

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
SOUTHWEST TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE, UVALDE, TEXAS
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM
LVN TO RN MOBILITY TRACK**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde, Texas proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program. The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #2).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) has been in operation since 1946 and currently enrolls approximately 4,800 students.
- SWTJC began offering vocational nursing education in 1968 and presently offers vocational nursing education programs at Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Uvalde.
- SWTJC was awarded a \$1,929,645.71 grant from the Department of Labor to increase the number of licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses and radiology technicians in Southwest Texas.
- This grant has been the motivating factor for the establishment of a new professional nursing education program.
- The proposed professional nursing education program will provide an opportunity for licensed vocational nurses to pursue preparation to qualify them to take the NCLEX-RN® examination.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:

Overview of the Proposal:

- SWTJC is proposing to establish a 67 credit hour LVN to RN Mobility Program with 14 of the 67 credit hours being awarded for previous VN coursework.
- The program is designed to help meet the border-town community needs for a growing number of registered nurses.
- The program is proposing to begin in Spring 2008 with an enrollment of twenty students.
- The program may be completed in twelve months and has been designed as a mobility track for graduates of the SWTJC vocational nursing education programs.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Hospital surveys conducted in the surrounding Southwest Texas communities indicate a growing need in multiple settings for registered nurses.
- The proposed program has strong community support from other nursing education programs and health care institutions in the area.
- The program has been developed in response to community needs.

Availability of Clinical Sites:

- Clinical facilities have indicated their ability to provide clinical experiences for students enrolled in this program.
- SWTJC plans a collaborative relationship between nursing education programs using common clinical learning experiences.
- Signed clinical agreements are in place.

Availability of Faculty:

- The director and one additional qualified faculty members will begin the program.
- A list of qualified potential faculty members has been provided.
- Faculty who do not have experience teaching in professional nursing education programs will receive mentoring through a mentoring plan. A clinical lab instructor will provide assistance to faculty in the skills lab.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The President of the Board of Trustees of SWTJC has provided a letter of support for the success of the new professional nursing education program.
- The president of SWTJC has provided a letter of support in which he commits the resources of the College, including financial budgeting adequate for the success of this program.
- The Department of Labor grant has made it possible to purchase state-of-the art equipment.

Applicant Pool:

- The potential student population consists primarily of students completing the VN programs at SWTJC.
- In addition, the program will be open to all LVNs who meet admission criteria.
- Currently SWTJC has an average of 50 graduates per year from the VN program.

Faculty and Student Handbooks:

- A faculty handbook and a student handbook for the new program have been developed and reviewed by board staff.

Curriculum:

- The curriculum has been appropriately developed for an associate degree nursing education program and has been approved by THECB.
- The faculty will be completing the details in the syllabi during the next month.
- Required clinical experiences have been planned to meet clinical objectives.

Facilities, Resources and Services:

- A full time administrative assistant was hired June 1, 2007 secretary and there is an open discussion about whether a part-time secretary is also needed to assist faculty.
- The skills laboratory will be shared with the vocational nursing education program.
- A planned new building will house a nursing skills lab as well as a simulation lab.
- Computers are being installed at each student desk in the new facility and students will use them during classes.

Student Support Services:

- A full array of student support services are available for students on the campuses.

Records and Reports:

- Adequate provision for records and reports has been included.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The Total Evaluation Plan provides a skeletal plan with all required elements.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The proposed director and author of the proposal, Dr. Geraldine Goosen, is experienced with professional nursing education programs.
- Dr. Goosen has established a working relationship with other nursing education programs and with hospital administrators in the area.
- SWTJC is very supportive of the new program.
- Letters of support are provided from hospitals and clinical agencies in the area and from other nursing programs in the Southwest Texas community.

Cons:

- The recommendation is based upon the proposal documents and meetings with Dr. Goosen and others from SWTJC. A survey visit has not been made.
- The Total Evaluation Plan provides a basic evaluation plan but does not include implementation details.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to grant initial approval for Southwest Texas Junior College to establish a new associate degree nursing education program based upon the proposal, authorize a survey visit in Fall 2007, and issue the requirements as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #1).

DRAFT LETTER

October 22, 2007

Geraldine M. Goosen, PhD, CNS, RN
Director, Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Southwest Texas Junior College
2401 Garner Field Road
Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Dr. Goosen:

At the October 18-19, 2007 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Southwest Texas State Junior College Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Uvalde, Texas. The members of the Board wish to thank you, Juan Guzman, MEd, Technical Education Director, and Blaine Bennett, PhD, Dean of Institutional Advancement and Technology for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to Southwest Texas Junior College, authorize a survey visit during Fall 2007, and issue the requirements below. The program may admit students beginning January 2008.

Requirement #1:

Rule 215.9(a) related to Program of Study requires that "The program of study shall be (2) planned, implemented, and evaluated by the faculty; (4) organized logically, sequenced appropriately; (5) based upon sound educational principles." A plan for the curriculum and sample syllabi have been provided with the proposal but detailed syllabi are not complete for all courses. **Therefore**, the program director shall submit completed syllabi for all nursing courses to board staff by December 1, 2007.

Requirement #2:

Rule 215.13(a) related to Total Program Evaluation requires that "There shall be a written plan for the systematic evaluation of the total program. The plan shall include evaluative criteria, methodology, frequency of evaluation, assignment of responsibility, and indicators (benchmarks) of program and instructional effectiveness." The proposal includes a shell evaluation plan which has the necessary components and the proposal describes the evaluation process. However, the plan itself does not present the details about implementation of program evaluation. **Therefore**, the program director shall provide an expanded Total Program Evaluation Plan to board staff by December 1, 2008 providing current data and curriculum/program decisions based upon the evaluation of the first year of the program.

A requirement is a mandatory criterion based upon program assessment directly related to the rules that must be addressed in the manner prescribed.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at (512) 305-6814.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN
Nursing Consultant for Education

copy: Blaine Bennett, PhD, Dean of Institutional Advancement and Technology
Juan Guzman, MEd, Technical Education Director

Enclosure

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of Southwest Texas Junior College

For approval to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Southwest Texas Junior College

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 18th day of October 2007, considered the proposal for authority to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
George Buchenau, Jr., RN, BSN, Representing Practice
Virginia M.. Campbell, RN, AND, BSN, CNOR, Representing Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN Representing ADN programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing Practice
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Frank D. Sandoval, Jr., Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

FINDINGS

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved program offering an Associate Degree.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Southwest Texas Junior College is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program to prepare professional nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing education program and prior to admission of students all requirements of Chapter 215 Professional Nursing Education shall be met.

Specifically, the Board requires the following conditions as described below to be met prior to admission of students to the Southwest Texas Junior College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program:

- The nursing program director shall provide board staff with completed syllabi for all nursing courses by December 1, 2007.
- The nursing program director shall provide an expanded Total Program Evaluation Plan to board staff by December 1, 2008 providing current data and curriculum/program decisions based upon the evaluation of the first year of the program.

DATED THIS 18th day of October, 2007.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____
Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for

Consideration of a Proposal from Southwest Texas Junior College

To Establish An

Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

at Uvalde, Texas

Date and Time: October 18, 2007 at 11:00 AM

Place: Hobby Building

333 Guadalupe Street

Tower 2, Room 225

Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal.

Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 8, 2007.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942