



May 17, 2021

Dr. Joseph Harroz  
President  
University of Oklahoma  
660 Parrington Oval  
Evans 110  
Norman, OK 73019-3073

Dear President Harroz:

Attached is a copy of the Multi-Location Visit Report completed following the visit to University of Oklahoma. As detailed in the report, the pattern of operations at the locations appears to be adequate and no further review or monitoring is necessary.

Within the Multi-Location Visit Report, you will find brief comments on the instructional oversight, academic services, student services, facilities, marketing and recruitment information and adequacy of assessment of student performance. Please consider these comments as advice for continued improvement of the additional locations.

Per HLC policy, completion of these visits and fulfillment of the requirement will be noted in your institution's history record and the completed report will be included in your institution's permanent file.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Multi-Location Visit or the attached report, please contact Pat Newton-Curran ([pnewton@hlcommission.org](mailto:pnewton@hlcommission.org)).

Sincerely,

Higher Learning Commission



## Multi-Location Visit Peer Review Report

**Institution:** University of Oklahoma (1642)

**Additional Locations Visited:**

Location Name	Location Address ( <i>street, city, state and ZIP code</i> )	Date Reviewed
Southern Oklahoma Technology Center (Southern Tech)	2610 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK 73401	5-4-2021
Cameron University	2800 W. Gore Boulevard, Lawton, OK 73505	5-6-2021

**Peer Reviewer**

Name: Judy R. Colwell, Ed.D., CPA

Institution: Northern Oklahoma College Title: Retired, Vice President for Academic Affairs

*Instructions*

In order to document effective administrative systems for managing multiple additional locations, please complete the following. For each item, check **adequate** or **attention needed**, and indicate in Comments the institution’s strengths and/or opportunities for improvement in controlling and delivering degree programs off-campus. If comments pertain to a specific location, they should be included along with the identity of that location.

Submit the completed report as a PDF file at [hlcommission.org/upload](http://hlcommission.org/upload). Select “Final Reports” from the list of submission options to ensure the institution’s materials are sent to the correct HLC staff member. The report is due within 30 days after the last additional location is visited.

**Overview Statement**

Provide information about current additional locations and the institution’s general approach to off-campus instruction. Describe the growth pattern at the institution since the last review of off-campus instruction. Provide information about the involvement of external organizations or other higher education institutions.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

**Comments:**

Conversations with the administration and academic leaders from both the OU College of Dentistry and the OU College of Nursing indicated that the University of Oklahoma (OU) makes location decisions regarding expansion of off-campus instruction on workforce need in the area, availability of clinical partners, and ability to provide quality instruction and programming at the off-campus site. As indicated on the Institutional Status Report, the University of Oklahoma has four active locations. Two of those four locations were selected by for this multi-location visit: (1) Southern Technology Center in Ardmore, Oklahoma (Dental Hygiene program) and (2) Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma (Nursing program).

The OU College of Dentistry partners with three technology centers in Oklahoma to offer a dental hygiene program on the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City, and by distance education via 2-way synchronous video-conferencing at three distance sites within Oklahoma: Tri County Technology Center in Bartlesville, Western Technology Center in Weatherford, Southern Oklahoma Technology Center in Ardmore. The OU dental hygiene locations are housed and financially supported by the Oklahoma Career Technology education system. A formal, written contract clearly defines roles and responsibilities of both institutions. The University of Oklahoma maintains control of program administration, curriculum management, and faculty assignment of the dental hygiene education program. Clinical operation, facility construction and maintenance, and salaries of faculty and staff are the responsibility of the individual career technology centers. The University of Oklahoma awards a baccalaureate degree to Dental Hygiene students following successful completion of the program, according to OU and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education policies. There are no plans for additional locations for the program.

