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Sam Houston State University

School of Nursing Self Study

Fall 2018

Introduction

Please provide a brief (1-3 pages) overview or introduction to the institution and program(s) under review.

Sam Houston State University (SHSU), with its main campus located in Huntsville, Texas, is the twelfth largest university with one of the most diverse student bodies in the state. The institution was created by the Texas legislature in 1879 as the Sam Houston Normal Institute to train teachers for public schools in Texas. The first baccalaureate degree was awarded in 1919. The university has been an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) since 1925. The university received authorization for the first graduate degree in 1936. The number of graduate degrees conferred increased significantly in the 1960s. In response to institutional changes, the Texas legislature changed the name of the institution to Sam Houston State University in 1969.

Currently SHSU, a member of the Texas State University System, has seven colleges with a wide range of high-quality undergraduate, masters level and doctorate programs. SHSU is classified as a “Doctoral Research University” by the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education. The Student Advising & Mentoring (SAM) Center is nationally ranked for helping students stay on track and graduate. The university was named as a “2014 Military Friendly School” and is home to the Texas Invasive Species Institute, the first comprehensive effort in the state focused on early detection and elimination of invasive species. The Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility or “body farm” is one of six facilities in the U.S. SHSU offers 1 Doctoral, 25 Graduate and 5 Undergraduate online degree programs and for the third consecutive year, SHSU’s online programs ranked in the top 20% by U.S. News and World Report. SHSU is ranked in top 10 “Best Online Colleges in Texas” by affordablecollegesonline.org and is ranked 1st in state with over 2,250 articulation agreements with community colleges.

SHSU offers courses at its main campus in Huntsville, at The Woodlands Center in The Woodlands, Texas (approximately 35 miles south of the main campus) and online. The university is committed to the development of its creative resources to promote adaptation to the changing educational needs of its constituency while maintaining the highest quality educational experience available. To better support the academic mission and social life of students on our campus, there are over \$100 million in campus construction projects are currently under way, including the Biology Laboratory Building and the Lowman Student Center Expansion. Both projects are scheduled for completion in late summer/fall 2018. The Woodlands Center expansion to house the School of Nursing was completed in the spring/summer of 2018.

There are seven colleges at SHSU and one proposed college of osteopathic medicine. The School of Nursing is one of four divisions in the College of Health Sciences (COHS). In January 2016, an interim dean was appointed to the College of Health Sciences when the founding dean accepted another position. The interim dean made some changes in the dean’s office personnel eliminating the Assistant Dean position. The Assistant Dean had been the primary advisor for the Pre-Nursing students and handled the admissions process in conjunction with the SON director. His assistant became the primary Pre-Nursing advisor and worked directly with the SON director and assistant director in the admissions process. In Fall 2016, an advisor/recruiter was hired for the School of Nursing. The Pre-Nursing advisor was reassigned to the university advising center and continued to meet with Pre-Nursing students.