

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
Navarro College at Corsicana, 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.
- Fourteen 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.
 - South Texas College, McAllen, Texas
 - Trinity Valley Community College, Terrell, Texas; and
 - College of the Mainland, Texas City, Texas

Proposal from Navarro College in Corsicana ,Texas:

- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Program at NC in Corsicana, Texas, was received in the Board office on June 7, 2022, and reviewed by two Education Consultants at the Board to establish compliance of the proposed program with Rule 215 Professional Nursing Education. The proposal meets standards and criteria of the Texas Board of Nursing required in Rule 215 and outlined in Education Guideline 3.1.1.g.

Purpose and Need for the Program:

The rationale for the need for the RN-to-BSN Program at the Navarro Corsicana campus is based upon:

- A call in the community for a blended RN-to-BSN program composed of online and on-campus, face-to-face education.
- The need for a local program less than the nearest one which is 70 miles away.
- A projected need for more BSN-prepared RNs in local hospitals in the area.
- Community support for the establishment of the program.
- Texas data from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies reports a growing need for more RNs in the state.

A letter of administrative support dated September 30, 2021, signed by the Navarro College Board of Trustee Representatives and District President, Dr. Kevin G. Fegan, was included in the proposal. Community letters of support are provided in the proposal from leading healthcare centers in the area.

Administration and Organization:

- Navarro College (NC), formerly Henderson County Junior College, was established in 1946.
- Dr. Kevin Fegan serves as District President for Navarro College, a four-campus college with a total enrollment of approximately 7,000 students. Navarro College serves five counties: Navarro, Ellis, Limestone, Freestone, and Leon.
- Navarro College Associate Degree Program (ADN) was originally a part of the ADN at El Centro College but became a separate nursing program in 1982.
- Navarro College offers an ADN with traditional and LVN-to-ADN tracks on the Corsicana and Waxahachie campuses with an average enrollment of 130 to 150 students. Navarro also offers Vocational Nursing Programs at Corsicana, Mexia, and Waxahachie. All Navarro nursing programs are approved by the Texas Board of Nursing.
- NC is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges with recent reaffirmations in 2021. The ADN Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the past three years is provided in the table:

2021 pass rate/test-takers	2020 pass rate/test-takers	2019 pass rate/test-takers
89.53% (77/86)	93.33% (84/90)	88.24% (75/85)

Leadership:

- Julie Hawkins Arteaga, Ed.D, MSN, RN, CNE will serve as the Director of the RN-to-BSN Program. Dr. Arteaga has 18 years of teaching experience in nursing education at the VN and ADN level and five years as a teaching assistant at the BSN level.
- The Program Director will hold responsibilities and authority to direct the program in all aspects as described in Education Guideline 3.4.1.b.

- The Program Director will report directly to the Dean of Health Professions.

The Navarro College RN-to-BSN program is currently in the process of approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). A letter from the Board of Nursing verifying that the proposed program is in full compliance with Rule 215 was submitted to the THECB as a step in their approval process.

Faculty:

Two primary nursing faculty and the Program Director will initiate the teaching of the RN-to-BSN courses: Other ADN faculty will contribute to the instruction as the program moves forward.

Faculty responsibilities include classroom and lab instruction, and supervision of students in the clinical areas. The faculty will also select, orient, and mentor qualified preceptors for the clinical experience. Program faculty will also be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum and teaching processes.

A common Faculty Handbook will be used for both ADN and BSN faculty with integrated sections for the RN-to-BSN program faculty. Regular meetings for faculty from both programs will be scheduled for the business of the professional nursing programs, while BSN faculty meetings will also schedule individual meetings to focus on evaluation and planning for the RN-to-BSN program.

Students:

- Students will mainly be recruited from graduates of the Navarro ADN program but registered nurses seeking a BSN program will be invited to enroll in the Navarro RN-to-BSN program through social meeting and website advertising.
- The initial enrollment plan is to admit an initial cohort of 35 students in the Fall of 2023 with a second cohort of 50 students in 2024. As the student enrollment increases, additional nursing faculty will be recruited.
- The curriculum is designed to be completed in three semesters (fall, spring, summer) with the student taking one to four courses per semester.

Program of Study:

- The RN-to-BSN Program is based upon the common mission of Navarro College and the philosophy of the Department of Nursing:
- *Navarro College provides educational opportunities that empower students to achieve their personal, academic, and career goals and that promote life-long learning for all communities served. As such, the Professional Department at Navarro College exists to meet the workforce and socioeconomic needs of the students and community we serve.*

The degree requirements will follow the Texas core curriculum requirements for the Bachelor's degree and will be based on the student having received an approved nursing education at the ADN level.

Records and Retention:

The RN-to-BSN program will follow the records retention policies at Navarro College.

Total Program Evaluation:

Since the program will be seeking national nursing accreditation from ACEN, the evaluation plan is based upon the accreditation format.

Plans for Nursing Accreditation:

Navarro College plans to seek national nursing accreditation from ACEN for the BSN program.

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