

**Texas A&M International University
Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review (AIER)
for Academic Programs**

Master of Science in Nursing
Program: _____

Assessment Period Covered: March 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009
Louise Autio

Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report) _____

List Other Program Faculty:

Dr. Whitney Bischoff, RN
Ms. Irma Lara, FNP, RN
Adjuncts:
Gustavo Villarreal, M.D.
Mrs. Maria Hernandez, WHNP, FNP, RN
Mrs. Delores Rodriguez, FNP, RN
Mrs. Priscilla Ramos, FNP, RN

The Annual Institutional Effectiveness Review for Academic Programs is directed at Goal 1: Academics of the Texas A&M International University 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:

Develop, maintain, assess, and improve academic programs, administrative/educational support services and student services, to admit, retain, and graduate students who achieve established learning outcomes designed to prepare them for success in their chosen careers.

Institutional Mission

Texas A&M International University, a Member of The Texas A&M University System, prepares students for leadership roles in their chosen profession in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society ... Through instruction, faculty and student research, and public service, Texas A&M International University embodies a strategic point of delivery for well-defined programs and services that improve the quality of life for citizens of the border region, the State of Texas, and national and international communities.

Academic Program Mission

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing degree program is to produce culturally competent nursing leaders who are prepared with role specialization as a family nurse practitioner.

Provide summary of the last cycle's use of results and changes implemented

Program faculty should evaluate the former cycle. This statement should specify if the outcomes addressed were a continuation of previous ones, new outcomes, or modified versions of previous outcomes. In addition, the statement should include a concise analysis of the assessment data collected

during the previous year, a brief explanation of actions taken to address specific outcomes, an evaluation of how these actions contributed to the improvement of the program, and any recommendations formulated. Assessment data—including actual samples of student work—must be viewed and discussed by program faculty during this process.

The Fall 2007 HESI exam again did not predict which students would pass the ANCC certification exam on the first try: No student of the 7 who took the HESI was expected to pass the ANCC certification on the first attempt, 3 of the 5 who have taken the test have. Two more students are expected to take the exam and we await their results. Since only 1 of the 18 students (5%) who have taken the HESI was predicted to pass the ANCC certification exam on the first attempt but 16 have (88.9%) we decided to drop the HESI exam as a benchmark. The two students who failed the exam blamed their failure on an inability to answer the questions on the research process. The faculty member who taught these students research on both the baccalaureate and graduate levels is no longer part of TAMIU. The new faculty member focuses on students' being able to identify parts of the research process as expected on the ANCC certification exam. The students who have taken the research course with the new professor will graduate in December, 2009 so we will watch for their ANCC certification exam results in 2010.

Selected list of program-level intended student learning outcomes (*It is recommended that programs rotate through their entire set of outcomes over a multi-year period. Programs may focus on one or two outcomes each year, as deemed appropriate*).

1. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will be prepared to enter the work force as Family Nurse Practitioners.
2. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will be employed as Family Nurse Practitioners in Texas.
3. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will demonstrate mastery of clinical competencies.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Outcome(s)

Identify the outcome(s) that will be focused upon this year.

1. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will be prepared to enter the work force as Family Nurse Practitioners.
3. Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will demonstrate mastery of clinical competencies.

■ **Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP).** #3 “Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will demonstrate mastery of clinical competencies” is related to writing.

Methods of assessment to be used: *The explanation should identify and describe the type of assessment(s) that will be used (e.g., survey, questionnaire, observation instrument, test, rubric to evaluate performance, standardized examination, action research, interviews, etc.), who will provide the information, and how the data will be obtained.*

1. ANCC certification exam for Family Nurse Practitioners, report by students and ANCC.
3. Clinical evaluations by preceptors and graduate clinical faculty during on-site visits before graduation; evaluation of documentation note samples and ICD-9-CM visit codes.
MSN practice survey administered in Spring 2009 to 2007 graduates.
MSN practice survey administered in Fall 2010 to new FNP students.

Indicate when assessment(s) will take place

1. ANCC certification exam results in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2010 for students graduating in December, 2009
3. Spring, Summer, and Fall 2009 clinical evaluations, documentation notes, and ICD-9-CM visit codes for enrolled students
Fall 2010 MSN practice survey for students graduating in December, 2009

Criteria/Benchmark(s): *[Specify, if deemed appropriate to assess outcome(s). Criteria/ benchmark(s) may be optional, especially if qualitative measures are used for data collection.]*

1. 90% first time pass rate on the ANCC certification exam for Family Nurse Practitioners
3. Students must score a “3” or better in critical areas at the end of each level.
Graduates from the FNP program will rate their nursing practice on 90% of the items on the MSN practice survey at “4” or above.

Section II: Analysis of Results

What were the results attained?

