



January 21, 2022

Gerianne Babbo Ed.D, MN, RN
Director of Nursing Education
Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission
Washington State Department of Health

Dear Dr. Babbo,

Please accept this progress report on the status of the pre-licensure BSN program at Saint Martin's University.

As a reminder, during the 2019-2020 academic year no upper division pre-licensure BSN were taught while the Betti Nursing Education Center was under construction. Construction was completed in July 2020 and the first upper division nursing courses were taught in Fall 2020 in the new 12,000 sq foot space that includes an 8-bed nursing lab with 7 mid-fidelity Laerdal manikins, a simulation lab with one high-fidelity Laerdal Nursing Anne simulator, a classroom designed for web-casting and recording of classes, faculty office, student space and a conference room. In Spring 2022 our nursing labs are used for lab classes five days a week from 8am to 9pm and we have four additional nursing faculty offices on the fourth floor of Old Main to accommodate our growing faculty.

All nursing classes and labs have been taught face-to-face in since our last report in February 2021, with no spread of COVID amongst the nursing students. Students are wearing full PPE for all nursing labs, and classrooms are set up for physical distancing to keep students and faculty safe. Students have been able to attend all planned clinical hours in Long Term Care (LTC), sub-acute, acute care and community sites, with some modifications due to COVID precautions, except for one Junior I clinical group in LTC in Spring 2021. One of our LTC clinical sites had a COVID outbreak in April which impacted the ability to have students in the facility for the rest of the semester which ended April 30th. We replaced some clinical hours with simulation and were able to pivot to holding a Wellness Clinic on campus so students could practice their clinical assessment skills. All levels of BSN students were giving COVID vaccines on a weekly basis in Spring 2021 and for much of Fall 2021.

Fall 2021 the program included its first cohort of Senior I students in acute care and we were able to place all the students at Providence St. Peter's Medical Center in Olympia. The feedback from St. Peter's staff is that our BSN students are well prepared to care for the complex acute care patients currently in the hospital.

Numbers of BSN students: There are 165 traditional BSN, 4 RN to BSN and 13 LPN to BSN students enrolled at Saint Martin's University in Spring 2022. Table 1 describes the total

number of pre-licensure nursing students who are taking pre-requisite courses and those in the upper division pre-licensure program.

Table 1. Saint Martin's University pre-licensure BSN enrollment – Spring 2022

	Lower Division Nursing Students	Junior I (Dec 23 grads)	Junior II students (May 2023 grads)	Senior I (Dec 22 grads)	Senior II (May 22 grads)
# of students	79	33	28	23	22

The *December* 2023 cohort is currently larger due to students from earlier cohorts not progressing with their original cohort. A letter to the Nursing Commission was submitted on January 14, 2022 explaining the large cohort that entered the upper division in Spring 2022. Admissions for the 2022-2023 academic year are underway and Saint Martin's is limiting the number of first year students with Running Start AA degrees to keep the Junior I cohort size at 24 and to allow for Transfer admissions into the upper division nursing program. We are the only BSN program in the South Sound region and are committed to offering a BSN pathway for local transfer students.

Retention data is only available for two years in the new traditional BSN program. The data below is current as of end of Fall semester 2021.

Fall 2019 46 traditional BSN admits

- 36 currently in upper division + 5 working on pre-reqs = 91% retention rate
- 2 have moved to different majors (music & exercise science)
- 2 students failed 2 upper division BSN courses and are now EXS and BIO majors
- 1 student left after Jr I semester
- overall 97.8% retention at the university either as BSN or other major

Fall 2020 39 1st yr BSN admits

- 8 were Running Start and in upper division BSN in Fall 2021
- 25 still taking pre-reqs
- 4 have moved to new majors (Education, Psyc, EXS)
- 5 no longer enrolled at SMU
- 84.6% retained in nursing after 1 year (during a global pandemic)

Spring 2021 13 transfer students accepted into BSN upper division

- 1 student left due to financial reasons in the middle of the first semester
- 1 student was dismissed from the program in Fall 2021 due to professional issues
- 85% retention

Of the 24 students in our first BSN cohort who started the upper division BSN coursework in Fall 2020, 22 are on track to graduate in May 2022. One student experienced a delay in

progression due to not being vaccinated for COVID, but has since been vaccinated and on track to graduate in December 2022 (one semester delay). Another student failed two nursing courses and is now a Biology major.

Faculty. There was a successful search for four tenure track Assistant Professors in Spring and summer of 2021, and we hired Elizabeth “Liz” Nutter, DNP, CNM, Lt Col. Ret, Dianne Nauer EdD, ARNP, Michelle Hudders DNP, MSN/Ed, RN, CNE and Shandeigh “Nikki” Berry PhD, RN, CNOR. Diane Hamilton DNP, CNE was promoted to Associate Professor, and will be retiring in May 2022. We are beginning the search for an additional tenure track Assistant Professor to start Fall 2022.

As we begin Spring 2022 semester we have one additional Full-time instructor, Linda Trader DNP candidate, and a 0.5 FTE instructor Sharon Wallace PhD, RN, plus 20 part-time adjunct nursing faculty to teach courses, clinical and lab.

We filled the **clinical placement coordinator** position in August with an RN who was a great help to us getting our clinical placements for fall and spring organized. She resigned in December due to family issues. We are currently advertising for a replacement and have a number of qualified applicants. We will fill the position as soon as we complete the interviews.

Atlas Kulish has been our **Administrative Assistant** since October 2020 and has been a welcome addition to our nursing team. Atlas is a SMU graduate student and we hope to retain him until he graduates, knowing he will be highly sought after in his field of Higher Education Leadership. We hired Fred Howard as the **Simulation and Lab Coordinator** in August 2021 and have hired four student workers to assist with organizing lab supplies and doing laundry.

In June 2021 Saint Martin’s Nursing was informed that we were awarded a **4-year \$2.2 million HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity (NWD) grant**. There were only 26 awarded nationwide and we were grateful to have the additional funds from the grant. The HRSA grant is funding the following for four academic years:

- 0.5 FTE clinical instructor in Population Health
- 0.5 FTE Clinical Placement Coordinator
- 1.0 FTE Nursing Advisor
- \$320,000/yr in scholarships and stipends to diverse students from all three tracks
- \$10,000/yr in library funds for e-books and journals
- 2 laptop computers per year
- AACN Holistic Review and DEI workshops (one each year)
- \$6000/yr for faculty travel to conferences

The HRSA NWD grant will provide scholarships or stipends for 51 BSN students a year to decrease the financial burden of completing their education.

In addition to our growing traditional BSN program, we started an LPN to BSN track in Fall 2021. The addition of the new track has required us to examine our lab space and we are currently in the early planning stages of turning our Nursing classroom on the first floor into a

learning lab and remodeling two classrooms on the fourth floor of Old Main (across from nursing faculty offices) into a large dedicated nursing classroom. We are seeking funding and planning on having the remodel completed for Fall 2022 classes and labs.

In summary, the new traditional BSN program is off to a solid start. Students are progressing as planned and we have been able to secure adequate qualified faculty and clinical sites to teach the planned curriculum. We look forward to our first graduates in May 2022 and their successful passing of the NCLEX-RN exam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teri M. Woo". The script is cursive and fluid.

Teri Moser Woo PhD, CPNP-PC, CNL, FAANP
Professor and Director of Nursing
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