

**Proposal to Establish a New Nursing Education Program
Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Texas Southmost College (TSC) proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Brownsville, Texas and the report of the December 6, 2018 survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final proposal was provided electronically to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board).

Historical Perspective:

- TSC was established in 1926 and operated as the Junior College of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It was the first institution of higher education in the region and became the first accredited public junior college in Texas. In 1948, the institution moved to Fort Brown, a decommissioned Army installation adjacent to the downtown business district in Brownsville, one block from the Rio Grande River.
- In 1991, TSC began a partnership with the University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB) and officially consolidated in 1995 as UTB-TSC under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). In 2010, the Board of Regents of the University of Texas System voted to terminate the UTB-TSC Agreement, and in 2015 TSC officially separated from UTB and re-launched as an autonomous degree-granting public community college.
- TSC received SACSCOC accreditation in 2015 and reaffirmation of accreditation will take place in 2020. TSC offers over 50 programs of study approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board leading to an associate degree or certificate. TSC is funded through legislative appropriations, grants, and donor funding. The college is governed by the TSC President and Board of Trustees.
- TSC initially established a Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in 1966 that produced large numbers of Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) to work in the Rio Grande Valley (Valley). The TSC VN Program currently has Full Approval by the Board.
- In 1975, the Board approved the establishment of a ADN Education Program at TSC. After many years of successful operation, the ADN Program experienced a series of NCLEX-RN® pass rates below 80%. The dissolution of the long-term UTB-TSC partnership created an unstable learning environment for students enrolled in the TSC ADN Program, thus leading to poor program outcomes.

- At the January 19, 2017 Board meeting, the Board voted to withdraw approval from the TSC ADN Program, based upon four consecutive years of NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates falling below 80% and areas of noncompliance with Board Rule 215. The last student graduated in May 2017.
- After the program closed, many changes occurred in TSC Administration, the Health Professions Division, and the Nursing Department. Resultantly, there was a renewed commitment by Administration and the Board of Trustees to establish a new ADN Program.
- A first draft of the proposal was received in the Board office on June 21, 2018 and reviewed by Board Staff. Following Board Staff's recommendations, a revised version was received on October 18, 2018. The proposal was deemed complete in November 2018, and a site visit was conducted on December 6, 2018 by Education Consultant Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- TSC proposes to establish a new ADN Program comprised of two tracks: a traditional or generic track and an LVN to ADN track. The generic track plans to enroll an initial cohort of 24 students in August 2019 and one cohort of 24 students in Spring 2020, while the LVN to ADN track would enroll an initial cohort of 10 students in Summer 2020. Both tracks would graduate the first cohort, comprised of a total of 34 students, in May 2022.
- Each track consists of 60 semester credit hours (SCH). The generic ADN degree plan and the LVN to ADN degree plan both contain 11 SCH of pre-requisites and 13 SCH of general education core courses.
- The generic ADN track has 36 SCH of nursing courses while the LVN to ADN track has 20 SCH of nursing courses. The LVN to ADN students receive credit for 16 SCH of nursing courses with proof of LVN licensure, as well as successful completion of *RNSG 1327 Transition to Nursing Practice* and *RNSG 2206 Clinical 1 Transition* during their first semester of the program.
- Student-centered learning will be facilitated through face-to-face instruction, along with faculty supervised hands-on clinical experiences in a variety of local health care settings in Brownsville and Harlingen. Clinical contracts have been secured with the following facilities: Valley Regional Medical Center Brownsville, Valley Baptist Medical Center Brownsville, Harlingen Medical Center, Rio State Grande Center, Spanish Meadows, and the Early Childhood Center at TSC.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- As a community college, TSC serves one of the nation's most racially and economically diverse populations, many of whom are medically underserved. The proposal sets forth

that the current lack of nursing education programs in Cameron County is compounding the significant nursing shortage, with obvious consequences for health outcomes for Valley residents. These conditions support the critical need for an increased number of registered nurses (RNs), prepared and committed to providing care to persons living in the Valley, and the opportunity for TSC to fill that need.

