

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Program
Ranger College in Brownwood, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Ranger College proposal to establish a new associate degree nursing program in Brownwood, Texas, and the report of survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was sent to members of the Board under separate cover. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Ranger College is a public two-year college, serving a six (6) county area in North Central Texas.
- The college occupies a fifty acre campus within the city limits of Ranger, Texas.
- Ranger College has been in operation since 1926, making it one of the oldest two-year colleges in Texas.
- The college has a current enrollment of 1,595 students, and classes are offered at numerous off-campus locations, including Early, Brownwood, and Stephenville, Texas.
- The college offers twelve (12) certificates of completion and four (4) associate degrees.
- Ranger College has operated a vocational nursing (VN) program since 1975 when Cisco Junior College transferred administrative control of the Graham Branch of their vocational nursing program to Ranger College
- A letter of intent to establish an associate degree program was received from Ranger College in August 2009.
- Marnita Guinn, PhD(c), RN, prospective director of the new ADN program with twelve (12) years of experience in prelicensure nursing education, has been working with board staff in proposal development.
- The first draft of the proposal was received in the board office in April 2010.
- A site visit was conducted on September 16, 2010.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- Ranger College is proposing to establish a new single-entry associate degree nursing (ADN) program.
- The program of study will include seventy-two (72) semester hours of course work. The pre-nursing sequence of prerequisite courses will be completed prior to admission to the program. The professional nursing sequence of courses will be taken during the two (2) year, four (4) semester program following acceptance into the nursing program.
- A first cohort of thirty (30) students is planned to enroll for January 2011 with a new cohort of forty (40) students enrolled in the second year, and fifty (50) students each subsequent year.
- The graduation date for the first cohort will be December 2012.
- Classes will be conducted in a traditional classroom setting with clinical experiences in nearby health care facilities.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- There are no professional nursing programs within a sixty-five (65) mile radius of Ranger College. Currently, there are two (2) vocational nursing programs in the area; Ranger College operates a VN program at the Early and Comanche campuses, and Texas State Technical Institute (TSTC) operates an LVN to RN program in Brownwood.

- The Brownwood area is home to numerous acute care, long term care and community health care facilities that are eager to hire graduates of this program.
- A survey of clinical facilities indicate available clinical space will support additional student clinical groups without negative effects on students currently receiving clinical education there.
- Letters of support from community leaders in the Brownwood and surrounding communities demonstrate support for the proposed nursing program.
- Two representatives from Brownwood Regional Medical Center (BRMC) were present during the survey visit, and voiced strong support and enthusiasm for the new program.

Administration and Organization:

- Ranger College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- During Spring 2009 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) authorized Ranger College to develop an ADN program.
- The proposed nursing program has the full support of Ranger College administration.

Financial Support and Resources

- The president and administration have pledged their commitment to nursing as a priority of the college, and budget allocations have been generous and flexible.
- A full range of student and academic services is available to Ranger College students.

Availability of Clinical Sites:

- Ranger College has established a partnership with Brownwood Regional Medical Center (BRMC); the hospital is providing a wide array of clinical opportunities as well as a spacious, state of the art, fully-equipped skills lab for the nursing program.
- Other clinical facilities have indicated their ability to provide clinical experiences for students enrolled in this program.
- Signed clinical agreements and a letter of support are included in the proposal.
- Ranger College has entered into a partnership with another nursing program in the region, Texas State Technical Institute (TSTC), and plans to work cooperatively in sharing resources, skills labs, and scheduling clinical learning experiences in commonly-used facilities.

Availability of Faculty:

- The prospective director was hired in November 2009 to begin the program.
- Forty-two (42) qualified individuals have expressed interest in faculty positions.
- Two (2) core full-time faculty have been identified to begin the program
- One (1) to two (2) adjunct faculty will be hired as clinical teaching assistants or clinical instructors.

