

**Proposal to Establish a New Nursing Education Program
Southwest University in El Paso, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Southwest University in El Paso's (SUEP) proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in El Paso, Texas. The final revised proposal was provided electronically to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board). A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

Historical Perspective:

- Southwest University El Paso was established in 1999 under the name Quickstudy Learning Center. In 2002 the institution began offering trade certifications and changed its name to Southwest Career Institute. To meet the needs of the evolving healthcare market, additional programs were added beginning in 2004 with Medical Assisting, and in 2008 Magnetic Resonance Imaging. In 2009, the institution was named Southwest Career College. Programs offered include: Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Business Administration, Medical Coding and Billing, Health Administration, and Radiology Services. In 2012, the college began offering Bachelor's degrees and changed the name to Southwest University El Paso (SUEP).
- The owners of SUEP are Yolanda Arriola, President, and Benjamin Arriola, Vice President. SUEP is a for-profit college-career-focused university.
- SUEP is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) issued a waiver, stating ABHES accreditation was honored in place of THECB approval.
- In 2015, SUEP began offering an online Registered Nurse (RN)-to-Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) Program, followed by an online Bachelors in Computed Tomography in 2016. SUEP provides special programs to serve members of the U.S. Army stationed at Ft. Bliss by offering an Associate Degree in Medical Assisting for combat medics.
- After receiving support from Mrs. Yolanda Arriola, President of Southwest University El Paso, affiliation agreements were sought and received from the following: University Medical Center, Hospital Corporations of America, Peak Behavioral Health Center, and Nazareth Living Center.
- Amanda Pierce - Anaya, DNP, RN, CEN developed the proposal and is the identified Program Director.
- The proposal was received in Board Office on March 10, 2016 and reviewed by Education Consultants. Board Staff met with SUEP representatives on September 15, 2016 to discuss preparing the final proposal for a scheduled Board meeting.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- The proposed program of study will be delivered as a fifteen (15) term, twenty-two (22)-month curriculum through which students earn an ADN and may apply to take the NCLEX-RN® examination.
- The curriculum will be based upon a nursing process format and will include clinical learning experiences including nursing skills and simulation laboratories, and faculty-supervised hands-on patient care in a variety of health care settings.
- The nursing program will be housed on the main campus of Southwest University El Paso at 1414 Geronimo, which is centrally located on the east side of El Paso, Texas.
- The program plans to admit thirty (30) students beginning in March, 2017, with the initial cohort graduating in 2019.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data provided in the proposal indicates a need for additional Registered Nurses in west Texas and El Paso, as this area is considered one of the least staffed healthcare profession cities in the United States.
- The program will provide educational opportunities for culturally diverse and economically constrained students to advance their education.
- Letters of support are included from community leaders who are members of healthcare and non-profit organizations, city officials, and institutions interested in hiring SUEP ADN graduates.

Administration and Organization:

- SUEP is accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES) and recognized by The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) issued a waiver, stating ABHES accreditation was honored in place of THECB approval.
- Mrs. Yolanda Arriola has been the President of SUEP since 1999.
- Southwest University El Paso offers thirteen (13) degrees and certificate programs.
- Southwest University El Paso opened its RN-to-BSN Program in 2015.
- Statements of support from Southwest University El Paso administrators for the new ADN program are included in the proposal.
- The proposed Program Director is Amanda Pierce-Anaya, DNP, RN, CEN, who has been employed at Southwest University El Paso since 2016. She will have minimal teaching responsibilities during the first year of operation to allow ample time for administrative duties.

Faculty:

- In addition to the Program Director, two (2) full-time and one (1) part-time nursing faculty will be employed.
- When the clinical component of the curriculum is reached in Term 6, two (2) support staff will be hired, along with a part-time clinical faculty.
- The Faculty Handbook includes policies for faculty workload, orientation, professional development, By-laws, committee structure, and program information, as required in Rule 215.7.

Students:

- The program will recruit students through the use of brochures and social media advertising, along with notifying current students in other SUEP programs. The program will use a point system for the selection of students in the admission process.
- Applicants to the program will be required to complete a criminal background check and drug test before official acceptance into the program.
- The Student Handbook includes information about the college and nursing program policies to guide students through the program.
- Eligibility information is included in the Student Handbook and students are required to verify their receipt of this information through their signature on a form in the Handbook.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum has been based upon requirements in Education Rule 215.
- The program of study is designed to be taught over fifteen (15) terms, or twenty-two (22) months, with face-to-face instruction, nursing skills, clinical learning experiences, and simulation laboratories.
- The conceptual framework includes Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Philosophy and the Psychological Theory of Growth and Development by Erik Erikson as the foundations for the program of learning, along with the competencies in the *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs (DECs)*.
- The first didactic courses introduce the students to fundamentals, common medical/surgical concepts, and health assessment.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- Southwest University El Paso has developed relationships with a variety of health care settings in El Paso.
- The clinical learning objectives for each level are derived from the DECs. The clinical evaluation tools are graded on pass/fail, with letter grades used for didactic courses.
- Simulation experiences are integrated into clinical courses to prepare students for actual patient care and to promote constructive feedback through coaching and pre- and post-conference faculty-led debriefing.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- Students enrolled at Southwest University El Paso experience their education in a college environment with a variety of student services available, including: student advising, study areas, Learning Resource Center/Library, open tutoring sessions with instructors, designated study areas, and supervised open labs.
- Board Staff visited SUEP's eight (8)-building campus. The proposed school of nursing will initially be accommodated in two (2) of the buildings located within the University campus. The classrooms and lab will be located on 6138 Southwest University Way, (Building 800).
- The nursing program offers opportunities for skills labs, and medium and high-fidelity simulation experiences. (See photographs in the proposal.)
- An inventory of skills and simulation lab equipment, along with a list of library holdings available to students is included in the proposal.
- Support staff will provide administrative assistance to the ADN program.

