

## **Graduation Rates in Texas Nursing Programs**

### **Summary of Request**

During the Open Forum of the 2010 April Board meeting Larry Drexel Earl, President of Career Point LVN Program in San Antonio, Texas spoke to the board about the need to monitor the graduation rates of Texas nursing programs. He voiced concerns that many schools enroll a substantial number of students but the number who take the licensing exam are substantially smaller. He believes that graduation rates should absolutely be a part of (school) requirements. The Board expressed interest in this topic. The following is information concerning graduation rates of Texas nursing programs.

### **Historical Perspective**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is the state agency that calculates graduation rates for the state's initial RN licensure programs each year. The THECB utilizes individual student information to track progression. This is a very accurate methodology for calculating graduation rates and one that the Board of Nursing would not be able to replicate. The methodology for calculating these rates is described in Coordinating Board rules (TAC 19, Sections 4.181-4.183), and the length of time for capturing these rates is consistent with how the National Center for Education Statistics sets undergraduate rates for the nation's colleges and universities.

See **Attachment A** for a summation of Texas initial licensure programs graduation rates for 2007- 2009.

At this time THECB does not track graduation rates for LVN or private programs including proprietary program rates. Board staff have requested THECB develop a report for those programs.

Below is an overview of THECB process for tracking graduation rates:

- THECB begins tracking students once they complete their pre-requisites and are admitted to the nursing program.
- Consistent with THECB rules, the agency calculates separate rates for one-year programs (typically representing LVN to ADN programs) and for two-year programs (generic and BSN programs).
- For a one-year program, normally a twelve (12)-month program, students are tracked for eighteen (18) months or "150 percent time."
- For a two-year program, normally a twenty-four (24)-month program, students are tracked for thirty-six (36) months or "150 percent time."
- If a school has a one-year program and a two-year program (as many community colleges do), the institution's final graduation rate represents the combined results of both calculations.

Summary of 2009 Findings Reported by the THECB (**See Attachment A**):

- The 2009 statewide graduation rate was 71.1 percent, a 2.8 percent increase from the 2008 rate.
- The data indicates that students are more likely to graduate if they complete the nursing curriculum within the normal 12-month or 24-month time period for the degree. Approximately 73 percent of the 2009 graduates completed their programs "on time" (within the 12-month or 24-month period) rather than within the 18-months or 36-months allowed for the calculation.
- The data also indicates the students are more likely to graduate from a two-year generic ADN or BSN program than from a one-year LVN to ADN program. The graduation rate for two-year programs is 73.4 percent while the graduation rate for one-year programs is 57.8 percent. This difference in graduation rate is consistent with results from 2008.
- Nine institutions had an 85 percent or better 2009 graduation rate and an 85 percent or better 2009 NCLEX® examination pass rate. These institutions have all applied for recognition under the Nursing

Education Performance Initiative and to receive a \$25,000 incentive grant from THECB. Such grants are awarded to institutions that can show a “best practice” that contributed to their high graduation rates. In 2008, thirteen institutions met this benchmark and three were awarded incentive grants.

- While many institutions have not met the stateside goal of 85 percent for student success, some schools have shown improvements in their graduation rates or have continued to sustain high graduation rates while maintaining or increasing their number of graduates. Some notable examples:

Improved Programs from 2007 to 2009

Central Texas College - increased graduation rate from 22.3 to 83.5 percent

Houston Community College - increased graduation rate from 54.6 to 75 percent

Navarro College - increased graduation rate from 55.6 to 81 percent

Northeast Texas Community College - increased graduation rate from 42.9 to 80.6 percent

Southwestern Adventist University - increased graduation rate from 29 to 70 percent

Large Programs with High Graduation Rates in 2009

<b>Nursing Program</b>	<b>Number of Graduates</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>
Austin Community College	173	76.5%
San Antonio College	256	80%
South Texas College	156	84.8%
Tarrant County College	153	75.7%
Texas Tech University Health Science Center	145	93.5%
Texas Woman's University	286	78.8%
UT Health Science Center at Houston	143	84.6%
UT Health Science Center at San Antonio	158	82%

The THECB also has implemented the Nursing Education Performance Initiative (NEPI). The NEPI is a statutory program created to recognize initial licensure nursing programs that can demonstrate a best practice in achieving an 85 percent or higher graduation rate and an 85 percent or higher licensure pass rate in a given academic period. In 2009, nine of the state’s 97 initial professional licensure programs met that 85/85 benchmark, and all of the nine have submitted applications presenting their best practices for NEPI recognition

**Staff Recommendations:**

This report is for information only.

