

**Report of Application of a New Baccalaureate Degree Nursing Education Program
in a Public Junior College
San Antonio College in San Antonio, 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 San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas:

- San Antonio College was established in September 1925 as a University Junior College with the support of the University of Texas. In 1967, San Antonio College began operation of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Education Program with the first graduating class in 1969. The college has successfully produced thousands of nurses for the Texas workforce.
- A proposal to establish a Registered Nurse (RN) to Baccalaureate Degree Nursing (BSN) Bridge Program at San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas, was received in the Board office on February 13, 2020. It was reviewed by Virginia D. Ayars, EdD, MS, RN, CNE, and Janice Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, ANEF, and found to be in compliance with Rule 215.

- San Antonio 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 80.65% and 82.78% for the past three years. Eve M. Rodriguez, PhD, RN, will serve as the Director of the RN to BSN Bridge Program.
- The primary reasons and purpose for San Antonio College to offer the RN to BSN Bridge Program are to:
 - address the growing nursing shortage in the region;
 - meet the needs of acute care facilities in the San Antonio area to hire BSN prepared nurses;
 - assist San Antonio College alumni in their quest to pursue an advanced degree in nursing; and
 - provide an affordable pathway to the BSN in a familiar, convenient environment.
- Four current full-time doctorally prepared faculty members will teach in the RN to BSN Bridge Program. The Faculty Handbook offers a separate section for RN to BSN Program faculty. Policies and processes are applicable for all faculty members, pre and post-licensure.
- The RN to BSN Bridge Program plans to enroll one cohort of 20 to 30 students in the 2020-2021 academic year. Following admission of the initial cohort, the intent is to admit at least half of the graduates of the San Antonio College ADN Program. Graduates of other ADN Programs will also be considered for admission. The RN to BSN Bridge Program is designed to be completed in one year of full-time study.
- No new facilities are needed for the RN to BSN Bridge Program, as it will be located in the Nursing and Allied Health Complex (NAHC) Building on the San Antonio College campus. The NAHC Building provides eight contemporary classrooms and each seats 40 students; two classrooms have distance-education capabilities. A state-of-the-art skills and simulation laboratory is also available in the NAHC Building. The 11,000 sq. ft. simulation lab contains two complete nursing units, including nurses' stations, medication rooms, delivery rooms, treatment rooms, and private as well as ward patient care areas.
- The 120 semester credit hour (SCH) RN to BSN Bridge Program includes 30 SCH of upper-division nursing courses. The hybrid program is designed to be completed in sequence in that specific courses based on the prerequisites must be completed prior to advancing to the next semester, thus using simple to complex concepts. The BSN courses include nursing research, leadership, and community health nursing.
- The RN to BSN Bridge Program's conceptual framework differs from the San Antonio College ADN Program in that the Bridge Program encompasses leadership, community, research, and information technology. The proposal sets forth that these courses are vital in BSN education as the BSN prepared nurse is charged to serve as a leader, to identify

problems, and to develop solutions according to evidence-based practice and safety guidelines.

- Three courses have clinical components that are designed for students to apply and practice theoretical concepts: *Health Assessment Across the Lifespan, Leadership and Management, and Community and Public Health*. 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. San Antonio College plans to pursue candidacy for ACEN accreditation of the program.
- As the San Antonio College RN to BSN Bridge Program proposal meets the requirements of Board Rule 215, Board Staff recommended approval of the program to THECB.
- THECB is currently reviewing the application to approve the San Antonio College RN to BSN Bridge Program.

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