

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

Program: Master of Science in Nursing

Assessment Period Covered: January 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010
Louise Autio

Program Coordinator (Preparer of Report) _____

List Other Program Faculty:

Dr. Whitney Bischoff, RN
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N/A

Reviewed by Chair: Name _____ **Date** _____

Dr. Regina C. Aune

Reviewed by Dean: Name _____ **Date** April 1, 2010

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.

So far, 6 of the 7 students who graduated in 2007 have advanced practice recognition. The 2008 report from the American Nurses Credentialing Center identified the certification exam pass rate for the 2007 class as 66.67% (for 6 graduates). We did not have a cohort finishing in 2008. One challenge we face with the students who will graduated in December 2009 is the content of the certification exam will change based on responses to a survey given to family nurse practitioners. We reviewed the new test map and made needed changes in the curriculum. Only 5 MSN Practice survey questionnaires were returned by the 2006 graduates (n=14) and none by the 2007 graduates (n=7). I gave the MSN Practice survey to the 2009 cohort during their final semester and for an improved response rate.

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.
4. The Canseco School of Nursing will be funded 100% by state monies in FY 2009.

Section I: Planning and Implementation

Outcome(s)

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

Outcome 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.

Outcome 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.

■ **Please indicate if the outcome(s) is (are) related to writing (QEP). No**

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.*

Outcome 1.

The MSN Nursing practice survey will be administered in November 2009 to students who will graduate in December 2009. The items measure achievement of program outcomes. Students' responses will be compared to responses they gave on program entry.

A survey will be mailed to employers of students who graduated in 2006 and 2007. The items on this survey are similar to items used on the clinical evaluation tool completed by each student's preceptors during the program at the conclusion of each semester.

Outcome 2.

We will determine where our graduates are working and in what capacity.

Indicate when assessment(s) will take place

Fall 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.]*

Outcome 1.

The students' responses to the MSN Nursing Practice Survey in the final semester of the program will show a significant difference to responses they made in the first semester of the program.

Employers will rate the graduates as "often" performing 90% of the items on the survey.

Outcome 2.

75% of graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing program of the Canseco School of Nursing will be employed as Family Nurse Practitioners in Texas.

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.

Outcome 1.

The MSN Nursing practice survey was administered during the final class meeting in November 2009 to students who graduated in December 2009. All 17 students who were completing the program returned a questionnaire. There was a significant difference for all six learning outcomes for the group's responses from those given on admission to the program ($n=17, p<.01$). Five (5) behaviors of the twenty-seven (27) in the questionnaire were not rated as significantly changing by the program's end. These include: 1) conducts patient risk analyses; 2) fosters interdisciplinary planning and collaboration; 3) uses evidence-based, clinical practice guidelines; 4) has enough authority to change patient care; and 5) acts as a patient advocate using ethical principles in decision making.

The employer survey was modified from the evaluation form we give to preceptors to rate our students' performance in every clinical course. The instrument contained 18 items. There were four rating levels, which can be interpreted as "1" never, "2" sometimes, "3" often, and "4" almost always. We mailed the questionnaire to employers of our 21 MSN graduates who finished the program in December 2006 and 2007 with nine (9) surveys returned for a response rate of 42.9%. The one item which was not rated as "often" performed by our graduates was: instructs clients/families about growth and development, life crises, common illnesses, risk factors and accidents appropriately. So employers rated our graduates as often performing 94.4% of the items.

Outcome 2.

Sixteen of twenty-one graduates of the program are employed as family nurse practitioners in Texas or 76.2% of the graduates.

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.tamui.edu/integrate/docs/Minutes-Template.doc>. Once completed, submit the minutes to assessment@tamui.edu.

Outcome 1.

We used SPSS to compare the responses the graduate MSN students gave on program entry to those the group gave on program exit. T-test was used to compare mean responses on each item. Level of significance was set at $p \leq 0.01$. Cronbach alpha for the MSN Nursing Practice Survey for 45 questionnaires which have been completed is 0.958.

For the employer survey we calculated the means on each item. Any item rated 3 or more was considered acceptable performance. Cronbach alpha for the employer survey for the nine returned was 0.789.

We discussed the results of these surveys in our nursing faculty meetings while we were preparing for a site visit in March 2010 by our accrediting body, the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. We included this discussion of results in our self-study. This self-study was bound and given to every nursing faculty member as well as to campus administrators.

Outcome 2.

Employment goal was met.

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.

Outcome 1.

We plan to create new assignments or experiences for the group now enrolled to encourage the development of the behaviors. First we will expect documentation of patient risk analyses and relevant instruction for each patient encounter in the clinical log starting Spring 2010. For multidisciplinary planning and collaboration, having enough authority to change patient care and acting as a patient advocate we can schedule experiences with other health professionals in the last two clinical courses so students can experience multidisciplinary care planning as well as develop the other behaviors starting Summer 2010. For the final behavior, using evidence-based, clinical practice guidelines, in the on-line case presentations we will ask that the students compare care rendered to an existing evidence-based

guideline if there is one available and identify the quality of evidence supporting the guideline (from proven benefit to consensus opinion) starting Spring 2010.

The results on the employer survey indicate we need to emphasize instructing clients and families about growth and development, life crises, common illnesses, risk factors and accidents which matched responses given by the students on the MSN practice survey. This will be included as part of the risk analyses and relevant instruction mentioned earlier starting Spring 2010.

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)

Strategic Plan

Goal 1.2 Academic: Student-centered Learning Environment

Goal 6.1, 6.2, 6.4 Physical Resources: funding for new resources, update and expand campus technology, and operate, maintain and renovate facilities to serve the needs of the University.

We need more laboratory space. In Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 the needs of the MSN students have been in conflict with those of the BSN students in regard to laboratory space. We were assigned to teach in CH 118 from 4:30PM on one evening a week but BSN faculty claimed that room for preparation of continuing students for that time or the next day or for special conferences both semesters. The BSN faculty removed tables and chairs and set up beds and equipment for the next day so we were unable to hold class using the room. In one instance the room has been confiscated for an entire week for a review course for May graduates. Access to our equipment is difficult because we must disrupt classes to get to the equipment room. The simulation equipment is stored in one of the break out rooms along with equipment for the graduate program and the locks to that room have been changed so we need to find someone with one of the only two keys made for the door to be able to get equipment to prepare for class. If there is a push to admit more students and generate more semester credit hours the problem of access to the lab for practice by both BSN and MSN students will only be exacerbated. The demand has exceeded supply.

We store equipment for our classes in our offices or locked office files to be able to have access in the evening. We need locked storage space available to us without disturbing classes in progress when we prepare for class. We need lab space to use our simulators, models, examination equipment and microscope. We need a space for students to videotape physical exam performance.

We also need a conference/seminar room to seat 20 students in graduate classes with an instructional station with computer and projector. We also do testing using computers. There is a conflict between the BSN faculty scheduling special competency tests and MSN faculty scheduling regular course exams. We need another computer lab.

Identify proposed outcomes for the next assessment cycle:

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

We plan to make changes in the courses for currently enrolled students. Then we will administer the MSN Survey of Nursing Practice © and the employer survey again in November 2010 to students who will graduate in December 2010 and compare those responses to responses they made on the program entry to see whether our program changes have caused the students’ perception of their behavior to change. We will also survey employers of the December 2009 graduates

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

Enter text here

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

Enter text here

Date Completed: March 22, 2010

Submit completed form to integrate@tamiu.edu.

Updated 09/03/2009