

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Educational Program
Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Shreiner University proposal to establish a new Baccalaureate Degree Nursing educational program in Kerrville, Texas, and the report of survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was mailed to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Schreiner University was founded in 1923 by Captain Charles Schreiner, with assistance from the Presbyterian Church, as a young men's military and college preparatory school.
- By 1971 the military training was discontinued and the school became fully coeducational.
- In 1973 Schreiner phased out its high school and strengthened its college curricula, and in 1981 became a four-year institution.
- Schreiner University, a liberal arts institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA), is committed to educating students holistically.
- In the fall of 2009 Schreiner University had an enrollment of approximately 1,084 students.
- Currently, Schreiner University offers 27 majors to undergraduates, seven pre-professional programs, and four graduate programs of study in education.
- Schreiner University established a vocational nursing educational program in 1973 and has graduated 1,216 nursing students.
- A formal letter of intent to establish a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN) program was received from Schreiner University in October 2009.
- Dr. Lena Rippstein, prospective director of the new BSN program, has been working with Board staff since October 2009 in proposal development.
- A first draft of the proposal was received in the Board office in May 2010 and a revised draft in August 2010.
- A site visit was conducted on August 30, 2010.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- Schreiner University is proposing to establish a new four-year BSN educational program with the last two years devoted to the nursing curriculum.
- A first cohort of 30 students is planned to enroll for Fall 2011 with a new cohort of 30 students enrolled in each subsequent year.
- The graduation date for the first cohort will be May 2013.

- The required curriculum includes 82 credit hours in arts and science courses and 54 credit hours in nursing courses.
- Classes will be conducted in a traditional classroom setting with clinical experiences in nearby health care facilities.
- The curriculum will provide clinical experiences in a variety of acute care, long-term care, and community settings.
- Research and evidence-based nursing practices will be a strong component of the curriculum.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- There are currently two nursing educational programs within a 25-mile radius of Schreiner University: (1) the LVN to ADN program at San Antonio College located in Kerrville, and (2) Schreiner's vocational nursing program.
- The Kerrville area is home to numerous acute care, long term care, and community health care facilities who are eager to hire graduates of this program.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicated available clinical space will support student clinical groups without negative effects on students currently receiving clinical education there.
- Community support has been strong from government, private, and business sectors. Thirteen letters of support are provided in the proposal documents.

Administration and Organization:

- Schreiner University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees.
- Schreiner University is exempt from approval by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
- The proposed nursing program has the full support of Schreiner University's Board of Trustees, president, administration, and faculty.
- The program director, Dr. Lena Rippstein, has a mentoring relationship established with Dr. Eileen Breslin, Dean of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio. Dr. Rippstein has met face-to-face and via telephone with Dr. Breslin since assuming the position of program director and Dr. Rippstein contacts Dr. Breslin whenever questions or concerns arise.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Although a formal faculty search has not been initiated, Schreiner University has received applications from a number of qualified nursing faculty in the area.
- Five qualified candidates have been identified as potential nursing faculty.
- Documentation from area health care facilities indicate clinical space is available and Schreiner University students will be welcome.
- The proposed nursing program director of Schreiner University established contacts with other nursing programs in the region and developed plans to work cooperatively in scheduling clinical learning experiences in commonly-used facilities.

Financial Support and Resources:

- A full range of student and academic services is available to Schreiner University students.
- President Tim Summerlin obtained significant funding for the program in 2008 and 2009 to cover administrative costs associated with developing the program.
- The University administration is committed to providing funding and resources for this program.

Program of Study:

- In accordance with the Schreiner University's Mission Statement, the Department of Nursing is committed to advancing the nursing profession through the holistic educational preparation of health professionals to develop and produce quality graduates who are nurse leaders, lifelong learners, and are dedicated to the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, populations through the provision of safe, competent nursing care.
- The curriculum is designed for students to gain nursing skills through skills laboratories simulation experiences before their hands-on patient care learning activities.
- The curriculum includes a plan for ongoing testing, evaluation, and remediation.
- Clinical evaluation tools have been developed with progressive expectations of student behaviors.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan is well developed, presents numerical benchmarks, and includes all required areas in Rule 215.13.

Comments from Survey Visit:

University President Tim Summerlin and Dr. Lena Rippstein provided an extensive tour of the Schreiner University campus to Board visitors. Dr. Summerlin; Dr. Charlie McCormick, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. Diana Comuzzie, Dean of Sciences and Mathematics, expressed enthusiasm regarding the proposed nursing program of study to Board visitors. The tour of the current classrooms and administrative offices provided additional information to Board staff.

