

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
Dallas College at Dallas, Texas**

Background:

- Senate Bill 2118 passed by the 85th(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.
- Fifteen applications/proposals have been received and processed by both agencies:
 1. Austin Community College in Austin, Texas;
 2. Grayson College in Denison, Texas;
 3. Collin College in McKinney, Texas;
 4. Laredo College in Laredo, Texas;
 5. South Texas College in McAllen, Texas;
 6. Lone Star College in The Woodlands, Texas;
 7. Weatherford College in Weatherford, Texas;
 8. Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas;
 9. San Jacinto College in Pasadena, Texas;
 10. San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas;
 11. Galveston College in Galveston, Texas.
 12. South Texas College, McAllen, Texas
 13. Trinity Valley Community College, Terrell, Texas
 14. College of the Mainland, Texas City, Texas; and
 15. Navarro College, Corsicana, Texas

Proposal from Dallas College in Dallas, Texas:

- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Program at DC in Dallas, Texas, was received in the Board office on August 24, 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 DC campus is based upon:

- Dallas hospitals' plans to achieve Magnet Status accreditation that requires at least 80% of the registered nursing staff to have a BSN.
- Community partners support for the establishment of the program.
- Requests from area hospitals for nursing professionals better prepared to care for Dallas County's diverse population with an emphasis on the Hispanic population. (The DC program will focus on cultural diversity to meet this need.)
- Data from the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies projecting a growing need for more RNs in the state.
- Survey data from current students who stated that they plan to complete a BSN degree with a preference to continue their education at DC.

A letter of administrative support was received by Board Staff in 2019 from the Chancellor, Dr. Joe May (Board of Regents designee) and Chief Financial Officer, Mr. George Herring, certifying that DC would adhere to THECB mandate that tuition fees remain at the ADN program tuition level. DC administration also certified that the institution has adequate funds to cover the costs for the program. In addition, community leaders provided letters of support for the RN-to-BSN program at DC (letters included in proposal).

Administration and Organization:

- DC, formerly the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD), consists of seven campuses: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake, and Richland. DCCCD was established in 1956 and opened the first campus at El Centro College in 1966, followed by Mountain View College in 1970, and Brookhaven College in 1978. Only three of the campuses have nursing programs: El Centro opened in 1966, Mountain View in 1970, and Brookhaven in 1978. All colleges have achieved separate Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) regional accreditations.
- The board of trustees opted to pursue a single accreditation, that would eliminate inconsistencies and duplication across the college campuses. In 2022 the seven campuses merged and became DC.
- DC nursing faculty collaborated to develop a single nursing curriculum for all three campuses and received approval from the Texas Board of Nursing on January 7, 2022, and from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) on May 6, 2022.
- The nursing program is in the process of "teaching out" the old curriculum and accepted their first class of ADN students under the new curriculum in September 2022 with an anticipated graduation date for the first cohort in May 2024. Once the "teach out" is completed, the students from all three campuses will graduate under a single NCSBN NCLEX examination code.
- The proposed new RN-to-BSN program will provide an affordable, convenient opportunity for Dallas ADN RN's to obtain a BSN. Dallas County residents pay \$79.00 per credit hours, or \$948 for a full-semester load of 12 credit hours.

- The NCLEX-RN® examination pass rate for the three ADN programs for the past three years is provided in the table below:

	2021 pass rate/candidates	2020 pass rate/candidates	2019 pass rate/candidates
Brookhaven	73.44% (47/64)	86.96% (80/92)	94.03% (63/67)
El Centro	87.06% (74/85)	90.43% (85/94)	91.89% (136/148)
Mountain View	96.67%% (58/60)	100% (37/37)	94.74% (36/38)
Dallas College (merged) Combined Pass Rate	85.72%		

Leadership:

- Juanita Zapata Flint, PhD, APRN, FNP-C will serve as the Founding Dean of the RN-to-BSN Program at DC.
- 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 Vice Provost, Dr. Shawnda Floyd.
- Dr. Flint has served 24 years as a faculty in an ADN program; and has experience as adjunct faculty in BSN and FNP graduate programs for the past 6 years.

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

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Faculty:

- DC faculty with doctoral degrees will be reassigned to begin teaching in the RN-to-BSN program.
- Once the RN-to-BSN program has an enrollment of 60 students, new qualified faculty will be specifically recruited and hired for the RN-to-BSN program.

Faculty responsibilities include classroom and lab instruction, and supervision of students in the clinical areas. Student will also select a qualified preceptor for the clinical experience. Program faculty will be involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum and in the 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 specifically be recruited from graduates of the DC ADN program but other registered nurses seeking a BSN program will be invited to enroll in the DC RN-to-BSN program through social media and website advertising.
- The initial enrollment plan is to admit an initial cohort of 60 students in the Spring 2023 with a second cohort of 60 students in Fall 2023. As the student enrollment increases, additional nursing faculty will be recruited. This number is based on the consolidation of the three nursing programs into one college.

Program of Study:

- The RN-to-BSN Program is based upon the common mission and the philosophy of Dallas: To prepare the registered nurse to function in a dynamic health care community to deliver safe, high quality, evidenced-based and culturally sensitive nursing care to diverse individuals, families, and populations, with an emphasis on improving health outcomes within complex healthcare systems.

The degree requirements will follow the Texas core curriculum requirements for the Baccalaureate 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 Dallas 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:

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

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