



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS  
AT ARLINGTON

Office of the President

Box 19125  
701 S Nedderman Dr  
Arlington, Texas  
76019-0125  
T 817-272-2101  
F 817-272-5656

December 7, 2009

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 that The University of Texas at Arlington (UT Arlington) plans to offer the BSN and MSN in Nursing Administration degrees via the internet, in partnership with Higher Education Holdings (HEH), a company located at 2200 Ross Ave, #3800, Dallas, Texas, 75201. The intended launch date for the first cohort of BSN students is January 2010, with subsequent cohorts to follow three times per year. The first MSN cohort is expected to start March 2010. We have previously notified you of similar programs in nursing (RN to BSN) and Education.

HEH will assist in the marketing, promotion, and delivery of the BSN and MSN courses. Higher Education Holdings will market the degree program to hospitals and health care institutions. We expect that this program will be of particular interest to health care institutions since it will help produce more BSN qualified nurses which can address the critical nursing shortage.

HEH will also provide technical support for the courses delivered via their courseware and academic support via academic coaches hired to help facilitate student navigation of the course. This distribution and learning model mirrors a partnership between Lamar University and HEH which has been previously approved by the Commission.

UT Arlington School of Nursing is a CCNE accredited program with one of the highest graduation and licensure rates among the 93 schools of nursing in Texas. UT Arlington has offered the BSN and MSN degrees for many years and has extensive experience offering nursing courses via distance education. In 2005, the Commission approved a proposal from UT Arlington for internet distribution of nursing courses to Texarkana College, Paris Junior College, Trinity Valley Community College, Grayson County College, University of North Texas System Center Dallas, and McLennan Community College

The online prelicensure BSN program is not bound by the need for traditional classrooms and semesters. Courses range from 6 to 13 weeks in length with course content offered on-line using a media enriched modular format. Students complete all their clinical required hours in partner hospitals under the supervision of UT Arlington clinical faculty. Masters-prepared academic coaches, who also meet all UT Arlington nursing faculty criteria, support students on-line in the non-clinical components of the program. A Student Success Coordinator and other University support services are available to all students. The online program provides advantages for both students and participating hospital partners. By receiving their faculty supervised clinical experiences consistently in a hospital partner's facility (or health system) it is expected that students' readiness to practice will be enhanced and time for new graduate nurse orientation will be minimized.

The online MSN in Nursing Administration is structured to provide courses in 5 to 10 week time frames using on-line media and instruction methods. Masters and Doctorally prepared academic coaches will support students in the clinical and non-clinical aspects of the program under the supervision of UT Arlington MSN Program faculty. Preceptored clinical experiences for students in the online MSN in nursing Administration Program will occur primarily in the partner hospitals/health systems. As is currently done in the face-to-face MSN Program, preceptors will be approved by the UT Arlington Nursing Administration faculty. Approved preceptors will work individually with students in the clinical setting to develop leadership, system management, and financial management knowledge and skills. UT Arlington faculty, academic coaches, and preceptors will collaborate to guide and evaluate student clinical experiences in the online MSN Nursing Administration Program.

As with all our programs, the course content, course structure, and final course grades are the sole responsibility of the University of Texas at Arlington

Please let me know if the Commission requires additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Spaniolo", written in a cursive style.

James D. Spaniolo  
President

c: Steven Sheeley  
Donald Bobbitt  
Michael Moore  
Elizabeth Poster  
Pam Haws