

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
San Jacinto College in Pasadena, 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.
- Seven applications/proposals have been received and processed by both agencies:
 - Austin Community College in Austin, Texas;
 - Grayson College in Denison, Texas;
 - Collin College in McKinney, Texas;
 - Laredo College in Laredo, Texas;
 - South Texas College in McAllen, Texas;
 - Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas; and
 - Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas.

Proposal from San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas:

- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN)-to-BSN program at San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas, was received in the Board office on August 30, 2019. It was reviewed by Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.
- San Jacinto 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); the ADN graduates' NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates have been between 86.11% and 94.62% for the past three years. Veronica Jammer, PhD, RN, San Jacinto College Nursing Department Chair, will serve as the Director of the RN-to-BSN Program.
- The primary reasons and purpose for San Jacinto College to offer the RN-to-BSN Program are to:
 - provide higher education in the local community;
 - advance professional growth in the community where the college population works, worships, and raises their families;
 - recruit and retain minority students, particularly Hispanics and Latinos to match the existing demographics of the area;
 - provide a strategic plan to reduce the national's health disparities by diversifying the nursing workforce and preparing for future nurse educators; and
 - meet the workforce needs of the area.

- The RN-to-BSN Program plans to enroll one cohort of 30 students in the 2020-2021 academic year, two cohorts of 30 students each or 60 students in the 2021-2022 year, and thereafter. The RN-to-BSN Program is designed to be completed in three consecutive semesters whereas the part-time option may be completed in five semesters.
- The proposed RN-to-BSN Program will be located on the Central campus and will have access to classrooms, computer testing suite, laboratory space, and a simulation center. San Jacinto College has invested substantially in facilities and equipment for all of its health science programs. The RN-to-BSN Program will share facilities and equipment with the ADN Program.
- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) BSN Program includes: 34 SCH of lower-division nursing courses; 45 SCH of general education courses; 10 SCH of prescribed electives; and 31 SCH of upper-division nursing courses. The general education outcomes are embedded in the core curriculum and include: 1) communication skills; 2) critical thinking skills; 3) empirical and quantitative skills; 4) teamwork; 5) personal responsibility; and 6) social responsibility. The BSN courses include nursing research, leadership, and community health nursing.
- The program delivery is intended to support the working nurse and will consist of a combination of distance learning (75-85%) and face-to-face components (15-25%). The face-to-face courses are strategically located throughout the curriculum to facilitate the development of a learning community among the nursing students. The upper level courses are designed to promote active engagement, critical analysis, enhanced leadership skills, a commitment to evidence-based best practices, and scholarly writing.
- The program will not include clinical hours and subsequently will not compete with pre-licensure nursing programs in the Gulf Coast area. The community nursing course is designed with a capstone project to ensure students are provided a thorough review of the concepts associated with community health. The nursing leadership course builds on the concepts associated with the ADN Program leadership course and allows students to apply their knowledge from all coursework as they consider and examine leadership and management issues within their current employment setting.
- The Total Program Evaluation is based on the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. San Jacinto College plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the program.
- As the San Jacinto 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 San Jacinto College RN-to-BSN Program application on October 24, 2019.

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