

**Report of Application for a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
College of the Mainland in Texas City, 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.
- A copy of the COM approval letter from THECB dated July 1, 2021 was received in Board Office on July 2, 2021 (See Attachment #1).
- Twelve 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;
 - San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas;
 - San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas;
 - Galveston College in Galveston, Texas; and
 - Trinity Valley Community College, Terrell, Texas.

Proposal from College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas:

- The College of the Mainland (COM) was established in 1966 and opened its doors to students in 1967.
- The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program was started in 1972 and includes an LVN-to-ADN option. The 2020 NEPIS reported a total enrollment of 185 students, 32 of whom were LVNs. The Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program began in 2005 and 45 students were enrolled in 2020.

- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Education Program at the COM in Texas City, Texas, was received in the Board office on May 26, 2021. The proposal 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.
- COM 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 84.06% and 88.31% for the past three years. Amanda Ordonez, PhD, RN will serve as the Director of the RN-to-BSN Program. Dr. Ordonez also serves as Program Director for the ADN and VN programs, and has over nine years of teaching experience. She will not carry a teaching load but will devote her time to administrative duties.
- The COM offered the following rationales to offer the RN-to-BSN Program:
 - Responds to the Institute of Medicine call for 80% of registered nurses to be prepared at the Bachelor's Degree level;
 - Provides a BSN-completion program at an affordable cost;
 - Meets the demand for BSN-level nurses in the local communities;
 - Offers opportunities for nurses to earn advanced credentials to respond to the health care demands of the future.
- Data from a survey of healthcare institutions, agencies, and clinics in the community that employ nurses indicated there is a need for more BSN-prepared nurses.
- Local employers who are familiar with the COM reported they will hire RN-to-BSN graduates from the college.
- Letters of support from local healthcare settings were provided in the proposal.
- The proposed RN-to-BSN program has full and enthusiastic support from the administration and Board of Trustees.

Faculty and Students:

- Two full-time qualified core nursing faculty will initially provide direction and instruction for the program and twelve highly qualified COM faculty will be available to devote 25% of their teaching load to instruction in the RN-to-BSN program.
- A common Faculty Handbook will be used by all programs with a supplemental section for the RN-to-BSN faculty.
- The RN-to-BSN Program plans to enroll one cohort of 20 students in Fall 2021. After the first year, the enrollment plan includes three admission points each year to match the pre-licensure enrollment patterns.
- Initially a separate Student Handbook will be provided for RN-to-BSN students with a future plan for one combined handbook for all students.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum will be presented in a hybrid format with face-to-face interactions for clinical experiences.

- Major concepts in the curriculum include social justice, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, interdisciplinary, leadership, and populations/community.
- The 120-credit program is composed of 34 semester credit hours of prerequisite academic courses, 33 semester credit hours for the ADN program, 32 credit hours of upper-division nursing courses, and 21 hours of upper-level academic courses.
- The *Differentiated Essential Competencies (2021)* provided the basis for the upper-level nursing courses.
- Clinical learning experiences are included for community health and nursing leadership.

Total Program Evaluation:

- The Total Program Evaluation includes all aspects required in Rule 215.13.

Plans for Nursing Accreditation:

- The COM RN-to-BSN program will seek nursing accreditation from ACEN.

THECB has been advised that the proposal demonstrates compliance with Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education. THECB has issued the program a letter of approval (See Attachment #1).

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



TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Academic and Health Affairs

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July 1, 2021

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Jerry Fliger, Ph.D.
Vice President for Instruction
College of the Mainland
1200 Amburn Road
Texas City, TX 77591

Dear Dr. Fliger:

I am pleased to approve at the staff level, in accordance with Coordinating Board procedures, the request from College of the Mainland to create a Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree completion program to be delivered in a hybrid format (CIP 51.3801.00).

The new program is approved with the understanding that your institution certifies compliance with the *Standards for Bachelor's and Master's Programs*. Additionally, approval is given with the understanding that the institution certifies compliance with the criteria in the *Principles of Good Practice for Academic Degree and Certificate Programs and Credit Courses Offered Electronically*. Both of these standards can be accessed online at www.highered.texas.gov.

A biennial report on the operation, quality, and effectiveness of the baccalaureate degree program is due to the Coordinating Board by January 1 of each odd numbered year after the program's implementation. With an implementation date of August 24, 2021, the due date of the first biennial report is January 1, 2023. Please notify the Coordinating Board if the proposed implementation date for this program changes.

An Information Sheet indicating an implementation date of August 24, 2021 is enclosed for the convenience of your reporting officials.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Silverman".

Stacey Silverman

Enclosure

c: Warren Nichols

AHA/JA/21781

INFORMATION SHEET

The following information is provided in connection with recent action(s) taken by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and reported to your institution in a letter from Stacey Silverman, PhD, Assistant Commissioner, Academic and Health Affairs, dated July 1, 2021.

ACTION: COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND

On July 1, 2021, the Coordinating Board approved at the staff level the request from College of the Mainland to create a Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree completion program (51.3801.00).

Administrative Unit Affected		Academic Unit #				Action	Effective Date
Nursing Department		College of the Mainland				Create degree program	August 24, 2021
Degree Title	Program Name	CIP Code	# of SCH	DE	Delivery Mode	Action	Effective Date
BSN	RN-BSN	51.3801.00	120	Yes	Hybrid	Create degree program	August 24, 2021

Notes:

These changes will affect the way your institution reports courses, programs, and degrees to the Coordinating Board. Please inform the appropriate reporting personnel of these changes.

If you have any questions about this action or about your institution's program inventory, please contact:

Academic and Health Affairs
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