

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program  
in a Public Junior College  
Laredo College in Laredo, 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. Public junior colleges that meet the requirements in SB 2118 shall 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 Laredo College in Laredo, Texas:**

- A proposal to establish a BSN program at Laredo College in Laredo, Texas was received in the Board office on December 21, 2018. It was reviewed by Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.
- Laredo 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 have been well above 96% for the past three years. Other specialty accreditations are in place for other disciplines at Laredo College.
- The proposal sets forth the following rationale for Laredo College to create the Registered Nurse (RN)-to-BSN Program:
  - to meet the increasing demand for registered nurses in the area with a BSN degree;
  - to provide a stepping stone for more nurses to progress to advanced degrees;
  - to promote diversity among nurses in the state since the Laredo population is 96 Hispanic;
  - to provide an environment so nurses who are older than 35 years old will be receptive to seeking a BSN.

- Laredo College plans to enroll 40 students each year in the RN-to-BSN Program beginning Fall 2019 with an estimated attrition of eight students per year.
- The Health Science Division at Laredo College will be moving into a new building during Spring semester of 2020 that will house the nursing programs. The first level of the three story building will include a Gateway Community Health Center clinic which will serve as a clinical site for the RN-to-BSN program. The second level will provide 23 faculty offices, offices for the lab coordinator and secretaries, a conference room, six classrooms, and student lounge and study areas.”
- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) BSN Program includes 42 SCH of general education courses, 9 SCH of program prerequisites, and 33 SCH of BSN courses. In addition, 36 credit hours will be transferred from the associate degree program from which the student graduated. The BSN courses include nursing research, leadership, community health nursing and informatics.
- The RN-to-BSN Program using a hybrid format is designed to be completed in one year with full time study.
- Upper division clinical learning experiences will focus on a community health center funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services with five locations in the Laredo area. The clinics provide primary care for adults and children, obstetric care, family planning and testing, urgent care, psychiatric services, diabetes education and other services related to primary care. A clinical affiliation agreement has been procured with the clinics and other facilities have indicated an interest in serving as clinical settings, such as hospitals and the Health Department. Additional contracts will be negotiated following approval of the program.
- The Total Program Evaluation will follow the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. Laredo College plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the BSN program.
- As the Laredo College RN-to-BSN Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommend approval of the program to THECB.
- THECB approved the application on March 14, 2019.

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