

SACS COC

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

September 11, 2014

Dr. Jaimie Hebert
Provost
Sam Houston State University
Box 2026
Huntsville, TX 77341-2026

Dear Dr. Hebert:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, 2014, transmitting a prospectus for a previously unapproved off-campus site and a prospectus for the previously unapproved Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program implemented in January 2011.

This letter addresses the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree program. The off-campus site will be addressed in a separate letter.

The B.S.N. degree program is consistent with the mission, core values, strategic goals, and operational objectives of the University. It is offered by the School of Nursing in the College of Health Sciences. The program is focused on meeting the needs of a rural community and is delivered through face-to-face instruction currently on the main campus. In spring 2015, it is projected to be offered at the Woodlands Center, an approved off-campus site. Documentation of appropriate approvals was provided. Evidence of need for the program was discussed to include data concerning the need for new registered nurses and the projected shortage of nurses to fill the positions. Student demand for the program was also documented. Appropriate planning involving faculty and administrators was described.

The curriculum and outcomes for the program were provided. The program is included in the University's continuous improvement efforts including an annual outcomes assessment process which was described. Evidence of assessment and review of the program was provided. Appropriate qualifications of faculty members teaching in the program were documented.

Discipline-specific learning resources were listed. The Librarian who works with the School of Nursing is both a nurse and a librarian that provides support to faculty and students as well as develops a Nursing Library Guide. Support services are available for specific help for students in reading, writing, and math through the Reading Center, Math Center, and Writing Center. Other student support services include disability services, the Student Advising and Mentoring Center, health services, legal services, medical and allied health programs, and advisement.

Physical resources are adequate including new and renovated facilities. Equipment was listed along with a description of renovation of the simulation laboratory. Access to technology is provided to faculty and staff. A new Nursing/Biology building is projected to be completed in the future. Financial support for the program appears adequate.

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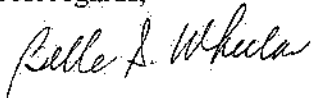
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The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program and include it in the scope of the current accreditation.

As requested in a separate letter concerning an unreported off-campus site, the University should submit to my office by April 8, 2015, four copies of the policy and procedure document the institution has developed to ensure timely reporting of substantive change in the future. Please submit the four copies under a separate cover letter. Do not include them with other substantive change submissions. The policy and procedure are requested because the above degree program has been offered since January 2011 without approval, and thus the College is in apparent non-compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.12.1. The document will be forwarded to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees for review at its June 2015 meeting. In developing the documents, please consult *Best Practices for Developing Policy and Procedures Documents*, published on our website under the Policies and Publications button.

Enclosed is an invoice for \$300 to help defray the cost of review of the prospectus.

Best regards,



Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/ABC:iyw

Enclosure

Cc: Dr. Dana L. Gibson, President
Ms. Somer Franklin, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Marsal P. Stoll