

**REPORT OF COLLABORATIVE SURVEY VISIT  
WITH THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGIATE EDUCATION (CCNE)  
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA  
VICTORIA AND SUGAR LAND, TEXAS CAMPUSES**

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Consider the report of the March 2-4, 2009 collaborative survey visit to the University of Houston-Victoria (UH-V) with campuses in Victoria and Sugar Land, Texas, and the staff recommendation concerning the commendations and recommendation to be met based on the outcome of the survey visit.

**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 sought and was granted Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) approval to offer an RN to BSN program in 2006.
- At the July 2008 meeting, the Board considered and approved a proposal from UH-V to establish a second degree BSN program in Sugar Land, Texas.
- A cohort of 18 of the 21 students admitted in August 2008 will graduate in August 2009.
- Board staff normally conduct a survey visit after a class has graduated and demonstrated an acceptable pass rate on the NCLEX-RN® examination.
- UH-V is seeking accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for their Master's Degree in Nursing programs in Administration and Education, the RN to BSN Program, and the second-degree BSN program at Sugar Land, Texas.
- A site visit was scheduled for March 2-4, 2009.
- Board staff arranged to participate in this visit in lieu of a survey visit later this year (See Attachment #1).

**COMMENTS RELATED TO THE COLLABORATIVE SURVEY VISIT:**

The collaborative survey visit provided a positive experience by providing the opportunity for:

- Board staff to observe the CCNE accreditation process
- Board staff to gain a better insight into criteria/methods used by CCNE program evaluators to determine that standards are met
- Board staff to begin a process of comparing revised CCNE Standards for Accreditation and Texas BON criteria for program approval
- Enhanced collaboration and communication with CCNE
- Evaluating the status of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Baccalaureate Degree Program at Sugar Land from which the first cohort will graduate in August 2009

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to accept the report of the collaborative survey visit conducted with program evaluators from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education at the University of Houston-Victoria in Victoria and Sugar Land, Texas, and issue the commendations and recommendation as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

### SURVEY VISIT SUMMARY REPORT

**NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM:** University of Houston-Victoria (UH-V) Programs in Victoria and Sugar Land, Texas

**NURSING PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Kathryn Tart, EdD, RN, CNE, Dean and Professor

**SITE COORDINATORS:** Linda Dune, PhD, RN, Sugar Land  
C. Denise Neill, PhD, RN, Victoria

**REASON FOR SURVEY VISIT:** To participate in collaborative survey visit conducted with program evaluators from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The programs in the School of Nursing (SON) at UH-V are candidates for initial accreditation from CCNE. Programs under review include the RN to BSN Program, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN Program, and the MSN Programs in both Administration and Education.

To evaluate the status of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Program at the Sugar Land campus which was approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (Board) in July 2008 and entered the first class in August 2008.

**SURVEY VISITORS:** Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, Education Consultant, BON  
Four CCNE visitors led by Marcia Hobbs, DSN, RN

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING APPROVAL STATUS:** Initial

**DATE OF LAST SURVEY VISIT:** June 23, 2008

**NAME OF ACCREDITING AGENCIES:** Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

#### ACTIVITIES DURING SURVEY VISIT:

Board staff:

- Toured facilities at Victoria and Sugar Land
- Met with SON faculty via Interactive Television (ITV) at the Victoria site
- Met with university administration (President, Provost, Financial Officer)
- Met with program director and coordinators
- Met with approximately 30 community leaders (live and ITV)
- Met with alumni of RN to BSN program via ITV
- Met with RN to BSN students via ITV
- Met with graduate students via ITV
- Toured Citizen's Medical Center in Victoria
- Toured Methodist Hospital in Sugar Land and interviewed students, preceptor, and hospital administration and staff
- Reviewed records and documents
- Attended exit report

**SURVEY VISIT FINDINGS:**

Positive findings related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN Program revealed during the survey visit include:

- A diverse student cohort of 18 students will graduate from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree BSN Program in August. They were very articulate about the program and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program.
- The “hybrid” mix of online and face-to-face class attendance with a strong curriculum seems very effective in the learning experience for the students.
- The clinical preparation includes well-organized simulation labs every week as well as hands-on supervised clinical experiences.
- The clinical affiliating agencies provided valuable experiences for the students and are very supportive of the program.
- The faculty are well-prepared and provide supportive and excellent instruction.
- The new building on the Sugar Land campus will be ready for occupancy in May and will provide state-of-the-art facilities.
- UH-V has strong partnerships with clinical agencies and with other programs of nursing. Wharton Community College will be sharing the building on the Sugar Land campus.
- Meetings between faculty in Sugar Land and Victoria are held through ITV.
- The administration at UH-V is very supportive of the nursing programs.
- New faculty lines are expected to be approved to allow for program growth.

Areas of concern revealed during the Sugar Land visit revealed:

- Making even minor curriculum changes in the UH-V program is very cumbersome
- Faculty expressed concern about attending to program development and workload while finding time to engage in preparation for tenure review

**PROPOSED COMMENDATIONS:**

- The administration is commended for the strong support to the nursing programs at UH-V.
- The nursing faculty are commended for their dedication and personal commitment to the nursing students.
- The School of Nursing is commended for the effective partnerships with the community and with other nursing educational programs.
- The program is commended for excellent clinical settings and clinical experiences for students.

**PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the administration consider an abbreviated curriculum change process when curriculum changes are “information only.”

DRAFT LETTER

April 24, 2009

Kathryn Tart, EdD, RN, Dean  
School of Nursing  
University of Houston-Victoria  
3007 N. Ben Wilson  
Victoria, Texas 77901-5731

Dear Dr. Tart:

At the April 23-24, 2009 meeting, the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the report of the collaborative survey visit conducted by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and board staff on March 2-4, 2009 to the University of Houston-Victoria at its Victoria and Sugar Land, Texas sites.

Based on the discussion and review of the documents, it was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the March 2-4, 2009 survey visit of the University of Houston-Victoria Nursing Educational programs and issue the following commendations and recommendation.

Commendations:

1. The administration is commended for the strong support to the nursing programs at UH-V.
2. The nursing faculty are commended for their dedication and personal commitment to the nursing students.
3. The School of Nursing is commended for the effective partnerships with the community and with outer nursing educational programs.
4. The program is commended for excellent clinical settings and clinical experiences for students.

Recommendation:

It was noted that nursing faculty have been engaged in curriculum changes which would implement the inclusion of the revised American Association for Colleges of Nursing "Essential for Baccalaureate Education" into the program of study. The curriculum changes process at UH-V may take up to a semester because of the need for review and approval by a number of university groups. An abbreviated process for "information only" changes to curriculum would facilitate minor curriculum adjustments.

**Therefore**, it is recommended that the administration consider an abbreviated curriculum change process when curriculum changes are "information only."

A recommendation is a specific suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

Thank you for your help in making possible this collaborative visit with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation team. The experience was very beneficial in our understanding of CCNE's approach to accreditation as well as to provide the BON an update on the second-degree BSN program at UH-V in Sugar Land, Texas. Collaborative visits between the national nursing accreditation organizations and the BON facilitate the interface between accreditation and regulation.

If you have any questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814 or [janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us](mailto:janice.hooper@bon.state.tx.us).

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 for Academic Affairs