Further, a lunch meeting with community leaders, chief nursing officers and chief executive officers of proposed clinical affiliates, and nursing faculty from San Antonio College in Kerrville and Texas Tech University at Highland Lakes validated community need and very strong support of the BSN program.

A report of the survey visit is included in this document.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Schreiner University for a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program in Kerrville, Texas, with an initial cohort of thirty (30) students to begin in Fall 2011, based upon the proposal and survey visit and issue the commendation, recommendation, and requirement as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT

Professional Nursing Educational Programs

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

DEAN OR DIRECTOR:

DATE APPOINTED

Proposed Director: Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATE: August 30, 2010

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN and Paul Waller, PhD, RN

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: The program intends to seek CCNE accreditation.

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

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
(a) The 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 education program.	Strong and enthusiastic administrative support was evident during the survey visit. Visitors met with the university president, the provost and vice president of academic affairs; and the dean of sciences and mathematics.	Criteria met.
(b) The dean or director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	Secretarial and clerical staff have been identified.	Criteria met.
(c) 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. (1) The dean or director shall have a private office. (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. (3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate. (4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records. (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. (6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program. (7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.	Visitors toured the nursing department that contained the director's private office, private faculty offices, spacious, modern classrooms, and private conference rooms. Locked cabinets are in place for records. Most records will be maintained electronically. A conference room for faculty meetings or student conferences is available and furnished. State of the art technology is present to assist student learning.	Offices, classrooms and spaces for skills and simulation labs are adequate and will provide ample space. The space is conducive to educational activities. All equipment and supplies are not in place in the skills and simulation laboratories. Requirement: The director shall provide photographs of the furnished laboratories prior to the beginning of classes in Fall 2011.

<p>(d) 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 campus library presently has begun subscriptions to nursing journals and has a collection of current nursing texts. Students will have access to databases (including CINAHL Plus) and full articles for download. The library will provide full assistance to students.</p>	<p>Students will have adequate library resources through hard copies and online access.</p> <p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>§215.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) transcripts/permanent record cards of graduates</p> <p>(3) faculty records;</p> <p>(4) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, annual reports, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(5) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(6) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(7) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>File cabinets are in place in the locked area adjacent to the director's office.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(b) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>	<p>See (a) above.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(c) Copies of the program's Texas Board of Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS), Compliance Audit of the Nursing Educational Program (CANEP), and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

DRAFT LETTER

October 25, 2010

Lena Rippstein, PhD, APRN-BC, GNP
Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program
Schreiner University
2100 Memorial Blvd - CMB 6241
Kerrville, TX 78028

Dear Dr. Rippstein:

At the October 21-22, 2010 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Schreiner University Proposal to Establish a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program in the State of Texas, and the report of the August 30, 2010, survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you; Dr. Charlie McCormick, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; and Dr. Diana Comuzzie, Dean of Science and Mathematics, 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 Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and allow admission of thirty students beginning in Fall 2011.

The Board also issues the following commendation, recommendation, and requirement as stated in the Board Order:

Commendation:

The administration and program director are to be commended for community outreach activities designed to develop effective collaborative partnerships between nursing education and nursing practice in the Kerrville area. In November 2009, the program director established the BSN Community Consulting Committee and the BSN Advisory Board.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the program director continue the established mentoring relationship with Dr. Eileen Breslin, Dean of the School of Nursing, University of Texas Health Science Center - San Antonio.

Requirements:

Rule 215.11 (d)(5) related to Facilities, Resources, and Services.
The program shall submit evidence (photographs) that the nursing skills laboratories have been completed with furnishings and supplies prior to Fall 2011.

Recommendations are suggestions based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rule. The program must respond in a method of the program's choice. Requirements are mandatory criterion based on program assessment directly related to the rule that shall be addressed in the manner prescribed.

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,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President of the Board

Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Dr. Tim Summerlin, President, Schreiner University
Dr. Diana Comuzzie, Dean of Sciences and Mathematics, Schreiner University

**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 Schreiner University

For approval to implement a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Schreiner University

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 21st day of October 2010, 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, MSN, RN, Representing VN Programs
Patricia Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leder-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, 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 Schreiner University 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.

Specifically, the Board requires the following conditions as described below to be met prior to the beginning of nursing classes in the Schreiner University Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Educational Program.

The governing institution and the nursing program director will provide board staff:

Evidence that the nursing skills laboratories have been completed and furnished prior to the beginning of classes in Fall 2011.

DATED THIS 21st day of October, 2010.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP

President

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 Schreiner University

To Establish A

Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program

in Kerrville, Texas

Date and Time: October 21, 2010 at 2:30 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 October 1, 2010.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942