## Attachment A: 2007-09 Comparative Analysis of Graduation Rates for the State's Initial Licensure Nursing Programs

Institution	2007		2008		2009		Change 2007 to 2009		Change 2008 to 2009	
	Total Graduates	2007 Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	2008 Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	2009 Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated
Abilene Christian University					16	61.5%	16		16	
Alvin Community College	51	65.4%	57	69.5%	67	77.0%	16	11.6%	10	7.5%
Amarillo College	117	57.9%	89	49.2%	116	62.4%	-1	4.4%	27	13.2%
Angelina College	59	62.1%	54	52.4%	51	69.8%	-8	7.7%	-3	17.4%
Angelo State University	54	56.3%	40	74.1%	52	71.2%	-2	15.0%	12	-2.9%
Austin Community College	135	70.3%	157	75.8%	173	76.5%	38	6.2%	16	0.7%
Baylor University	129	88.4%	100	90.1%	115	88.5%	-14	0.1%	15	-1.6%
Blinn College	34	85.0%	30	75.0%	65	80.2%	31	-4.8%	35	5.2%
Brookhaven College (DCCD)	25	83.3%	26	86.7%	39	95.1%	14	11.8%	13	8.4%
Central Texas College	27	22.3%	67	54.9%	91	83.5%	64	61.2%	24	28.6%
Cisco College			84	89.4%	40	80.0%	40		-44	-9.4%
College of the Mainland	25	44.6%	23	46.9%	34	47.2%	9	2.6%	11	0.3%
Collin County Community College Dist	49	83.1%	53	89.8%	58	85.3%	9	2.2%	5	-4.5%
Del Mar College	118	71.1%	149	68.0%	168	71.5%	50	0.4%	19	3.5%
East Texas Baptist University	25	89.3%	20	64.5%	18	69.2%	-7	-20.1%	-2	4.7%
El Centro College (DCCD)	196	63.6%	211	62.6%	214	68.8%	18	5.2%	3	6.2%
El Paso Community College District	42	54.5%	75	61.0%	99	70.2%	57	15.7%	24	9.2%
Galveston College	43	69.4%	39	78.0%	30	66.6%	-13	-2.8%	-9	-11.4%
Grayson County College	84	67.7%	80	55.9%	87	64.9%	3	-2.8%	7	9.0%
Hardin-Simmons University	21	84.0%	21	80.8%	30	75.0%	9	-9.0%	9	-5.8%
Hill College			18	60.0%	10	37.0%	10		-8	-23.0%
Houston Community College	159	54.6%	129	55.8%	171	75.0%	12	20.4%	42	19.2%
Howard College	8	44.4%	8	50.0%	14	42.4%	6	-2.0%	6	-7.6%
Kilgore College	45	80.4%	53	89.8%	60	76.9%	15	-3.4%	7	-12.9%
Lamar State College-Orange	32	94.1%	32	66.7%	42	91.3%	10	-2.8%	10	24.6%
Lamar State College-Port Arthur	26	72.2%	27	52.9%	27	61.3%	1	-10.9%	0	8.4%
Lamar University	85	58.2%	90	54.9%	84	56.0%	-1	-2.2%	-6	1.1%
Laredo Community College	21	42.9%	27	41.5%	25	39.1%	4	-3.8%	-2	-2.5%
Lee College	40	37.4%	42	31.6%	63	38.4%	23	1.0%	21	6.8%

Institution	2007	2007	2008	2008	2009	2009	Change 2007 to 2009		Change 2008 to 2009	
	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated
Lone Star College-Cy-Fair	18	62.1%	22	73.3%	38	50.7%	20	-11.4%	16	-22.7%
Lone Star College-Kingwood	20	69.0%	38	88.4%	69	87.3%	49	18.3%	31	-1.1%
Lone Star College-Montgomery	42	82.4%	52	92.9%	50	83.3%	8	1.0%	-2	-9.5%
Lone Star College-North Harris	94	64.8%	92	73.0%	96	74.4%	2	9.6%	4	1.4%
Lone Star College-Tomball	41	82.0%	42	84.0%	50	80.6%	9	-1.4%	8	-3.4%
McLennan Community College	90	73.2%	84	67.2%	98	74.8%	8	1.6%	14	7.6%
McMurray University					11	78.5%	11		11	
Midland College	70	87.5%	68	75.6%	84	84.0%	14	-3.5%	16	8.4%
Midwestern State University	63	51.6%	63	42.0%	134	64.7%	71	13.1%	71	22.7%
Navarro College	25	55.6%	34	81.0%	34	81.0%	9	25.4%	0	0.0%
North Central Texas College	37	82.2%	66	72.5%	68	71.6%	31	-10.6%	2	-0.9%
Northeast Texas Community College	12	42.9%	24	77.4%	25	80.6%	13	37.8%	1	3.2%
Odessa College	69	59.0%	35	48.6%	67	67.7%	-2	8.7%	32	19.1%
Panola College	19	32.8%	34	43.6%	42	51.9%	23	19.1%	8	8.3%
Paris Junior College	35	58.3%	51	72.9%	52	74.3%	17	16.0%	1	1.4%
Prairie View A&M University	61	47.3%	45	36.3%	84	51.9%	23	4.6%	39	15.6%
San Antonio College	338	81.1%	237	80.3%	256	80.0%	-82	-1.1%	19	-0.3%
San Jacinto College Central Campus	59	57.8%	116	53.7%	165	69.9%	106	12.1%	49	16.2%
San Jacinto College South Campus	43	55.1%	47	61.8%	40	53.3%	-3	-1.8%	-7	-8.5%
South Plains College	52	47.3%	60	52.2%	48	49.0%	-4	1.7%	-12	-3.2%
South Texas College	78	83.0%	122	88.4%	156	84.8%	78	1.8%	34	-3.6%
Southwestern Adventist University	18	29.0%	10	13.7%	35	70.0%	17	41.0%	25	56.3%
St. Phillips College			25	10.0%	16	7.3%	16		-9	-2.6%
Stephen F. Austin State University	70	89.7%	81	85.3%	78	72.2%	8	-17.5%	-3	-13.0%
Tarleton State University	44	45.4%	42	42.9%	43	52.4%	-1	7.1%	1	9.6%
Tarrant County College South Campus	150	86.2%	168	82.4%	153	75.7%	3	-10.5%	-15	-6.6%
Temple College	41	83.7%	55	87.3%	52	80.0%	11	-3.7%	-3	-7.3%
Texarkana College	61	61.0%	63	67.7%	66	60.0%	5	-1.0%	3	-7.7%
Texas A&M International University	19	57.6%	32	62.7%	31	54.4%	12	-3.2%	-1	-8.4%
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	67	77.0%	92	85.2%	102	92.7%	35	15.7%	10	7.5%