- The ADN Program will be delivered at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center (ITECC) on the TSC campus in Brownsville. Currently, no generic ADN program is available in Cameron County. In the Valley, Texas State Technical College – Harlingen offers a VN Program and an LVN to ADN Program and South Texas College in McAllen offers a VN Program, an LVN to ADN Program, and a generic ADN Program. At the October 2018 Board meeting, Rio Grande Valley College in Pharr was approved to establish an LVN to ADN Program. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) located in Edinburg offers a Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Program.
- Three large acute care hospitals that were surveyed projected a need of 25-40 additional RNs per hospital per year during the next five years. Three long-term care facilities, all located in Brownsville, responded that they employ 81 nurses, and have four open positions among them. A mental health institution in Harlingen, providing both in-patient and out-patient services, stated it employs 25 nurses, has one open position, and projects needs for RNs in the next five years.
- Letters of support verified that the nursing needs in the Valley continue to increase and clinical facilities communicated enthusiastic support for the proposed ADN Program, as well as their ability to provide clinical learning experiences and employment on graduation. Eleven letters of support are included in the proposal documents.

Administration and Organization:

- In January 2017, the TSC Board of Trustees unanimously approved hiring a nursing consultant to begin the process of establishing an ADN Program. In January 2018, TSC hired a full-time ADN Program Director to work with the consultant on developing the ADN Program proposal. Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, President of TSC, officially notified the Texas Board of Nursing on February 15, 2018 of the college's intent to seek approval to open the ADN Program, demonstrating administrative support.
- The proposal states that the start-up budget for the first two years of the ADN Program will be supported by TSC. All students enrolled in the nursing program will be required to pay tuition and student fees.
- The ITECC, where the nursing program will be housed with the other health professions programs, is owned by TSC and its operations including administration, utilities, grounds-keeping, custodial services, and security are paid by TSC central administration. TSC provides fiscal support for centralized services, such as information technology,

communications, human resources, student services, and institutional advancement. Adequacy of fiscal resources is reviewed annually during the budget process with the deans of all divisions within TSC.

- The proposal presents a budget for the first two years of operation to include director, faculty, and staff salaries. Additionally, funds to utilize and upgrade existing buildings (classrooms and simulation/skills lab) were provided. Other budgeted items include ExamSoft testing software, HESI, Shadow Health, and simulation/skills lab supplies.
- Beth Kasprisin, MSN, RN is the Program Developer/Director of the proposed ADN Program. Ms. Kasprisin has had experience in academia since 2008 after she received her Master's Degree in Nursing (MSN) with an emphasis in nursing education. Before coming to TSC, Ms. Kasprisin served in various coordinator roles in nursing education, including a level coordinator, a clinical coordinator, and Director of Nursing for another ADN Program in Texas.

Faculty:

- The ADN Program would require a total of 3.6 full-time employees (FTEs) in the first academic year, and a total of 8.5 FTEs in the second and third academic year. Five nurses have expressed a desire to teach in the ADN Program at TSC and they all meet the minimum requirements in Board Rule. These prospective nursing faculty members are adequate to meet teaching needs in the first year.
- Recruiting qualified faculty will take place in multiple ways. The ADN Program Director will work with the TSC Human Resources Department to place advertisements for faculty positions in nursing job search engines (i.e., Indeed), and nursing websites. Another recruitment strategy will be to contact universities that offer MSN degrees to speak with their students about possible job opportunities upon graduation. Nearby UTRGV offers an MSN in Nursing Education, and will be a primary source for recruitment of qualified nursing faculty.

Students:

- The TSC ADN program anticipates a beginning cohort of 24 students for the traditional ADN program track and 10 LVN to ADN track students.
- Admission into the TSC ADN Program will be reviewed and screened through a selection process. The traditional ADN track applicants will be reviewed bi-annually, and the LVN to ADN track applicants will be reviewed annually.
- Between January and October 2018, the ADN Program Director received approximately 150 email inquiries regarding enrolling in the ADN Program. Approximately 50 students went to the Department of Nursing to inquire about the application process and to set up a plan for application in August 2019. These individuals are currently in the process of completing pre-requisite courses.