The OU Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing collaborates with Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma to offer the traditional Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN), Accelerated BSN (ABSN), and LPN and RN degree completion tracks of the BSN program. The Oklahoma Board of Nursing approved the extension of the nursing program to Cameron University, Lawton, OK on May 12, 1997, following a letter of intent filed with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on February 10, 1995, for this action. The OU College of Nursing is developing a 36-month enrollment plan with the goal to increase undergraduate enrollment as well as to create opportunities in the undergraduate curriculum for a Master's entry track that would align with MSN and/or DNP program offerings. The OU College of Nursing anticipates initial growth at the undergraduate level to meet state legislative demand/need, while hiring and building the faculty to support the expansion of the graduate programs in years two and three.

## **Institutional Planning**

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What evidence demonstrates that the institution effectively plans for growth and maintenance of additional locations? Identify whether the institution has adequate controls in place to ensure that information presented to students is adequate. Describe whether the financial planning and budgeting process has proven effective at additional locations.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

Interviews with the on-site faculty and leaders, as well as leaders from the main campus College of Dentistry and College of Nursing confirmed that OU effectively plans for growth and maintenance of additional locations, with priority of ensuring that each location has equivalent facilities and equipment to ensure that students receive a quality and consistent educational experience. Financial planning and budgeting processes are in place and appear to function effectively for meeting the needs of additional locations of both the OU College of Dentistry (Dental Hygiene program) and the OU College of Nursing.

For the Dental Hygiene program, the Site Coordinator from each location attends annual strategic planning meetings and submits requests to the technology center administration for updated technology or new equipment. The OU College of Dentistry and distance technology center locations work collaboratively to ensure an exemplary educational environment with appropriately maintained facilities. A formalized contract, available for review during the location visit, clearly defines roles and responsibilities of both the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center and the technology center locations.

For the Nursing program, the budget planning process provides for annual review of fiscal and physical resources. OU College of Nursing works with the Cameron University site coordinator to identify instructional needs and technology needs. Non-typical operating needs are brought forward as special requests at the time when the annual budget for the next fiscal year is under development. As the OU College of Nursing looks to expand enrollment, expansion of facilities and equipment is also planned. Plans are underway to double classroom space in Lawton and open up current space to be flexible to support classroom of skills lab instruction.

### Facilities

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What evidence demonstrates that the facilities at the additional locations meet the needs of the students and the curriculum? Consider, in particular, classrooms and laboratories (size, maintenance, temperature, etc.); faculty and administrative offices (site, visibility, privacy for meetings, etc.); parking or access to public transit; bookstore or text purchasing services; security; handicapped access; and other (food or snack services, study and meeting areas, etc.)

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

The facilities are meeting the needs of students and the curriculum at each of the respective locations visited as evidenced by a tour of the facilities at each location and conversations with faculty, students, and on-site coordinators/leaders. Further, on site observations confirmed that classroom spaces and laboratories at both sites provided quality learning environments for the programs offered. Faculty and administrative offices were visible and provided privacy for meetings. The facilities housing the Dental Hygiene program in Ardmore as well as the facilities housing Nursing program at Cameron University in Lawton are both very well equipped to support each respective program.

The Southern Oklahoma Technology Center location that houses the Dental Hygiene program is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories, clinics, classrooms, and facilities. Facility needs are revisited annually to maintain consistency of high-quality facilities at all sites. The site coordinator from each distance site attends annual strategic planning meetings and submits requests to the technology center administration for updated technology or new equipment.

The OU College of Nursing strives to ensure that each of its locations has equivalent facilities and equipment so that students receive a consistent educational experience. As the College makes plans to expand enrollment, plans are also being developed for the expansion of facilities and equipment as needed. For example, plans are to expand classroom space in Lawton as well as to open up current space to be flexible to support classroom or skill lab instruction. Skills lab space was added at the Cameron University site prior to fall 2020, and there are four new hospital beds waiting to be installed in the skills/simulation lab.

## Instructional Oversight

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What evidence demonstrates that the institution effectively oversees instruction at the additional locations? Consider, in particular, consistency of curricular expectations and policies, availability of courses needed for program and graduation requirements, faculty qualifications, performance of instructional duties, availability of faculty to students, orientation of faculty/professional development, attention to student concerns.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

Meetings with faculty, students, on-site coordinators, and via zoom with the main campus administrators located at the Health Science Center (College of Dentistry for the Dental Hygiene program and College of Nursing for the nursing program) provided evidence that the institution effectively oversees instruction at each of the respective additional locations visited.

