

**Notification of Award of Accreditation for the Master's Degree in Nursing Program
by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
to Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas
Family Nurse Practitioner Program**

Summary:

The Board of Nursing has been notified by Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC Coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program in Nacogdoches, Texas, that the Master's Degree Program in Nursing at Stephen F. Austin State University has received accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (See Attachment #1).

Historical Perspective:

- The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) was approved by the Board at the April 2017 meeting and enrolled students in Fall 2017.
- Fifty-five FNP students have been admitted since 2017.
- Ten students have graduated.
- The director of the FNP Program is Chris Bray, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, FAAN.
- The program received accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) effective April 13, 2018. 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 for success in achieving ACEN accreditation and current successes with the program.

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



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DELIVERED VIA EMAIL ONLY

April 20, 2020

Tamara Harris, DNP, RN, FNP-BC
Director of Nursing
Stephen F. Austin State University
5707 North Street
Nacogdoches, TX 75965

Dear Dr. Harris:

This letter is formal notification of the action taken by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) at its meeting in March 2020. The Board of Commissioners granted initial accreditation to the master's nursing program and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall 2024. Based on ACEN Policy #34 Candidacy for a Governing Organization/Nursing Program Seeking Initial Accreditation, the effective date for initial accreditation of the master's nursing program is April 13, 2018.

Deliberations centered on the materials available to the Board from this accreditation review process and the recommendation for accreditation proposed by the peer evaluators on the site visit team and the Evaluation Review Panel.

The Board identified the following:

Areas of Strength

Standard 1 Mission and Administrative Capacity, Criterion 1.7

- There is strong administrative support for the program, including the hiring and continued funding of a co-coordinator/visiting professor with 40 years of teaching and administrative expertise in APRN programs during the first two years, greatly enhancing the development and ongoing implementation of the MSN program. While the Texas Board of Nursing required that the SON hire a consultant for the deployment of the MSN program (as only one faculty had graduate teaching experience), the time length was not mandated. The position of co-coordinator was funded at 50% (since 2016), and converted to a visiting professor position in August 2019, greatly benefitting from the 40 years of teaching and administration brought by the co-coordinator.

Areas Needing Development

Standard 2 Faculty and Staff, Criterion 2.4

- Ensure that preceptors are oriented, mentored, and monitored.

Standard 4 Curriculum, Criterion 4.6

- Ensure the curriculum and instructional processes reflect interprofessional collaboration.

Areas Needing Development (continued)**Standard 5 Resources, Criterion 5.3**

- Ensure learning resources and technology are selected with faculty input and are comprehensive.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement! We look forward to continued successes for your nursing program. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, we thank you and your colleagues for your commitment to quality nursing education. In addition to this official letter, your nursing program will receive an ACEN certificate authenticating the Board of Commissioners' decision. The processing of these certificates has been delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and will resume when ACEN staff members are able to return to the office. If you have questions about this action or about ACEN policies and procedures, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Marsal P. Stoll, EdD, MSN
Chief Executive Officer