- As TSC currently has a successful VN program, recent graduates and current VN students will be recruited for the new ADN Program. TSC LVN Program alumni from the last three years were surveyed to assess student interest and qualifications to enter the proposed LVN to ADN track. These data show TSC could admit 10 LVN to RN students in the proposed ADN Program to enroll in Summer 2020.
- TSC currently has existing partnerships with local school districts offering dual enrollment courses. The nursing program will utilize these relationships to recruit students for the ADN Program. Further, student recruitment will come from the South Texas Academy for Medical Professions High School in Olmito, Texas, a high school that specializes in early health care degree placement.

Program of Study:

- The generic track can be completed in six semesters, and the LVN to ADN track can be completed in five semesters, including all pre-requisites. The ADN Program meets the state requirements of the Workforce Education Course Manual in terms of allowable combinations of lecture, lab, clinical, and semester hours.
- Generic track students will be admitted in the fall and spring semesters. The LVN to ADN track students will be admitted only once a year in the summer semester and bridge with the generic students for their third and fourth semesters.
- The mission and philosophy of the ADN Program is congruent with that of TSC as the program prepares students for success in their nursing career. The program operates within the mission of TSC, subscribing to the college core values of integrity, access, service, excellence, innovation, and success.
- The curriculum provides structured learning opportunities to prepare graduates for four roles: member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, and member of the health care team. The focus is the patient, the community, and the promotion of health. The educational environment is non-threatening and nurturing to encourage learning, decision-making, and critical thinking skills that meet or exceed program objectives and outcomes.
- Learning in the TSC ADN Program correlates with student learning outcomes (SLOs) that organize the curriculum, guide instructional delivery, and direct learning activities in clinical and theory courses. The philosophy of the nursing program reflects the faculty's beliefs associated with the development of a graduate nursing student and identifies the Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) and the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) standards. The curriculum supports the integration of both the DECs and QSEN within the SLOs, along with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) ADN Competency Standards.

- To ensure quality contact hours for student learning in the application of theory to clinical practice, the contact ratio for clinical is 1:3. Clinical courses in the second and third semesters include combination specialty clinical hours to support Mental Health, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics didactic courses.
- The ADN curriculum has both Texas core courses and BSN pre-requisite courses built in to allow students an easier transition into a BSN Program. The sequence of the ADN Program allows students to take summer courses towards BSN requirements while no ADN nursing courses are in session.
- TSC has begun discussion with universities to set up articulation agreements for TSC graduates to enter an RN to BSN Program upon graduation. UTRGV offers an online RN to BSN, and has agreed to begin developing an articulation agreement with TSC this summer. Texas A&M College of Nursing has had several discussions with TSC leadership about establishing an articulation agreement once outcomes are demonstrated for the new ADN Program.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The TSC ADN Program has secured appropriate sites for clinical rotations. The proposed clinical sites have stated that they are willing and able to accommodate students each semester without this having an impact on the current use of the facility by existing programs.
- Clinical contracts have been secured with the following facilities: Valley Regional Medical Center, Rio Grande State Hospital, South Texas Rehabilitation Hospital, Valley Baptist Medical Center, and Harlingen Medical Center.
- The proposed ADN Program will not utilize preceptors at the clinical agencies. Faculty will remain with the students each clinical day and facilitate student learning in collaboration with the clinical staff.
- Simulation may be incorporated in each clinical rotation as a clinical make-up day, to lower the number of students at a clinical site, or during didactic class activities. Simulation will account for no more than 20% of the clinical time each semester.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The TSC Health Professions Programs, including the ADN and LVN Programs, are housed in the ITECC at 301 Mexico Blvd in Brownsville. The building is spacious, with room for future expansion as needed. The Central Plaza offers approximately 10,000 square feet for events and functions, such as the pinning ceremony. The space where the Health Professions Division is located, as it is currently configured, meets ADN Program delivery needs.