As evidenced by the contractual agreement between the OU College of Dentistry and Southern Oklahoma Technology Center and confirmed by meetings during the site visit, distance site coordinators are responsible to the College of Dentistry to ensure departmental academic and patient care standards are met. The Dental Hygiene program director directly oversees the program at all sites. Coordination of instruction occurs formally through distance-connected bi-weekly main campus clinical coordinator/distance site coordinator meetings and monthly faculty calibration meetings. Bi-annual faculty calibration and retreats are held at one location with faculty from all sites attending.

As stated in the institutional report and confirmed during the site visit, the Cameron University Site Coordinator is a member of the OU College of Nursing leadership team which is responsible for curriculum, course content, program administration, faculty, student selection, graduation requirements, financial terms, and technology standards. Members of the leadership team travel to the Cameron University site for face-to-face meetings with the Site Coordinator, staff, faculty, students, prospective students, and Cameron University leaders throughout the year. All OU College of Nursing committee meetings involving faculty, staff and/or students leverage technology to support virtual attendance whenever necessary.

## Institutional Staffing and Faculty Support

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What evidence demonstrates that the institution has appropriately qualified and sufficient staff and faculty in place for the location, and that the institution supports and evaluates personnel at off-campus locations? Consider the processes in place for selecting, training, and orienting faculty at the location.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

As confirmed by on-site meetings and a review of documents during the visit, both the OU College of Dentistry and the OU College of Nursing has appropriately qualified and sufficient staff and faculty in place for the Southern Oklahoma Technology Center location (Dental Hygiene) and the Cameron University location (Nursing). The processes in place for selecting, training, and orienting faculty at both locations visited are equivalent to those at the institution's main campus and provide evidence that the institution supports and evaluates personnel at off campus locations.

Dental Hygiene distance faculty members must meet the same accreditation standards as main campus dental hygiene faculty as well as the licensing requirements of the Oklahoma State Board of Dentistry. All site coordinators have completed Master's degree programs. In addition, of the five clinical faculty members among the distance sites, two have completed a Master's degree. Distance dental hygiene faculty members are evaluated using the College of Dentistry faculty evaluation and a career technology evaluation form. Further, course evaluations and student exit interviews are also conducted. Opportunities for clarification and discussion of program goals, competencies, curricular content occurs via all-sites calibration meetings held bi-weekly and Clinical Coordinators/Site Coordinators/Distance faculty meetings held bi-monthly.

Including the Site Coordinator, there are eight full-time nursing faculty and 1.5 FTE support staff at the Cameron University location. Of the full-time faculty, 50% hold a terminal degree and 50% hold a master's degree in nursing. All are academically and experientially prepared to teach in the BSN program. All faculty, regardless of location, receive an orientation to the OU College of Nursing before they begin teaching students. Further, all new faculty are assigned a peer mentor for a minimum of six months to facilitate the transition to the academic setting. All OU College of Nursing faculty, regardless of where they teach, are evaluated each calendar year through the Faculty Annual Review (FAR) process. A review of the OU College of Nursing Annual Faculty Summary Report for 2020-2021 as well as results from the Faculty Resources Survey (December 2019), Staff Resources Survey (December 2018), and Undergraduate Student Resources Survey (February 2020) conducted at all sites where the Nursing program is offered provided evidence that the institution supports personnel at its off-campus locations. For example, the Lawton location satisfaction ratings by faculty, staff, and students were similar to those at other locations, including the main campus location.