Describe the primary results or findings from your analysis of the information collected. This section should include an explanation of any strength(s) or weakness(es) of the program suggested by the results.

1. The Fall 2007 HESI exam again did not predict achievement for our students: No student of the 7 who took the HESI was expected to pass the ANCC certification exam on the first attempt, 3 of 5 did. Two more students are expected to take the ANCC certification exam and we await their results. Based upon this poor association between scores on the two tests (16 of 18 graduates who have taken the ANCC exam have passed for 88.9%, ANCC goal not achieved; HESI predicted 1 of 18 would pass the ANCC for 5.6%) we have decided to drop the HESI exam as a benchmark. The two students who failed the ANCC certification exam blamed their failure on an inability to answer the questions on the research process. The faculty member who taught these students research on both the baccalaureate and graduate levels is no longer part of TAMIU. The new professor focuses on identifying parts of the research process as expected on the certification exam. The students who have taken the course with the new professor will graduate in December, 2009 so we will watch for their ANCC exam results in 2010.
3. Students did score a “3” or better in critical areas at the end of each level on evaluations by preceptors.
The MSN practice survey was administered to the students who graduated in 2006. Five surveys of 14 were returned (35.7% response rate) despite multiple mailings in 2007. In 2009 we tried to entice

responses by the 2006 and 2007 graduates by using Survey Monkey. After two months there were no responses. Of the 5 surveys from graduates that were returned in 2007, only two items had an average rating less than “4” (92.6%, goal achieved) “I am able to evaluate the quality of research,” and “I use theories and concepts in my practice.” In the newly admitted graduate students (n = 24), two items were marked below “3”, “I am able to evaluate the quality of research” and “I use research findings in my practice.” Eleven items were marked below a “4” (13 of 27 were below the benchmark, 48.1%). Hopefully as graduates these students will answer the follow-up survey so we can compare the ratings at the two different times and note any change.

What were the conclusions reached?

Should include a brief description of the procedure used for reaching the conclusion(s) based on the evidence collected and describe the process used to disseminate the information to other individuals. For example, if the discussion took place during the annual spring retreat, include a summary from those deliberations using the Meeting Minutes template found on the Project Integrate web page at <http://www.tamtu.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to assessment@tamtu.edu.

I discussed the poor prediction of HESI results with the ANCC certification exam with Director/Dean and graduate faculty. The Dean communicated our findings to the publishers of HESI and was told other schools are complaining as well. The publishers are attempting to revise the exam. There are no validity or reliability estimates of this exam.

Describe the action plan formulated. (The plan may be multi-year in nature.)

Based on the conclusion(s), describe the action plan to be implemented to improve or maintain student learning, including a timeline for implementation.

We expect that with the faculty change in the research course that students will be successful on the ANCC certification exam and we can reach our goal.

We plan to begin enrolling a cohort of graduate students every year and eventually alternate admitting cohorts to the family nurse practitioner track and another graduate track depending on the results of the survey of needs we distributed in Fall 2008. Survey results were distributed at the February, 6, 2009 nursing meeting and will be discussed by the graduate faculty.

Section III: Resources

Resource(s) to implement action plan:

Describe the resources that will be needed to implement the action plan. Also indicate if the resources are currently available, or if additional funds will be needed to obtain these resources.

Funding

- New Resources Required
- Reallocation of current funds

Physical

- New or reallocated space

Other

- Primarily faculty/staff time
- University/rule procedure change only

Provide a narrative description and justification for requested resources (include linkage to Strategic Plan)

We need more laboratory space for students to practice care on simulation manikins and for equipment storage. Our graduate program uses CH 118 for student practice but there are conflicts with baccalaureate program needs. We need secretarial help. We lost our secretary and graduate assistant when our HRSA grant funds ended. Now the Family Nurse Practitioner Coordinator must assume these duties in addition to teaching, advising and program coordination. We will need this secretary by April 30, 2009 if we plan to admit another cohort for Fall 2009. There are too many clerical duties required for the continuing students to add even more with a new cohort. We will need another graduate faculty nursing professor if we begin annual admissions and start another track.

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

Continuation of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for continuation):

1. Continuation of present outcome – New faculty member teaching the research process.
3. Continuation of present outcome – We need a larger sample of graduates taking the Survey of MSN Nursing Practice to assess the tool’s usefulness in measuring program outcomes.

New Outcome(s) – (List outcomes below):

3. 90% of graduates will rate their satisfaction with their preparation as family nurse practitioners as “4” or above the semester before they graduate and one and five years after graduation.
90 % of employers of our family nurse practitioner graduates will rate his or her satisfaction with the graduate’s performance as “4” or above at one and five years after graduation.

Modification of present outcome(s) – (Indicate reason for modification):