- The Nursing Department has its own main office with spaces for the ADN Program Director and the VN Program Director. The two programs share an administrative assistant, who offices between the director offices. The administrative assistant supports student inquiries and admissions, program needs, and administrative requests of both Program Directors. This administrative assistant will continue to support both programs during the first two years of program operation.
- The fully implemented ADN Program, with approximately 116 nursing students by the end of the second year, will require 8.5 full-time faculty members (director and faculty for fundamental skills and assessment, women's health, pediatrics, adult health, older adult health, and mental health). There are eight nursing faculty offices located in the same hallway, four of the offices are currently filled with VN Program faculty, and there are four offices for new ADN faculty. Additional offices within the Health Professions Division are available as more ADN faculty are hired.
- Eighteen classrooms on the ITECC can be utilized for nursing theory lectures. All classrooms have a podium with a computer and audio-visual capabilities to project information from the computer to a screen during class. The Health Professions Division has a breakroom/lounge for students, faculty, and staff to utilize, furnished with a refrigerator and microwave as well as tables and chairs. Bathrooms are conveniently located at the end of the hallway from the nursing skills labs, as well as next to the breakroom/lounge in the Health Professions Division. All areas meet the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for accessibility.
- The ITECC, where nursing and the other healthcare programs are located, has a lab where students learn skills and clinical decision-making in simulated clinical scenarios with high-fidelity mannequins. Having other healthcare disciplines using the same space will facilitate opportunities for interprofessional learning, especially in simulation. Students will have the ability to reserve lab space for additional clinical skills practice on their own time.
- The skills lab includes a 10-bed hospital lab, with various bed styles to provide the opportunity for students to experience operating different models. Each hospital bed is equipped with air and suction regulators and canisters. Oxygen is simulated but has actual oxygen flow meters and tubing. Each bed has an over-the-bed table, bedside table, hospital curtain, and intravenous infusion pole. Further, each bed has a glove dispenser with hand sanitizer. The beds are set up to illustrate an actual hospital room for students to practice nursing skills throughout the program. Eight of the beds have mannequins with varying degrees of simulation capacity.
- The ADN skills lab can also function as a classroom and hold approximately 30 students for a lecture. The podium is equipped with computer and screen for transmitting visual materials, and a whiteboard to facilitate lectures.

- The Health Professions Division has a four-bed Simulation Center, and a two-bed Emergency Room, open to all programs in the division. High-fidelity mannequins include: ALS Sim Man, Sim Junior, and Sim Mom. One room in the Simulation Center is left open for a standardized patient or mannequin, depending on the scenario. The Emergency Room also has high-fidelity mannequins and headwalls to simulate the hospital environment. The Emergency Room was designed to replicate a community hospital in Brownsville. The headwalls in the Emergency Room are equipped with oxygen, suction, and air capabilities. Further, there is a full crash cart for both adult and pediatric simulation experiences.
- The Simulation Center contains four private rooms, with an open area in the middle to simulate a nurses' station. Faculty can control and record the simulations behind a two-way mirrored glass window, by speaking and operating the mannequins based on student interactions.
- TSC Student Services are centralized under the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. Comprehensive "one-stop-shopping" for enrollment, financial aid disbursement, bill payment, and international services is provided to all TSC students on the main campus and through electronic communication and ITECC on-site support. In addition, faculty advisors are available for advising students and assisting them with accessing student services as needed. Nursing students who will be attending classes at ITEC will have the same access to services, such as tutoring, counseling, etc., located on campus in the Oliveira building. The ITECC facility is provided safety and security support, and uniform standards are applied to ensure student safety.
- The Health Professions Division has a computer lab with 18 computers that may be used for testing purposes or computer lab activities. The computer lab is shared with all Health Profession Programs and is reserved through the Health Professions Administrative Assistant each semester. There is also a Health Professions study lab for students with an additional 13 computers for student use.
- A wide variety of resources and services are available to all students through the UTRGV library, which is open and accessible to all TSC students 24 hours a day. The library is located on University Boulevard next to the TSC campus, but all library resources are available online and accessible to all students regardless of location. The nursing holdings include 42 databases, including CINAHL Plus with Full Text, The Cochrane Library, EBSCOhost, Journals@Ovid, MEDLINE (EBSCO), MEDLINE (Ovid), NurseSearch, PubMed, Up to Date, and Wiley Online Library.