Records and Reports:

- Official documents, records, and reports will be stored and maintained according to the Southwest University El Paso retention policies.
- Student and faculty files will be stored in a secure area.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan has been designed to meet requirements in Rule 215.13.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Southwest University El Paso to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached letter and Board Order (See Attachment #3).

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 University El Paso
To Establish An
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
in El Paso, Texas

Date and Time: January 19, 2017 at 2:00 PM
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 January 1, 2017.

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

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SITE VISIT REPORT FOR NEW PROGRAM
(Professional Nursing Education Programs)**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Southwest University El Paso School of Nursing in El Paso, Texas

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Amanda Anaya, DNP, RN, CEN

REASON FOR SURVEY: Site Visit for Proposed Program DATE: November 29, 2016

SURVEY VISITOR: Susan Lee, PhD, RN, CNE

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
<p>§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services (a) The governing entity shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the professional nursing education program.</p>	<p>Toured site for proposed nursing program. Currently have three (3) lab spaces, adequate in size to accommodate student enrollment. Computer labs, storage areas, conference rooms, director and faculty offices, study areas, reception area with waiting area. Student center facility provides numerous student study spaces, coffee shop/snack bar, and large auditorium that is available for large gatherings. The campus consists of eight (8) buildings in easy walking distance. There is ample parking for visitors, staff, faculty, and students.</p>	<p>All spaces in the proposed nursing building are ready for occupancy. Spaces to be used for the new ADN program will meet the needs of the program and students. The university provides a full range of student services for all students.</p> <p>Criterion met</p>
<p>(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate the maximum number of students allowed for the program. (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. (2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment and supplies</p>	<p>Three (3) nursing skills labs are designated for the ADN program. One (1) lab will have three (3) beds with fully functional hospital equipment. The second lab has six (6) tables for skills practice with task trainers. A separate open lab has computers and is designed to be a flex space for a myriad of learning experiences. The labs are equipped with hot and cold running water. Extensive storage space is available.</p>	<p>The proposed number of students to be enrolled can be easily accommodated.</p> <p>Criterion met.</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>(c) The dean/director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>The building includes a spacious entry area with reception space and designated office space for secretarial and clerical staff. Secretarial staff for the proposed program is currently housed in the dean's office, near the program director's and faculty offices.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>
<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 dean/director 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>Currently, the director, faculty, and staff are housed in spaces sufficient to perform the work necessary to complete curriculum and learning activities. All spaces, including labs and classrooms are functional for the start of the spring 2017 semester. Dr. Anaya participated in the planning for the nursing area, particularly the skills and simulation labs. . Director, faculty, and staff are located together in the administrative building to facilitate their collaborative work. Security measures are in place to maintain privacy of documents. Classrooms, labs, and conference rooms allow room for comfort during the learning process and during meetings. Adequate restrooms and lounges are available.</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>Students will have online access to multiple databases. A library is available with reference staff to assist students with written projects. The library has a selection of current nursing and health texts and references for sciences.</p>	<p>Criterion met.</p>

DRAFT LETTER

January 19, 2017

Amanda Pierce- Anaya, DNP, RN, CEN
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
Southwest University El Paso
1414 Geronimo
El Paso, Texas 79925

Dear Dr. Anaya:

At the January 19-20, 2017 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Southwest University El Paso Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas. The Board wishes to thank Mr. Ben Arriola, BS, and Mr. Jeremy Burciaga, MPA, and you for being present to answer questions. Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant initial approval to Southwest University El Paso to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Mrs. Yolanda Arriola, President
Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Texas Workforce Commission

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Southwest University El Paso
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In El Paso, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 19, 2017, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the Southwest University El Paso proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas, based upon the review of the Proposal, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by the representatives from Southwest University El Paso in El Paso, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Southwest University El Paso Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in El Paso, Texas and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

- The program shall not admit more than one (1) cohort of thirty (30) students each year while on initial approval.

Entered this 19th day of January, 2017

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director
On Behalf of the Texas Board of Nursing