

**Report of Application for a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
Galveston College in Galveston, 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.
- Nine 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;
 - Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas;
 - Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas; and
 - San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas.

Proposal from Galveston College in Galveston, Texas:

- Galveston College was established in 1966 by the Galveston College District. In 1970, Galveston College began operation of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program.
- Galveston College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The ADN Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN); the ADN graduates' NCLEX-RN® examination pass rates have been between 86.54% and 88.00% for the past three years.
- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Program at Galveston College in Galveston, Texas, was received in the Board office on

April 17, 2020. It was reviewed by Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.

- The primary reasons and purpose for Galveston College to offer the RN to BSN Program are to:
 - improve access to post-secondary education in Galveston;
 - meet the needs of acute care and other facilities in the Gulf Coast Region for Baccalaureate prepared nurses; and
 - produce graduates that will more than likely remain in the community.
- Arlinda Washington, DNP, MSN, APRN, will serve as the Coordinator of the RN to BSN Program. Dr. Washington will report directly to Donna Carlin, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing.
- The proposed Program Coordinator, the Director of Nursing, and two full-time ADN faculty have been designated to teach in the RN to BSN Program. The ADN faculty will continue to teach in the ADN Program. The college plans to hire one full-time faculty for the second year of the program. The Faculty Handbook has been expanded to include the RN to BSN Program faculty. Policies and processes are applicable for all faculty members, pre and post-licensure.
- The RN to BSN Program plans to enroll one cohort of 30 students in the 2021-2022 academic year. Future plans are to increase admissions over a five-year period with the numbers to be determined by ongoing program evaluation and faculty availability. Graduates of other ADN Programs are welcome to apply. The RN to BSN Program is full-time and designed to be completed in two semesters. Part-time options will be considered in the future. The student handbook was specifically designed for the RN to BSN students due to the differences in policies and program requirements.
- No new facilities are needed for the RN to BSN Program, as it will be delivered online with the exception of the two clinical courses that will be experiences in community settings.
- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) RN to BSN Program includes 30 SCH of upper-division nursing courses. The full-time online program is designed to provide for progressive development of values, knowledge, judgment and advanced nursing skills. It is intended to be completed in two semesters with each course being eight weeks in length. The BSN courses include nursing research, leadership, and community health nursing.
- Two courses have clinical components for students to gain clinical competencies in Community and Public Health and Leadership and Management. Based on the specific learning outcomes, course descriptions, and methods of evaluation, clinical assignments are planned to meet course outcomes/objectives.

- The Total Program Evaluation is based on the ACEN systematic evaluation plan template. Galveston College plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the program.
- As the Galveston College RN to BSN Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommended approval of the program to THECB.
- THECB approval is in process for the Galveston College RN to BSN Program.

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