## Student Support

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What evidence demonstrates that the institution delivers, supports, and manages necessary student services at the additional locations? Consider, in particular, the level of student access (in person, by computer, by phone, etc.) to academic advising/placement, remedial/tutorial services, and library

materials/services. Also, consider the level of access to admissions, registration/student records, financial aid, and job placement services, as well as attention to student concerns.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

**Comments:**

Conversations with faculty, students, and on-site coordinators/leaders as well as a tour of the facilities at each of the respective locations visited provided evidence that the institution delivers, supports, and manages necessary student services at each location. Additionally, the institution has processes in place to address student concerns as confirmed during on-site meetings with students and on-site coordinators at the respective locations in Ardmore and Lawton. A “Suggestion Box” available on the OU Health Sciences webpage ([Suggestion Box \(ouhsc.edu\)](https://ouhsc.edu)) also provides opportunities for students to make suggestions or express concerns anonymously online.

For the Southern Oklahoma Technology Center location in Ardmore, information is provided to students through the OU Health Science Center and College of Dentistry websites. Also, information regarding services is provided to students in written form by the Student Program Coordinator upon acceptance into the program. The main Health Science Center location in Oklahoma City and the technology center locations host student orientations each year in the summer and fall to provide information pertaining to access to student services, both verbally and in writing. Students at the Ardmore location connect with admissions, registration, business office, student records and financial aid via email, website or phone.

The OU College of Nursing utilizes online platforms to provide students with access to staff for essential services as well as student support services including counseling services. In addition to Zoom check ins (group calls) and individual Zoom appointments, the OU College of Nursing Student Affairs office operates flexed hours to provide early morning and evening support. Recorded 2-minute videos are available online to assist students with application and admission questions. Students complete a resource survey annually asking them to rate multiple resources such as counseling, advising, simulation equipment, classroom space and other instructional resources on a 4-point Likert scale. Students at the Cameron University site ranked all resources as adequate except for conference room space and simulation resources which they identified as slightly inadequate; both issues are being addressed in 2021.

## Evaluation and Assessment

What evidence demonstrates that the institution measures, documents, and analyzes student academic performance sufficiently to maintain academic quality at the additional locations? How are measures and techniques employed at a location equivalent to those for assessment and evaluation on the main campus? Consider, in particular, the setting of measurable learning objectives, the actual measurement of performance, and the analysis and use of assessment data to maintain/improve quality.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

**Comments:**



On-site meetings and a review of documents at each respective location during this multi-location visit provided evidence that both the OU College of Dentistry and the OU College of Nursing measures, documents, and analyzes student academic performance sufficiently to maintain academic quality at the institution's additional locations. Measures and techniques employed at each respective location are equivalent to those for assessment and evaluation used on the main campus.

Dental Hygiene program competencies guide student learning at all locations and both didactic and clinical requirements are the same regardless of where the program is offered. Course directors work with the dental hygiene and College of Dentistry Curriculum Committees to establish didactic course requirements and clinical competencies that must be met before completion of the program. Students are prepared to pass written and clinical board licensure exams upon completion of the program. Evidence of student achievement at the program level is linked to pass rates for licensure to practice as registered dental hygienists at completion of the program. Pass rates have been 93% or above at all sites.

Assessment of student learning for all OU College of Nursing programs occurs at the course, program, and college level. The Cameron University location adheres to the same standards as those used on the main campus at OU Health Sciences Center. The BSN course committees and BSN program committee review the teaching-learning practices and student performance data consistently for all OU College of Nursing sites. Evidence of student achievement is linked to expected student outcomes at a program level (NCLEX pass rates). The curriculum and teaching-learning processes are evaluated in an ongoing manner to inform decisions that drive achievement of student learning outcomes, sometimes resulting in mid-semester adjustments or collection of student input that will affect the course for future iterations.

## Continuous Improvement

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What evidence demonstrates that the institution encourages and ensures continuous quality improvement at its additional locations? Consider in particular the institution's planning and evaluation processes that ensure regular review and improvement of additional locations and ensure alignment of additional locations with the mission and goals of the institution as a whole.

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

Meetings with faculty, students, on-site coordinators, and via zoom with the main campus administrators located at the Health Science Center (College of Dentistry for the Dental Hygiene program and College of Nursing for the nursing program) provided evidence that the institution encourages and ensures continuous quality improvement at its additional locations. This includes planning and evaluation processes that include regular review and improvement of the respective locations to ensure that they align with the mission and goals of the institution.

