credenza, computer, printer, and telephone. There are currently five vacant offices. In addition, there is a 5,668 square foot building with a large entry foyer, kitchen, file room, and several offices. Five of the rooms will be used by the Simulation Lab for home health/mental health, one V-Sim room, one control room, one storage, and one multipurpose room. One room is designated as a waiting room, one as a conference room, and one as a workroom. The remaining five rooms are designated as offices for faculty and the advisor.</p>	
<p>Provide the time line for start-up and completion of new construction / remodeling projects, and evidence that the institution will provide</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
funds for the required new construction or remodeling.		
<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>Adequate resources are available to ensure equal access for all nursing students to meet program/course outcomes.</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>Students will have access to SFA's Steen Library as well as all of its resources. There are currently 102,424 e-journals, 257 databases, and 5,884 print serials. This number includes all of the databases used in the Steen Library. Approximately 20 of these databases are specific to nursing. The majority of the serials collection is available in full-text online. The current budget for nursing resources is \$225,000 each year. Upon review by the nursing faculty, it was determined that additional holdings would need to be added to support the FNP program including the Cochrane Library and Cochrane Clinical Answers Bundle and others. The increase in budget is an additional \$5,866 per year.</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>There are ADA accessible bathrooms for both men and women in the education and administration wings.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>

§219.11 FACILITIES, RESOURCES AND SERVICES	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
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.	Student support services include a mandatory program to orient students to online courses, Counseling and Career Services, student technology help desk, and disability services. Each student admitted to the Graduate Program will be assigned a faculty advisor who will monitor the student's progress.	Criteria Met

Pros and Cons:

Pros:

- Facilities, resources, and services are adequate to meet the needs of the proposed FNP Proposal.

Cons:

- None Identified.

DRAFT LETTER

April 21, 2017

Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP, FAANP, Coordinator
Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program
Stephen F. Austin State University
5707 North Street
Nacogdoches, Texas 75965

Dear Dr. Bray:

At the April 20-21, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches Texas Proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the report of the February 28, 2017 survey visit. The Board wishes to thank Dr. Hensarling 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 Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches Texas, to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, 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 512-621-5179.

Sincerely,

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

Copy: Dr. Baker Patillo President,
Stephen F. Austin State University
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Stephen F. Austin State University
Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program
In Nacogdoches, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 20, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches Texas Proposal to establish a new Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, Texas, based upon the review of the Proposal, 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 the representatives from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, **pending approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board**, and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall not admit more than one (1) cohort of twenty-five (25) students annually.
2. The program shall develop a formal plan for mentoring graduate faculty.

Entered this 20th day of April, 2017

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