Applicant Pool:

- The potential student population will be recruited through the Department of Admissions of Ranger College.
- Students at Ranger College as well as graduates of the Ranger VN program will be considered a rich applicant pool, and will be offered a seamless articulation to transfer into the nursing program.
- Other methods of recruitment include health and job fairs as well as local media campaigns targeting area hospitals and high schools.

Faculty and Student Handbooks:

- A faculty handbook and a student handbook for the new program have been developed and reviewed by board staff.

Curriculum:

- The integrated curriculum is based on sound educational principles, and focuses on students' achievement of the essential competencies for entry into professional nursing practice as identified by the Differentiated Entry-Level Competencies (DELIC), American Nurses Association (ANA) Standards of Professional Practice, and the Texas Board of Nursing (BON).

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- Representatives from Ranger College and BRMC expressed enthusiasm regarding expected benefits as a result of their partnership; BRMC is providing the fully equipped skills lab as well as the majority of the clinical experiences for the nursing program, and the nursing program will provide a pipeline for new nurses in the community.
- A projected rotation schedule for the first year of clinicals is included in the appendices of the proposal.
- All skills laboratory clinical learning experiences will be conducted at the Nursing Education Center in Brownwood.

Student Support Services:

- Comprehensive student support services are available for students on the campus.

Records and Reports:

- Adequate provisions for records and reports have been included.
- Student academic records will be managed and controlled by the Registrar's office.
- Department of Nursing records and reports will be kept locked in fire-proof filing cabinets in the locked storage room of the Office of the Nursing Program Coordinator.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The Total Evaluation Plan provides all required elements.
- Numerical benchmarks will need to be included/revised as data is collected after the program is implemented.

SUMMARY OF SITE VISIT:

- Marnita Guinn, PhD(c), RN provided an extensive tour of the Ranger College campus to Board visitors. President and Vice-President of the college, Dr. William Campion and Dr. Don Bostic respectively, voiced strong support for the proposed nursing program to Board visitors. The tour of the current classrooms and administrative offices provided additional information to Board staff.
- A report of the survey visit is included in this document.

PROS AND CONS:

Pros:

- Ranger College has been diligent in its efforts to formulate an exemplary proposal to establish a new associate degree nursing program addressing all requirements and receive approval from the Board. The college has responded in a timely manner to all questions and recommendations presented by Board staff.
- A highly qualified director and at least two (2) highly qualified core faculty have been identified for the proposed program.
- Excellent clinical facilities for clinical learning experiences and a state of the art skills lab have been secured for the program.
- Adequate budget projections to operate the program and acquire the necessary facilities, resources and services were included in the proposal.
- The proposal includes innovative models of nursing education such as the partnerships with Brownwood Regional Medical Center (BRMC) and Texas State Technical Institute (TSTC) for shared resources, and clinical placements.

Cons:

- None identified.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to grant initial approval for Ranger College Associate Degree Nursing Program in Brownwood, Texas to establish a new professional nursing program based upon the proposal and findings from the survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #3).

**Report of Survey Visit
Ranger College
New Associate Degree Nursing Program
Brownwood, TX.**

**TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT**

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Ranger College in Brownwood, Texas

DEAN OR DIRECTOR: Proposed Director: Marnita Guinn, PhDc, RN

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Program Survey

DATE: September 16, 2010

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC; Virginia D. Ayars, MS, RN

In this report the nursing program met standards and criteria unless otherwise indicated by narrative. Narrative in the Evidence column documents findings of pertinent data, outstanding performance, or deficiencies. Narrative in the Comments column includes recommendations or requirements to be met based on analysis of the survey visit

STANDARD/CRITERIA	EVIDENCE	COMMENTS
§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services		
(a) The controlling agency/governing institution shall be responsible for providing: (1) educational facilities, (2) resources, and (3) services which support the effective development and implementation of the nursing education program.	Strong administrative support was evident during the survey visit. Visitors met with the college president, Dr. William Campion and vice-president, Dr. Don Bostic.	Criteria met.

