

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Nursing Education Updates

Summary of Request:

This report is to provide the Board with an update of the Advisory Committee on RN Nursing Education (ACORN) which is a nursing committee in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Historical Perspective:

In response to SB 139, the THECB created the ACORN to review current challenges in implementing innovation in Texas nursing education programs. This committee has expanded and is now comprised of several sub-committees to address nursing education issues including the:

- Subcommittee on Capacity
- Subcommittee on Retention and Graduation
- Subcommittee on Research
- Subcommittee on Excellence and Best Practices

The Subcommittees have several initiatives that are being discussed. For example, the Capacity Subcommittee has among its objectives fostering existing relationships and supporting new collaboration between nursing programs and health agencies, along with increasing private foundation awareness and investment in nursing education capacity. They are also looking at compensation for faculty and the utilization of educational technology. The committee is also considering evaluating the feasibility and benefits of centralizing common functions among programs and developing a state-wide process for selecting and orienting preceptors.

The Excellence Subcommittee conducted a survey of all Deans and Directors of professional programs inviting them to provide input on various issues of interest. There was also discussion about the Nursing Education Performance Recognition Program which was mandated by HB 138. Attachment A outlines those programs with graduation rates and NCLEX pass rates of 85% and higher that will be recognized. Attachment B provides an overview of all of the professional programs' graduation rates. Additionally, the committee is investigating if there should be an initiative to encourage professional programs that do not have national nursing accreditation to do so. The committee is also discussing having a central clearing house model to provide resources on best practices.

The Student Retention and Graduation Subcommittee has developed preliminary objectives to be considered by the full committee including identifying best practices for financial aid, developing a standard methodology for financial aid, collecting data on "drop outs", developing recommendations for student orientation and counseling services, identifying best practices for retention efforts and developing a "Student Friendly" Recognition Program. There is also a task force within this subcommittee to address Hispanic nursing education issues.

The Research Subcommittee is working on distributing information from the THECB grants to promote best practices around the state.

Staff will be keeping the Board apprised of further developments from the committee.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This report is for information only.

Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 19

EDUCATION

PART 1

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

CHAPTER 4

RULES APPLYING TO ALL PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN TEXAS

SUBCHAPTER I

NURSING EDUCATION PERFORMANCE INITIATIVE

The purpose of this subchapter is to describe the Board's initiative to promote the retention and graduation of students enrolled in initial licensure nursing programs and to recognize those programs that achieve a graduation rate of 85 percent or more. The Board is authorized to establish rules for this initiative under Texas Education Code §61.0901.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (1) **Board**--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
- (2) **Commissioner**--Commissioner of Higher Education.
- (3) **Initial RN licensure program**--A sequence of nursing courses and learning experiences that prepares students for initial licensure as registered nurses.
- (4) **Nursing school**--An educational entity of an institution of higher education or hospital that offers the courses and learning experiences of the initial licensure program.
- (5) **Institution of Higher Education**--A public or independent university, community college or health-related institution that offers an initial RN licensure program that is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing.
- (6) **Hospital**--A public or private hospital that offers an initial RN licensure program that is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing.
- (7) **Graduation rate**--A calculation by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that represents the percentage of first-time full-time students enrolled in an initial licensure program in a predefined academic cohort who are reported as graduates of the initial RN licensure program within:
 - (A) 36 months of initial enrollment for two-year programs.
 - (B) 18 months of initial enrollment for one-year programs.
- (8) **Best practices**--Strategies, activities or approaches that have been shown through research and evaluation to be effective and/or efficient.

The Board shall recognize nursing schools that are successful in retaining and graduating students from initial RN licensure programs:

(1) **Eligibility for Recognition.** To be eligible for Board recognition, a nursing school must:

(A) have an 85 percent or higher graduation rate for the most current year for which rates are calculated by the Board.

(B) have an 85 percent NCLEX pass rate or higher for the most current period for which pass rates are available from the Texas Board of Nursing.

(C) demonstrate best practices for retaining and graduating students from initial RN licensure programs as determined by the Board.

(2) **Calculation of Graduation Rate.** Board shall calculate graduation rates each year using admission and graduation data submitted by the Registrar of each institution of higher education. Institutions may review the preliminary results of the Board's calculation but may not submit revised data for calculation unless approved by the Commissioner.

(3) **Demonstration of Best Practices:**

(A) The nursing school shall:

(i) demonstrate to the Board through data collection efforts and analysis the specific strategies and activities that have contributed to a graduation and NCLEX pass rate of 85 percent or higher.

(ii) submit a plan for disseminating information about the best practices to nursing programs in the state.

(B) The Commissioner shall make the final determination of whether or not the program has demonstrated best practices.