The OU College of Dentistry and distance technology center locations work collaboratively to ensure to ensure that each of its locations has equivalent facilities and equipment and that students at each location receive a consistent educational experience. Additionally, the Commission on Dental Accreditation conducts an intensely focused visit of the primary site and each distance site on a seven-year cycle to ensure that Dental Hygiene program meets quality standards and alignment of the program across all locations where offered. These processes include regular review and improvement for all locations where the program is offered ensuring alignment with the mission and goals of the institution.



Policies, procedures and accreditation standards direct the OU College of Nursing in continuous improvement processes that includes regular review and improvement for all locations where the program is offered. An ongoing systematic evaluation process is in place to obtain relevant data to determine program effectiveness and achievement of program outcomes. The process is comprehensive; identifies quantitative and/or qualitative data to assess achievement of the program outcomes; includes timelines for data collection, reviews expected and actual outcomes. Outcomes are reviewed with the community of interest, faculty, and students and an ongoing cycle of actions are once again developed to further improve programs.

## Marketing and Recruiting Information

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What evidence confirms that the information presented to students in advertising, brochures, and other communications is accurate?

**Judgment of reviewer.** Check appropriate box:

Adequate

Attention Needed

### Comments:

Both the OU College of Dentistry and the OU College of Nursing have processes in place to monitor and update information presented to students in advertising, brochures, and other communications is accurate. Both provide program information on their respective websites. For the OU College of Dentistry (Dental Hygiene program), all three technology-center additional locations provide a link on their respective Technology center websites to the OU dental hygiene program. The information presented to students is monitored and updated as needed based on program changes and updates.

## Summary Recommendation

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Select one of the following statements. Include, as appropriate, a summary of findings.

- Overall, the pattern of this institution's operations at its additional locations appears to be adequate, and no further review or monitoring by the Higher Learning Commission is necessary.
- Overall, the pattern of this institution's operations at its additional locations needs some attention as defined in this report. The institution can be expected to follow up on these matters without monitoring by the Higher Learning Commission. The next scheduled comprehensive review can serve to document that the matters identified have been addressed. **[Identify specific areas needing organizational attention.]**
- The overall pattern of this institution's operations at its additional locations is inadequate and requires attention from the Higher Learning Commission. **[Identify the specific concerns and provide a recommendation for HLC follow-up monitoring.]**

## Summary of Findings:

Each location visited demonstrated that it has sufficient fiscal and administrative capacity to provide quality academic programming for the OU Dental Hygiene program at the Southern Oklahoma Technology Center location in Ardmore and for the OU Nursing program at the Cameron University location in Lawton. Meetings with faculty, students, on-site coordinators, and via zoom with the main campus administrators located at the OU Health Science Center as well a tour of facilities provided a pattern of evidence that the institution effectively plans for growth and maintenance of additional locations, has appropriate oversight of the respective locations, ensures qualified and sufficient staff and faculty are in place, and has facilities that meet the needs of the students and the curriculum at each location. Overall, the pattern of this institution's operations at its additional locations appears to be adequate.

## Notification Program for Additional Locations Approval Form

Complete this form **only** if an institution has been granted access to the Notification Program for Additional Locations. The Institutional Status and Requirements Report for the institution will indicate whether the institution has access to the Program under "Location Stipulation."

The institution has been accredited by HLC for at least 10 consecutive years with no record of any action during that period for sanction or show-cause.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
HLC has not required monitoring of issues related to the quality of instruction or to the oversight of existing additional locations or campuses in the past 10 years.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The institution has demonstrated success in overseeing at least three locations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The institution has no other HLC or other legal restrictions on additional locations and/or programs offered off campus.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
The institution has appropriate systems to ensure quality control of locations that include clearly identified academic controls; regular evaluation by the institution of its locations; a pattern of adequate faculty, facilities, resources and academic/support systems; financial stability; and long-range planning for future expansion.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No