<p>(e) The learning resources, library, and departmental holdings shall be current, use contemporary technology appropriate for the level of the curriculum, and be sufficient for the size of the student body and the needs of the faculty.</p> <p>(1) Provisions shall be made for accessibility, availability, and timely delivery of information resources.</p> <p>(2) Facilities and policies shall promote effective use, i.e. environment, accessibility, and hours of operation.</p>	<p>Visitors discussed plans for the nursing department's virtual and traditional library with the nursing director.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
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§215.12 Records and Reports		
<p>(a) Accurate and current records shall be maintained for a minimum of two (2) years in a confidential manner and be accessible to appropriate parties, including Board representatives. These records shall include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>(1) records of current students;</p> <p>(2) faculty records;</p> <p>(3) administrative records, which include minutes of faculty meetings for the past three years, and school catalogs;</p> <p>(4) the current program of study and curriculum including mission and goals (philosophy and outcomes), and course outlines;</p> <p>(5) agreements with affiliating agencies; and</p> <p>(6) the master plan of evaluation with most recent data collection.</p>	<p>Both electronic and hard copy maintenance and storage of documents were discussed during the survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(b) Record forms may be developed by an individual school.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(c) Hospital employment forms are not to be used for student records.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(d) Records shall be safely stored to prevent loss, destruction, or unauthorized use.</p>	<p>See (a) above.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>(e) Copies of the program's Texas Board of Nursing Educational Program Information Survey (NEPIS), Compliance Audit of the Nursing Educational Program (CANEP), and important Board communication shall be maintained as appropriate.</p>	<p>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>

BOARD OF NURSING FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
for
Consideration of a Proposal from Ranger College
To Establish An
Associate Degree Nursing Program
in Brownwood, Texas

Date and Time: October 21, 2010 at 2:15 PM
Place: Hobby Building
333 Guadalupe Street
Tower 2, Room 225
Austin, Texas

The Board will hear testimony from individuals who wish to present information concerning the proposal.
Written testimony will also be considered and should be received in the Board's office by October 7, 2010.

Address written testimony to:
Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director
Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942

October 22, 2010

Marnita Guinn, PhD(c), RN
Director, Associate Degree Nursing Program
Ranger College
300 Early Blvd.
Ste.105
Early, TX. 76803

Dear Ms. Guinn:

At the October 21-22, 2010 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Ranger College Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Program in Brownwood, Texas, and the report of the September 16, 2010 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and Dr. William Campion for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, the Board takes pleasure in informing you that based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval to Ranger College in Brownwood, Texas, and allow admission of students beginning in January 2011. The program has Board approval to implement the program with an initial enrollment of a cohort of thirty (30) students and a cohort of forty (40) the second year of the program.

We wish you success with the program. If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact board staff at 512-463-4631.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP
President

Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC
Nursing Consultant for Education

Copy: Dr. William Campion, President of Ranger College

**Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460
Austin, Texas 78701-3942**

BEFORE THE BOARD OF NURSING
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

In the matter of the proposal of Ranger College

For approval to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO: Ranger College in Brownwood, Texas

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 21st day of October 2010, considered the proposal for authority to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Kristin K. Benton, RN, MSN, Representing LVN Education
Patricia "Patti" Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MSN, RN, Representing RN Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing RN Practice
Blanca Rosa Garcia, PhD, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing LVN Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member

The Board reviewed the proposal of the above school and after having discussed the proposal in an open public meeting, the Board makes the following findings:

Findings:

1. That a written proposal has been filed with said Board.
2. That a public meeting on said proposal was held to take testimony and evidence by the Board.
3. That the written proposal does meet the minimum requirements for proceeding with the development of an approved associate degree nursing program offering.

ORDER

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, the proposal of Ranger College in Brownwood, Texas, is approved, having been found to comply with minimum requirements for establishing an Associate Degree Nursing Program to prepare professional nurses.

DATED THIS 21st day of October, 2010.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____

Linda R. Rounds, PhD, RN, FNP

President