

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA IN SUGAR LAND, TEXAS  
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the University of Houston-Victoria (UH-V) proposal to establish a new baccalaureate degree nursing educational program at Sugar Land and the report of a survey visit. The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

- UH-V began in 1973 as an extension campus of the University of Houston with about 100 students.
- Ten years later the center became the University of Houston Victoria Center with permanent status as a degree-granting university through a bill passed by the Texas Legislature.
- UH-V has successfully offered an RN to BSN program since 2006.
- The original proposal to establish a new baccalaureate degree nursing educational program on their campus in Sugar Land, Texas was received in the board office on February 1, 2008.
- The proposal has undergone two revisions.
- A site visit was conducted on June 23, 2008 by Janice Hooper.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:**

Overview of the Proposal:

- UH-V is proposing to establish a 120 credit hour second degree BSN program with 60 credit hours of prerequisite courses and 60 credit hours of nursing courses.
- The program is proposing to begin in Fall 2008 and to admit a cohort of 24 students.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The community in the Sugar Land area is one of rapid growth in population.
- Hospital surveys conducted in the area indicate needs in multiple settings for BSN-prepared registered nurses.
- The proposed program has community support from other nursing education programs and health care institutions in the area.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Since UH-V already has an RN to BSN program, qualified faculty are in place. Other potential qualified faculty have been identified.
- Contracts have been established with clinical affiliating agencies in the area.
- Dr. Linda Dune is interested and willing to work with other nursing programs in the vicinity to establish a collaborative relationship for clinical scheduling.

Financial Support and Resources:

- UH-V fully supports the establishment of the new program.
- Student services are already in place on campus.

Applicant Pool:

- The program has identified qualified applicants who are ready to begin the program.
- Survey of potential students for the program validate its ability to be sustained over time.

#### Faculty and Student Handbooks:

- A faculty handbook and a student handbook for the new program have been developed and reviewed by board staff.

#### Curriculum:

- The curriculum has been appropriately developed for a baccalaureate degree nursing education program.
- Required clinical experiences have been planned to meet clinical objectives.

#### Facilities, Resources and Services:

- An administrative assistant has been employed and the program plans to hire a skills laboratory instructor.
- Personnel are available to manage the computer lab and all informational systems.
- The physical resources were surveyed during the Site Visit, June 23, 2008.

#### Student Support Services:

- Counseling services and financial aid advisors will be available through the university.
- A dedicated academic advisors/recruiter has been added to the staff for nursing students.

#### Records and Reports:

- Adequate provision for records and reports has been included.

#### Total Evaluation Plan:

- The Total Evaluation Plan provides all required elements.

#### **SUMMARY OF SITE VISIT:**

- UH-V at Sugar Land is located on a 300 acre campus in a rapidly growing community in Sugar Land, Texas.
- The nursing programs are presently housed in the George Building on campus. The next academic building presently under construction will provide the future home for the nursing programs, several other disciplines, and administration.
- Individuals interviewed during the survey visit:
  - Linda Dune, PhD, RN, Proposed Director
  - Susan Reynolds - Interim Director, Sugar Land - Administrative oversight of UH System at Sugar Land campus
  - Mary Gonzales - Senior Secretary - Sugar Land - Nursing
  - Kristen Jones - Advising Specialist - Sugar Land
  - Gary Church - Librarian - Sugar Land - Library and research services
  - John McKee - Technical Services Manager - Management and supervision of information technology services
  - Vivian Nowazek, PhD, MSN, RN, BC, CNS - Assistant Professor - Sugar Land
  - Shainy Varghese, PhDc, RN, MSN, CPNP – Assistant Professor – Sugar Land
  - Suzanne V. LaBrecque, PHD – Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
  - C. Denise Neill, Ph.D., RN – Director of Nursing – Victoria
  - Kevin Mulligan, Superintendent – Skanska USA Building Inc.
  - Josh Webb, Assistant Superintendent – Skanska USA Building Inc.
  - Trish Lewis, PhDc, RN, MSN--Director of Education, Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- Board staff toured all levels of the active construction site and visited areas for the nursing program after construction is completed. The new building will include 145,000 square feet and will provide a state-of-the-art education facility for the future.
- Wharton County Junior College partners with UH-V and will have space in the new building.
- Parking is available on both sides of the building.
- Board staff also toured the present facilities in the George Building which is 57,000 square feet.
- The next construction on the property will be a County Library.