(4) **Method of Recognition.** Nursing schools that meet eligibility requirements for recognition will be reported to the Texas Board of Nursing, Governor, and Texas Legislature each year and the names of their institutions will be posted on the Board's website. Recognized nursing programs are also eligible for incentive funding that shall be used only to increase enrollments and the number of graduates from initial RN licensure programs and to promote best practices in the state.

(5) **Acknowledgement of Increased Retention Rates.** The Board shall acknowledge by letter nursing schools that have not obtained an 85 percent graduation rate or higher, but have otherwise increased graduation rates in their initial RN licensure programs above 50 percent and by more than 10 percent from the previous year to the current year.

Source Note: The provisions are adopted to be effective November 28, 2007, 32 TexReg 8485

Nursing Programs Eligible for Recognition Under the Nursing Education Performance Initiative, 2008

Institution Name	Number of Enrollees	Graduated - 100 %*	Graduated - 150 %*	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated ¹ 2008	NCLEX % Pass Rate
TEXAS TECH UNIV HLTH SCI CTR	196	180	9	189	96.43%	86.86%
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	119	105	9	114	95.80%	92.25%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - MONTGOMERY	56	47	5	52	92.86%	95.00%
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	191	155	19	174	91.10%	94.59%
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY	135	20	102	122	90.37%	89.84%
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY	111	90	10	100	90.09%	94.59%
COLLIN CO COMM COLL DISTRICT	59	48	5	53	89.83%	93.65%
KILGORE COLLEGE	59	47	6	53	89.83%	82.42%
CISCO JUNIOR COLLEGE	94	83	1	84	89.36%	68.08%
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE	138	91	31	122	88.41%	83.13%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - KINGWOOD	43	32	6	38	88.37%	92.86%
TEMPLE COLLEGE	63	52	3	55	87.30%	94.12%
DCCCD BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE	30	26	0	26	86.67%	100.00%
UT HEALTH SCI CENTER-HOUSTON	156	122	12	134	85.90%	92.47%
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV	95	66	15	81	85.26%	92.77%
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	108	77	15	92	85.19%	87.27%

not eligible
 -not eligible
 -not eligible

2008 Graduation Rates for State's Initial Licensure Nursing Programs

Institution Name	Number of Enrollees	Graduated - 100 %*	Graduated - 150 %*	Total Graduates	Percent Graduated^
ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL	82	42	15	57	69.51%
AMARILLO COLLEGE TOTAL	181	0	89	89	49.17%
ANGELINA COLLEGE TOTAL	103	47	7	54	52.43%
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY TOTAL	54	35	5	40	74.07%
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL	207	143	14	157	75.85%
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY TOTAL	111	90	10	100	90.09%
BLINN COLLEGE TOTAL	40	27	3	30	75.00%
CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE TOTAL	122	42	25	67	54.92%
CISCO JUNIOR COLLEGE TOTAL	94	83	1	84	89.36%
COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND COMMUN TOTAL	49	23	0	23	46.94%
COLLIN CO COMM COLL DISTRICT TOTAL	59	48	5	53	89.83%
DCCCD BROOKHAVEN COLLEGE TOTAL	30	26	0	26	86.67%
DCCCD EL CENTRO COLLEGE TOTAL	337	142	69	211	62.61%
DEL MAR COLLEGE TOTAL	219	112	37	149	68.04%
EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY TOTAL	31	11	9	20	64.52%
EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIST TOTAL	123	60	15	75	60.98%
GALVESTON COLLEGE TOTAL	50	37	2	39	78.00%
GRAYSON COUNTY COLLEGE TOTAL	143	46	34	80	55.94%
HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY TOTAL	26	21	0	21	80.77%
HILL COLLEGE TOTAL	30	18	0	18	60.00%
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL	231	102	27	129	55.84%
HOWARD COLLEGE TOTAL	16	7	1	8	50.00%
KILGORE COLLEGE TOTAL	59	47	6	53	89.83%
LAMAR STATE COLL-ORANGE TOTAL	48	32	0	32	66.67%
LAMAR STATE COLL-PORT ARTHUR TOTAL	51	27	0	27	52.94%
LAMAR UNIVERSITY TOTAL	164	34	56	90	54.88%

LAREDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL	65	24	3	27	41.54%
LEE COLLEGE TOTAL	133	26	16	42	31.58%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - CY-FAIR TOTAL	30	20	2	22	73.33%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - KINGWOOD TOTAL	43	32	6	38	88.37%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - MONTGOMERY TOTAL	56	47	5	52	92.86%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - N. HARRIS TOTAL	126	87	5	92	73.02%
LONE STAR COLLEGE - TOMBALL TOTAL	50	42	0	42	84.00%
MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTAL	125	83	1	84	67.20%
MIDLAND COLLEGE TOTAL	90	57	11	68	75.56%
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY TOTAL	150	21	42	63	42.00%
NAVARRO COLLEGE TOTAL	42	31	3	34	80.95%
NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE TOTAL	91	62	4	66	72.53%
NORTHEAST TEXAS COMM COLLEGE TOTAL	31	20	4	24	77.42%
ODESSA COLLEGE TOTAL	72	22	13	35	48.61%
PANOLA COLLEGE TOTAL	78	10	24	34	43.59%
PARIS JUNIOR COLLEGE TOTAL	70	51	0	51	72.86%
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY TOTAL	124	1	44	45	36.29%
SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE TOTAL	295	197	40	237	80.34%
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE CEN CAMPUS TOTAL	216	83	33	116	53.70%
SAN JACINTO COLLEGE S CAMPUS TOTAL	76	36	11	47	61.84%
SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE TOTAL	115	15	45	60	52.17%
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE TOTAL	138	91	31	122	88.41%
SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIV TOTAL	73	0	10	10	13.70%
ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE TOTAL	251	25	0	25	9.96%
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV TOTAL	95	66	15	81	85.26%
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY TOTAL	98	5	37	42	42.86%
TARRANT CO SOUTH CAMPUS TOTAL	204	151	17	168	82.35%
TEMPLE COLLEGE TOTAL	63	52	3	55	87.30%
TEXARKANA COLLEGE TOTAL	93	54	9	63	67.74%
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV TOTAL	51	1	31	32	62.75%
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI TOTAL	108	77	15	92	85.19%
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY TOTAL	135	20	102	122	90.37%

TEXAS SOUTHWEST COLLEGE TOTAL	129	80	12	92	71.32%
TEXAS TECH UNIV HLTH SCI CTR TOTAL	196	180	9	189	96.43%
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY TOTAL	357	220	66	286	80.11%
TRINITY VALLEY COMM COLLEGE TOTAL	147	100	20	120	81.63%
TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE TOTAL	78	48	15	63	80.77%
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON TOTAL	191	155	19	174	91.10%
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN TOTAL	119	105	9	114	95.80%
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO TOTAL	174	54	83	137	78.74%
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER TOTAL	126	58	31	89	70.63%
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN TOTAL	74	53	6	59	79.73%
UNIV OF THE INCARNATE WORD TOTAL	79	0	45	45	56.96%
UT HEALTH SCI CENTER-HOUSTON TOTAL	156	122	12	134	85.90%
UT HEALTH SCIENCE CTR/SA TOTAL	198	134	33	167	84.34%
UT MEDICAL BRANCH GALVESTON TOTAL	90	62	12	74	82.22%
VERNON COLLEGE TOTAL	117	76	8	84	71.79%
VICTORIA COLLEGE, THE TOTAL	103	57	20	77	74.76%
WEATHERFORD COLLEGE TOTAL	45	28	1	29	64.44%
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY TOTAL	101	12	54	66	65.35%
WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE TOTAL	40	26	4	30	75.00%
GRAND TOTAL	8567	4381	1471	5852	68.31%

Sources: Texas public and independent institutions with initial licensure programs, and the Coordinating Board.

Cohorts: Institutions were instructed to include records for nursing students who (1) were admitted to an initial licensure program after satisfying general education/and or pre-requisite requirements and were reported enrolled for the first time in the initial licensure RN program on the 12th day of the Spring, Summer or Fall semester; (2) were starting a program where students would normally graduate "on-time" within 12 months (i.e., an LVN to RN program) or within 24 months (i.e., a traditional ADN or BSN). Students enrolled in programs that vary in length from a 12-month program or 24-month program were to be identified with the most typical length for that degree program. Institutions were instructed to exclude records for nursing students who transferred from another nursing program, were readmitted to a nursing program, were starting a program designed for part-time students, or were starting a BSN bridge program (i.e., RN to BSN program). * Graduated 100% - represents the number of students who graduated "on-time" from programs that institutions reported as 12-month programs or 24-month programs.

- * Graduated 150% - represents the number of students who graduated from 12-month programs in 18 months, or from 24-month programs in 36 months.
- ^ Methodology: Final percentages were based on 150 percent time to graduation. 12-month program cohorts admitted in Spring, Summer or Fall 2006 were tracked for 18 months, graduating no later than June 2007, December 2007, or February 2008, respectively. 24-month cohorts admitted in Spring, Summer, or Fall 2005 were tracked for 36 months, graduating no later than December 2007, May 2008, or August 2008.