

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
in a Public Junior College  
Collin College in McKinney, Texas**

**Background:**

- Senate Bill 2118 passed by the 85(R) Texas Legislative Session allowed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to authorize certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs, including nursing. The bill allows public junior colleges that meet the requirements in SB 2118 to seek approval from THECB and from the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) [Sec. 130.305(b)(2)].
- Staff from the BON and THECB have developed a collaborative process to handle applications from community colleges interested in establishing a baccalaureate degree nursing (BSN) education program.
- The first application/proposal received by both agencies was submitted by Austin Community College in Austin, Texas, was approved, and has begun operation. The second application/proposal reviewed and approved was from Grayson College in Denison, Texas.

**Proposal from Collin College in McKinney, Texas:**

- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN)-to-BSN program at Collin College in McKinney, Texas was received in the Board office on October 24, 2018. It was reviewed by Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, and Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.
- Collin College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and the graduates' pass rates for the NCLEX-RN® examination has been between 82.74% and 93.59% for the past three years.
- Collin College was the first nursing education program in Texas to earn the National League for Nursing Center of Excellence in Nursing Education designation in 2011. The program earned re-designation in 2015 and remains the only ADN Program in Texas with this title.
- The proposal sets forth the following rationale for Collin College to create the RN-to-BSN Program:
  - to address the growing nursing shortage in the North Texas region;
  - to allow more Collin County residents to pursue the BSN;
  - to offer a BSN Program with face-to-face instruction; and
  - to provide an affordable pathway to the BSN.
- The RN-to-BSN Program plans to enroll 35 students in the 2019-2020 academic year and 105 students in the 2020-2021 year.
- No new facilities are needed for the RN-to-BSN Program. The Health Sciences Building on the Central Park Campus of Collin College, completed in 2015, was built to accommodate additional programs. Resultantly, the facility has all classrooms, multiple laboratories, student lounges, study

areas, and office space required to house the RN-to-BSN Program. The simulation lab is already equipped to accommodate upper division students' learning activities.

- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) BSN Program includes 42 SCH of general education courses, 36 SCH lower division nursing courses, 29 SCH upper division nursing courses, and 13 SCH of additional degree requirements. The BSN courses include nursing research, leadership, and community health nursing.
- The RN-to-BSN Program is designed to be completed in two semesters of full-time study. However, students may be able to complete the program part-time by enrolling in a minimum of two courses per term.
- Participation in Collin College's Service-Learning Program is required in each semester of the RN-to-BSN Program. Integrating one of the core values of the college, service and involvement, into the nursing curriculum, service-learning projects are a component of a credit-bearing class, aligned with specific academic learning objectives, and associated with a grade.
- Upper division clinical learning experiences will focus on community agencies and will not require the college to obtain new acute care clinical sites in North Texas. A variety of community facility agreements have been secured by Collin College. These clinical sites include pediatric, maternal, adult, geriatric, and psychiatric settings.
- The Total Program Evaluation is based on the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. Collin College plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the program.
- As the Collin College RN-to-BSN Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommended approval of the program to THECB.
- THECB approved the Collin College RN-to-BSN Program application on March 14, 2019.

This report is for information only. No action is required.