<b>Institution</b>	<b>2007 Total Graduates</b>	<b>2007 Percent Graduated</b>	<b>2008 Total Graduates</b>	<b>2008 Percent Graduated</b>	<b>2009 Total Graduates</b>	<b>2009 Percent Graduated</b>
Texas Christian University	108	<b>85.7%</b>	122	<b>90.4%</b>	112	<b>82.4%</b>
Texas Southmost College	93	<b>78.2%</b>	92	<b>71.3%</b>	87	<b>69.6%</b>
Texas Tech University HSC	155	<b>91.2%</b>	189	<b>96.4%</b>	145	<b>93.5%</b>
Texas Woman's University	316	<b>79.4%</b>	286	<b>80.1%</b>	286	<b>78.8%</b>
Trinity Valley Community College	82	<b>61.7%</b>	120	<b>81.6%</b>	109	<b>73.2%</b>
Tyler Junior College	73	<b>86.9%</b>	63	<b>80.8%</b>	81	<b>81.8%</b>
University of the Incarnate Word	36	<b>56.3%</b>	45	<b>57.0%</b>	55	<b>66.3%</b>
UT at Arlington	163	<b>88.1%</b>	174	<b>91.1%</b>	172	<b>89.1%</b>
UT at Austin	117	<b>98.3%</b>	114	<b>95.8%</b>	136	<b>97.8%</b>
UT at Tyler	96	<b>73.8%</b>	89	<b>70.6%</b>	89	<b>66.4%</b>
UT Medical Branch at Galveston	92	<b>80.7%</b>	74	<b>82.2%</b>	113	<b>89.7%</b>
UTHSC-Houston	117	<b>88.6%</b>	134	<b>85.9%</b>	143	<b>84.6%</b>
UTHSC-San Antonio	134	<b>81.2%</b>	167	<b>84.3%</b>	158	<b>82.7%</b>
UT-Pan American	45	<b>60.8%</b>	59	<b>79.7%</b>	58	<b>62.3%</b>
Vernon College	77	<b>76.2%</b>	84	<b>71.8%</b>	76	<b>66.1%</b>
Victoria College	74	<b>76.3%</b>	77	<b>74.8%</b>	88	<b>80.0%</b>
Weatherford College	30	<b>62.5%</b>	29	<b>64.4%</b>	39	<b>50.6%</b>
West Texas A&M University	52	<b>52.5%</b>	66	<b>65.3%</b>	68	<b>66.0%</b>
Wharton County Junior College	27	<b>77.1%</b>	30	<b>75.0%</b>	25	<b>62.5%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,370</b>	<b>69.1%</b>	<b>5,852</b>	<b>68.3%</b>	<b>6,484</b>	<b>71.1%</b>

**Change 2007 to 2009**

<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Percent Graduated</b>
4	-3.4%
-6	-8.6%
-10	2.4%
-30	-0.6%
27	11.5%
8	-5.1%
19	10.0%
9	1.0%
19	-0.5%
-7	-7.4%
21	9.0%
26	-4.0%
24	1.5%
13	1.5%
-1	-10.2%
14	3.7%
9	-11.9%
16	13.5%
-2	-14.6%
<b>1,114</b>	<b>2.0%</b>

**Change 2008 to 2009**

<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>Percent Graduated</b>
-10	-8.0%
-5	-1.7%
-44	-2.9%
0	-1.3%
-11	-8.5%
18	1.1%
10	9.3%
-2	-2.0%
22	2.0%
0	-4.2%
39	7.5%
9	-1.3%
-9	-1.6%
-1	-17.4%
-8	-5.7%
11	5.2%
10	-13.8%
2	0.7%
-5	-12.5%
<b>632</b>	<b>2.8%</b>