



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 16, 2013

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097



Dear Dr. Wheelan:

I am writing to notify the Commission of our intent to offer the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) MSN degree program and post-MSN certificate program online, beginning in Fall 2013. UT Arlington has offered the NNP program in a blended online/on-campus format since 2008.

Students enrolled full-time can expect to complete the program in four semesters, while part-time students will require nine semesters over three years. Preceptored clinical experiences for students in the online NNP will occur primarily in partner hospitals/health systems in which the students are already employed. As in the face-to-face program, preceptors will be approved by the UT Arlington College of Nursing faculty.

The curriculum is identical to that of the blended program that is currently offered, with the following exceptions:

- Separate didactic from clinical courses (requiring change of course numbers)
- Reduce clinical hours to 600 (minimum required by NCC, certifying body)
- Offer NURS 5327 (Nursing Theory) and NURS 5301 (Nursing Research) in 8 weeks each so that students could take sequentially in same semester
- Offer Health Assessment as NURS 5318 instead of NURS 5418 (incorporating the laboratory hours into the first NNP course; course will focus on neonate and not lifespan assessment)
- Integrate the didactic and laboratory hours of NURS 5314 (Skills) into the first NNP course
- Eliminate elective

Sincerely,

Vistasp Karbhari, President

c: Ronald Elsenbaumer, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jennifer Gray, Interim Dean of Nursing
Pam Haws, SACS Liaison