

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE HARLINGEN IN HARLINGEN, TEXAS
VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Consider Texas State Technical College Harlingen (TSTC Harlingen) proposal to establish a new Vocational Nursing (VN) Educational Program and the report of a survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

- Texas State Technical College (TSTC) was established in 1965 at Waco as the James Connally Technical Institute of Texas A&M University to meet the state's evolving workforce needs.
- Over time through expansion and change, the college was renamed Texas State Technical College and the college began to function independently in 1969.
- Today TSTC includes four colleges: TSTC Harlingen, TSTC Marshall, TSTC Waco, and TSTC - West Texas.
- More than 15,000 students attend TSTC in credit programs alone.
- A site visit was conducted on March 12, 2009 by Janice Hooper and Rachel Gomez .

SUMMARY OF PROPOSAL:

Overview of the Proposal:

- The first draft of a proposal to establish a vocational nursing educational program at TSTC Harlingen was received in the board office on July 3, 2008.
- The proposal has undergone revisions.
- Approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was received December 12, 2008.
- The program is proposing to begin in May 2009 after Board approval with an enrollment of twenty-four students.
- The 59-credit hour program may be completed in twelve months.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Surveys of health care institutions, agencies, and clinics in the Rio Grande Valley communities indicate a growing need in multiple settings for licensed vocational nurses.
- The proposed program has 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.
- A sample signed clinical agreement is included in the proposal.

Availability of Faculty:

- Three qualified full time faculty and one adjunct are named to begin the program.
- Four additional prospective applicants have expressed an interest in faculty positions.

Financial Support and Resources:

- Former President Leal has provided a letter of approval and support in which he commits the resources of the College, including financial budgeting adequate for the development and success of this program.

- This support for the program has also been expressed in an interview with the new President, Dr. Cesar Maldonado.
- The new vocational nursing educational program will be housed in the Senator Eddie Lucio Health Science Technology Building in a new expanded section.
- The programs in the Health Science Department (dental assistant, dental hygiene, dental laboratory technology, emergency medical technology, health information technology, nurse assistant and medical assistant, surgical technology, and the proposed vocational nursing program) will be sharing high-fidelity laboratory equipment.

Applicant Pool:

- The potential student population consists of new students and current or former students of TSTC who have completed prerequisite courses.
- In addition, the program will attract students in one of the health care programs such as who meet admission criteria.
- A total of 280 students responded to a December 2007 survey and 73.9% expressed interest in 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 a vocational nursing educational program.
- Required clinical experiences have been planned to meet clinical objectives.

Facilities, Resources and Services:

- There is a pool of administrative assistants/secretaries who will support meet the secretarial needs for the program.
- Budget is provided for a minimum of two work study students to assist with clerical needs.
- A full-time teaching lab assistant will be hired to assist with nursing skills lab.
- A new addition to the Senator Eddie Lucio Health Science Technology Building was completed in January 2008 to house the new program.
- The physical resources were surveyed during the Site Visit on March 12, 2009.

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 all required elements.

SUMMARY OF SITE VISIT:

- General Campus Information
 - TSTC Harlingen is a modern spacious campus providing programs of study for the community and many services to its students.
 - The campus offers a full array for the campus life experience for its students.
 - There is ample parking on campus and many inviting areas for student gatherings and study groups.
 - TSTC Harlingen is a growing college with exciting potentials and community partnerships.

Classrooms:

- Dedicated classrooms for the health division programs are spacious, well-lighted, and nicely furnished with tables and chairs to allow comfort for students.

- Technology is available in the classroom and IT help is available to faculty and students.

Skills Laboratory:

- A large skills laboratories is available for the program. Rotating of lab hours will prevent scheduling conflicts.
- Lab equipment and supplies are appropriate.

Computer Laboratory:

- The large campus-wide computer laboratory is located in the library and is available to students on a walk-in basis.
- A testing center is available in the health science building.

Faculty Offices and Resources:

- The director has a spacious and attractive private office.
- Other faculty members will share an office appropriately furnished for three people.
- Instructional resources are readily available.
- A conference room is available in the building for meetings and counseling sessions.

Learning Resources Area:

- Audiovisual materials are available and accessible to students in the nursing storage area.
- The library provides not only volumes, computer access to journals, but many study helps and models which may be checked out by students.
- The library staff provide an orientation for students and are available on an individual basis.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- The campus at TSTC Harlingen will provide an excellent setting for the new vocational nursing educational program.
- Administration are very supportive of the new program.
- The number of health care facilities in the community will provide adequate clinical experiences for the students.