Total Program Evaluation Plan:

- The TSC ADN Total Program Evaluation Plan is a continuous process. The proposed ADN Program plans to obtain national nursing accreditation once the program achieves full

Board approval. Therefore, the ACEN Program Evaluation Tool was incorporated to prepare the proposed ADN Program evaluation to meet ACEN standards.

- The program's TPE Plan is well-developed and provides measurable benchmarks of achievement.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Pros:

- The administration has committed the resources to the establishment and implementation of this new program.
- Texas Southmost College has identified and established contractual agreements with multiple and diverse clinical sites to offer rich clinical learning experiences to professional nursing students.
- Ms. Kasprisin is qualified and experienced in directing a pre-licensure professional nursing education program.

Cons:

- None identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Texas Southmost College to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Professional Nursing Education Program**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Beth Kasprisin, MSN, RN, Program Developer/Director

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATE: December 6, 2018

SURVEY VISITOR: Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN

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
§215.11 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 educational program.	<p>The Texas Southmost College (TSC) Health Professions Programs, including the ADN and VN Programs, are housed in the ITECC at 301 Mexico Blvd in Brownsville. The building is spacious, with room for future expansion as needed. The Central Plaza offers approximately 10,000 square feet for events and functions, such as the pinning ceremony. The space where the Health Professions Division is located, as it is currently configured, meets ADN Program delivery needs.</p> <p>The proposed ADN Program building contains 18 classrooms of various sizes, ranging from capacities of 12 to 150 students, that can be scheduled for use by the program. Other rooms include computer labs; a large student study room with 13 desktop computers, whiteboard and charging stations; a large tutoring lab with tables and chairs, a printer, six desktop computers and whiteboards; student services including financial</p>	Criteria Met

