

Agenda Item: 3.2.6.
Prepared by: G.Varnell
Board Meeting: July 2016

**Notification of Award of Accreditation for the Master's Degree in Nursing Program
by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
to Texas A&M Health Science Center in Bryan, Texas
Family Nurse Practitioner Program**

Summary:

The Board of Nursing has been notified by Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, Dean at Texas A&M Health Science Center (TAMHSC) in Bryan, Texas, that the Master's Degree Program in Nursing at TAMHSC has received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (See Attachment #1).

Historical Perspective:

- The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program at TAMHSC was approved by the Board at the October 2014 meeting and enrolled students in January 2015.
- The first class will graduate twelve (12) students in August 2016.
- There are eighteen (18) students in the second class who will graduate in August 2017, with a third group of twenty-four (24) students to be admitted for Spring 2017.
- The director of the FNP Program is Kara Jones-Schubart, DNP, RN, FNP.
- The program received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) effective February 4, 2015. The accreditation meets the requirement for a Board-approved advanced practice nursing program to achieve national nursing accreditation within five (5) years [Rule 219(d)(1)(B)].
- The program may be removed from the list of nursing programs under the purview of the Board.
- Board Staff congratulate the Family Nurse Practitioner Program for success in achieving CCNE accreditation and current successes with the program.

This report is for notification only. No Board action is necessary.



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November 19, 2015

Sharon A. Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNE
Dean and Professor
College of Nursing
Texas A & M University Health Science Center
8447 State Highway 47
Bryan, TX 77807

Dear Dr. Wilkerson:

On behalf of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), I am pleased to advise you that the CCNE Board of Commissioners acted at its meeting on October 19-22, 2015, to grant accreditation to the **master's degree program in nursing** at Texas A & M University Health Science Center for 5 years, extending to December 31, 2020. The accreditation action is effective as of February 4, 2015, which is the first day of the program's recent CCNE on-site evaluation. You should plan for the next on-site evaluation to take place in the spring of 2020.

At its meeting, the Board determined that the program met all four accreditation standards. The Board additionally determined that there are no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements.

A copy of the accreditation team report that was sent to you earlier, along with the program's response to it, is being transmitted to the institution's chief executive officer as the Commission's official report to Texas A & M University Health Science Center. We hope that both the results of the self-study process and the team report will be useful to the continued growth and development of the nursing program. A certificate of accreditation is enclosed.

In accordance with CCNE policy, if a program or institution elects to make a public disclosure of a program's accreditation status with CCNE, the program or institution must disclose that status accurately. The program or institution disclosing the information must identify the nursing program and its affiliation with CCNE. This statement must include *either* the accrediting agency's full name, address, and telephone number *or* the accrediting agency's full name and address of the website home page, which identifies CCNE's address and telephone number. For more information on CCNE's disclosure policy and to access the statements that CCNE has approved for use, as well as information on use of the CCNE accreditation seal, please visit <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/seal-policy/baccalaureate-graduate>. Please ensure that the institution's website and other materials are updated to reflect this language, as appropriate.

As is required for all accredited programs, a Continuous Improvement Progress Report (CIPR) must be submitted at the mid-point of the accreditation term. Please note that the CIPR needs to address and demonstrate the program's compliance with the CCNE standards and key elements that are in effect at the time of its submission. As a courtesy, CCNE will send a reminder letter to the chief nurse administrator approximately five months prior to the CIPR submission deadline, informing the program of the specific standards to be used and providing guidance for the preparation of the report. The deadline for submitting the CIPR to CCNE is June 1, 2018. The Report Review Committee, and then the Board of Commissioners, will review the CIPR. For more information about CIPRs and the report review process, please refer to the CCNE procedures.

As a reminder, programs are expected to continue to comply with the current CCNE standards and procedures throughout the period of accreditation. These documents are available at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation/standards-procedures-resources/baccalaureate-graduate>. This includes advising CCNE in the event of a substantive change affecting the nursing program. Substantive change notifications must be submitted to CCNE no earlier than 90 days prior to implementation or occurrence of the change, but no later than 90 days after implementation or occurrence of the change. These reporting requirements are discussed further in the CCNE procedures.

Thank you for your participation in the CCNE accreditation process and your commitment to quality nursing education. The Commissioners join me in expressing our very best wishes as you continue to promote excellence in nursing education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith Karshmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Judith F. Karshmer, PhD, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN
Chair, Board of Commissioners

cc: President and CEO Michael K. Young
CCNE Board of Commissioners
CCNE Accreditation Review Committee
CCNE Evaluation Team