Cons:

- Though the computer laboratory in the library is spacious and accessible, the vocational nursing students will not have computer access in the allied health building. (The program is encouraged to include a computer lab in the Health Science Technology Building in future development.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to grant initial approval for Texas State Technical College Harlingen in Harlingen, Texas to establish a new vocational nursing educational program based upon the proposal and findings from the survey visit and issue the commendation and recommendation, as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #3).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
(Vocational Nursing Educational Programs)

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texas State Technical College Harlingen

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Proposed Director: Susann Garza, RN

DATE APPOINTED

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Program Survey

DATES: March 12, 2009

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, and Rachel Gomez, LVN, Board Member

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§214.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services		
(a) The controlling agency/governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program.	Survey visit validated that the physical facilities will support the VN program and provide a good learning environment for students.	Criterion met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water.	The large skills lab is furnished with six hospital beds, mannequins, and appropriate equipment. Sinks are available with hot and cold running water. Ample storage for lab equipment is in place.	Criterion met.
(c) The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	The secretarial staff in place in the Health Science Division provides adequate secretarial assistance for the VN program. Consideration will be given to adding staff as needed.	Criterion met.

<p>(d) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body.</p> <p>(1) The director/coordinator shall have a private office.</p> <p>(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.</p> <p>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>The director has a large, attractively furnished office. Other faculty will share an office which is furnished for three people. If private counseling is required, a conference room is available.</p> <p>Clerical staff occupy a space central to the program directors' offices.</p> <p>Presently locked cabinets are available in the director's office.</p> <p>Classrooms are spacious, furnished with tables and chairs, and equipment for powerpoint and audiovisual learning is available.</p> <p>A skills lab with six hospital beds is furnished and stocked for the program. Program will share some high-fidelity equipment with the other allied health programs.</p> <p>There are adequate student and faculty lounges and restrooms. There are attractive spaces where students can study together.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(e) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>The library provides holdings, computer access to online journals and many study helps.</p> <p>The process for weeding allows program directors/faculty the prerogative to select volumes to remove from the shelves or label as historical.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

§215.12 Records and Reports		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two (2) years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) records of current students; (2) faculty records; (3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs; (4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines; (5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and (6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection. 	<p>Secure record storage is available.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school.</p>		
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>		
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>		
<p>(e) Copies of the program's Texas Board of Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS), Compliance Audit of the Nursing Educational Program (CANEP), and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate.</p>		

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 Texas State Technical College Harlingen
To Establish A
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
at Harlingen, Texas

Date and Time: April 23, 2009 at 10:30 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 April 10, 2009.

Address written testimony to:
Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

DRAFT LETTER

April 23, 2009

Susann Garza, RN, Director
Vocational Nursing Educational Program
TSTC Harlingen
1902 North Loop 499
Harlingen, Texas 78550

Dear Ms. Garza:

At the April 23-24, 2009 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Texas State Technical College Harlingen Proposal to Establish a New Vocational Nursing Educational Program in Harlingen, Texas, and the report of the March 12, 2009 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you, ----- 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 Texas State Technical College Harlingen and allow admission of students beginning in May 2009, and issue the following commendation and recommendation:

Commendation:

Texas State Technical College Harlingen is commended for its support and efforts to provide a vocational nursing educational program for the area.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that a computer lab for the allied health programs be added to the Allied Health Division Technical Building in the next expansion program.

A recommendation is a suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing. The program director should provide a written explanation of the program's response to this recommendation by December 1, 2009.

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: Dr. Cesar Maldonado, President, TSTC Harlingen
THECB

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 Texas State Technical College Harlingen

For approval to implement a Vocational Nursing Educational Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Texas State Technical College Harlingen

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 23rd day of April 2009, considered the proposal for authority to implement a Vocational Nursing Educational 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
Kristin K. Benton, RN, MSN, Representing LVN Education
George Buchenau, Jr., RN, BSN, MBA, Representing RN Practice
Patricia "Patti" Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing RN Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Rachel Gomez, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Brenda S. Jackson, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, 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 vocational nursing educational program offering.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Texas State Technical College Harlingen is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing a Vocational Nursing Educational Program to prepare vocational nurses.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a vocational nursing educational program and prior to admission of students all requirements of Chapter 214 Vocational Nursing Education shall be met.

DATED THIS 23rd day of April, 2009.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP

President