#### Classrooms:

- All present classrooms are modern and furnished to provide current educational technology.
- Classrooms are furnished with technology and computers on every desk area.

#### Skills Laboratory:

- The skills lab has 8 assessment units and available storage for equipment and supplies.
- New manikins have just been received which have not been unpacked.
- A long list of lab supplies is on order (see proposal).
- Sinks and running water are available between the assessment units.
- The skills lab also has tables and chairs for classroom activities and study use.
- A simulation mannequin has also been received.

#### Computer Laboratory:

- Numerous computer labs accessible for nursing students were visited.
- The technical manager described updates for equipment planned in the new building.

#### Faculty Offices and Resources:

- There are fully equipped private offices for faculty.
- A dedicated secretary is available for the Nursing Department.

#### Learning Resources Area:

- Students will have full online library access to current journals and literature.
- A book collection will be accessible to students in the skills lab.
- An audio visual collection is available to students and faculty.

The George Building is spacious and beautifully decorated and furnished. It provides adequate space to begin the program. A large student lounge with tables, chairs, vending machines, and microwave ovens was visited.

#### **PROS AND CONS:**

##### Pros:

- The proposed director and author of the proposal is experienced with professional nursing education.
- Dr. Dune plans to establish a working relationship with other nursing education programs in the area in scheduling clinical experiences.
- UH-V is very supportive of the new program.
- Letters of support are provided from hospitals and clinical agencies in the area and from other nursing programs in the Houston area.
- A tour of the community validated that there is a wealth of clinical resources in the area with a large hospital under construction. The community is eager to work with the UH-V students. The need for this program in this community was validated by a drive through the area filled with clinics and hospitals.
- The survey visit validated that the physical site will provide an excellent learning environment and a comfortable setting for students in the BSN program.

##### Cons:

None noted.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to grant initial approval for the University of Houston-Victoria to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program on their campus in Sugar Land, Texas based upon the proposal and findings from the survey visit and issue the commendation as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**  
**333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460**  
**Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
for  
Consideration of a Proposal from The University of Houston-Victoria

To Establish A  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program  
at Sugar Land, Texas

Date and Time: July 17, 2008 at 10:45 AM

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 10, 2008.

Address written testimony to:  
Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director  
Board of Nurse Examiners  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

**DRAFT LETTER**

July 21, 2008

Linda Dune PhD, RN, CCRN, CEN, CNL, Director  
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program  
University of Houston-Victoria  
14000 University Blvd.  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479

Dear Dr. Dune:

At the July 17-18, 2008 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the University of Houston-Victoria Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Sugar Land, Texas, and the report of the June 23, 2008 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and ..... for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to the University of Houston-Victoria at Sugar Land, Texas and allow admission of students beginning Fall 2008, and issue the following commendation:

Commendation:

The administration is commended for its strong support for the second degree nursing program at UH-V at Sugar Land.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP  
President

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

copy: Suzanne V. LaBrecque, PhD, Provost and Vice President  
THECB

Enclosure

**Texas Board of Nursing  
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460  
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING  
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of the University of Houston-Victoria

For approval to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: The University of Houston-Victoria

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2008, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member  
Kristin K. Benton, RN, MSN, Representing VN programs  
George Buchenau, Jr., RN, BSN, Representing Practice  
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, Consumer Member  
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice  
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs  
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice  
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice  
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs  
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice  
Mary Jame Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member  
Frank D. Sandoval, Jr., Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering a Baccalaureate Degree.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of the University of Houston-Victoria is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program to prepare professional nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing educational program and prior to admission of students all requirements of Chapter 215 Professional Nursing Education shall be met.

DATED THIS 17th day of July, 2008.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND  
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP

President