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
	<p>aid, veteran services and career services; offices; storage space; a private office for the program director and an office suite with private offices for faculty.</p> <p>The TSC campus has appropriate classroom and academic support space for the proposed ADN education program.</p> <p>The Student Services staff are available for student academic advising. A full-time licensed professional counselor is on staff for personal counseling referrals when needed. A financial student emergency fund is available for students with immediate needs.</p> <p>There is one large designated ADN program skills laboratory that also provides ample space for didactic instruction for 24 students.</p> <p>The school is in an easily accessible location. The facility has adequate space for the projected number of students. Ample parking is adjacent to the building.</p> <p>The administration of TSC has fully supported the development of the new program.</p>	
<p>(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate the maximum number of students allowed for the program.</p> <p>(1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water.</p> <p>(2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment and supplies.</p>	<p>The well-lit, large skills laboratory has eight various hospital type patient beds, two long-term care patient beds with eight low to mid-fidelity manikins, that can be separated by curtains to create a nursing ward. Each bed has an oxygen and suction set-up and an IV pole for student practice. Sharps containers, gloves, and hand sanitizers, as well as all necessary supplies, are readily available.</p> <p>There is a functional nursing station with storage space, two medication carts with a scanner for practice, storage cabinets, and one sink with hot and cold running water.</p> <p>Four laptop computers are available at the bedside for electronic health record charting practice.</p> <p>A separate storage room is adjacent to the skills laboratory which provides abundant cabinet space</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
	<p>for equipment and supplies. This storage room is shared with the Vocational Nursing (VN) Program.</p> <p>The skills laboratory is dedicated solely for the ADN program and provides ample space and equipment for the projected number of students.</p>	
<p>(c) The dean/director and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.</p>	<p>There is one full-time administrative assistant shared by the ADN and VN Programs that will meet the needs of the new ADN Program.</p>	<p>Criteria 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</p>	<p>The Program Director has a large, modern, spacious private office in the nursing department.</p> <p>The faculty office suite is large, modern, has availability of five private offices, is conducive for faculty to work uninterrupted and for faculty to visit privately with students. More private faculty offices are available nearby.</p> <p>The Program Director and faculty offices are conveniently located and adequate in number and size.</p> <p>TSC keeps student records and reports in a large locked file room. The records are securely maintained in locked file cabinets within the room and protected against damage or loss.</p> <p>Each classroom at TSC has the latest technology tools, including computers, internet, projectors, and whiteboards. The large laboratory also houses audiovisual equipment for faculty use.</p> <p>A separate simulation laboratory includes a main room for debriefing, a central control room and four patient rooms. One room is a standardized patient room, another will house the pediatric high fidelity manikin and two house a birthing manikin and an adult manikin. Trained faculty will lead case scenarios with students.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
<p>lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>A separate simulation emergency room (ER) includes two beds, one adult and one pediatric, heart monitors and equipment that allows low and mid fidelity manikins to simulate high fidelity situations. This simulation ER is shared among healthcare programs.</p> <p>A three-bedroom home is being built inside the ITECC building to simulate the community home setting.</p> <p>The classrooms and laboratories are modern, spacious, adequate in size, well-lit, and conducive to learning. One large faculty and staff conference room is available and conveniently located.</p> <p>Abundant teaching aids are provided to meet the program objectives. Appropriate medical equipment and supplies are on hand.</p> <p>There are eight sets of men's and women's restrooms conveniently located throughout the building. All restrooms meet ADA standards.</p> <p>One separate large student and faculty lounge is available on campus and equipped with coffee makers, microwaves, a refrigerator, drinking water, tables, and chairs. There are other areas throughout the building where students may eat or study. There is a delicatessen onsite where food may be purchased.</p> <p>The building is ADA compliant with adequate handicapped parking spaces for visitors, faculty, and prospective student use.</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>TSC has Wi-Fi throughout the building and access to online learning resources 24 hours a day. Each student will have their own laptop.</p> <p>TSC has library resources available to all students through the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, that will be accessible 24 hours a day regardless of location. These resources will allow student access to journals, books, and databases within the building.</p>	<p>Criteria Met</p>

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources. (2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.	Library holdings offer 42 databases, including: the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL) Plus with Full-Text; The Cochrane Library; EBSCOhost; Journals@Ovid; MEDLINE (EBSCO); MEDLINE (Ovid); NurseSearch; PubMed; Up to Date; and Wiley Online Library.	

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- Facilities, resources, and services are adequate to meet the needs of the proposed ADN Program.

Cons:

- None identified

DRAFT LETTER

January 28, 2019

Beth Kasprisin, MSN, RN
Director of Nursing
Texas Southmost College
80 Fort Brown
Brownsville, Texas 78520

Dear Ms. Kasprisin:

At the January 25-26, 2019 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Texas Southmost College Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, and the report of the December 6, 2019 survey visit. The Board wishes to thank you, Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, and Interim Dean Scott Nelson 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 Texas Southmost College to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, and impose the conditions and 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 beverly.skloss@bon.texas.gov or 512-318-3219.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, President
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

ORDER OF THE BOARD

In the Matter of
Texas Southmost College
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program
In Brownsville, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on January 24, 2019, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the Texas Southmost College proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas, based upon the review of the proposal and survey visit report, 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 Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Texas Southmost College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Brownsville, Texas and imposes the following conditions and requirements:

1. The program shall not admit more than one (1) cohort of 24 generic students in Fall 2019, one (1) cohort of 24 generic students in Spring 2020, and one (1) cohort of 10 LVN to ADN students in Summer 2020 until the program achieves Full Approval from the Board.

Entered this 24th day of January, 2019

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