

Baccalaureate
Degree Programs
at Public Junior
Colleges



Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Types of Awards

- Baccalaureate of degree programs are limited to the following program areas:
 - Applied Science*
 - Applied Technology
 - Nursing (Bachelors of Science in Nursing)

* Allows for a program with an emphasis in early childhood education

Baccalaureate Degree Program Limits

- Public community colleges previously authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees can offer a maximum of five degree programs (Brazosport College, Midland College, South Texas College, and Tyler Junior College)
- All other colleges meeting all requirements, may not offer more than three baccalaureate degree programs at any time.

Planning Timeline

- Program application template available online by August 31, 2017.
- Draft rules shared with interested stakeholders by August 31, 2017.
- Rules posted for comment in the Texas Register by September 14, 2017.
- Considered by the Board in January 2018.
- By statute, the Coordinating Board has one year to consider a new program application.



Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board

**Baccalaureate Degree
Requirements Applicable
to all Programs**

Baccalaureate Degree Requirements Applicable to all Programs

The Coordinating Board is required to apply *the same criteria and standards* used to approve baccalaureate degree programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units when considering community college proposals for baccalaureate degrees.

Baccalaureate Degree Standards and Criteria

- General Requirements defined in TAC 5.45 and *Standards for Baccalaureate and Master's Degree Programs*:
 - must not unnecessarily duplicate a program at another institution.
 - a demonstrated or well-documented need for the program in terms of meeting present and future workforce needs of the state and nation, including a ready job market.
 - must contain the institution's approved Core Curriculum .
 - the number of SCHs for the degree shall be comparable to the number the SCHs required for similar degrees in the state. The minimum number of SCHs is 120.

Baccalaureate Degree Standards and Criteria (cont.)

- faculty resources must be adequate to provide high program quality. With few exceptions, the master's degree should be the minimum educational attainment for faculty teaching in baccalaureate
- 25 percent of faculty supporting the program shall have terminal degrees. Core faculty shall be devoted specifically to the proposed program.
- a sufficient *number of core and support faculty* to teach the *scope of the discipline*, consistent with *similar programs in the state and nation*, core faculty should be *devoted specifically to the proposed program*.

Baccalaureate Degree Standards and Criteria (cont.)

- there should be *adequate financing available to initiate the program without reducing funds for existing programs*. After the start-up period, the program *must be able to generate sufficient semester credit hours under funding formulas to pay faculty salaries, departmental operating costs, and instructional administration costs* for the program.

Baccalaureate Degree Standards and Criteria (cont.)

- *library resources* must meet the *requirements of accrediting body or other professional association* and be adequate to support the program.
- *faculty and library staff shall collaborate on writing a collection development policy for the program and on purchasing core collection materials.*

Baccalaureate Degree Standards and Criteria (cont.)

- revenues shall cover the incremental costs of operating the program. *New formula funding shall not be considered as a funding source for the first two years of the program and shall not exceed 50 percent of all funding for the program for years three through five.*
- *board approval is required* if estimated program costs to the institution *exceed \$2,000,000 for the first five years* of the program.



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Baccalaureate Degree
Requirements Applicable
to
Public Community Colleges

Factors to Consider

- SB 2118 states in addition to meeting the same *standards and criteria* of general academic institutions and medical and dental units, that before a public junior college can be authorized to offer a baccalaureate degree program the Coordinating Board must consider these factors:
 - *workforce need for the degree program in the region*
 - *how the proposed degree would complement the other programs and course offerings of the public junior college*
 - *success of current associate degree programs in the same field*
 - *if the new program would unnecessarily duplicate existing programs*
 - *student enrollment demand*
 - *the adequacy of facilities, faculty, libraries, administration, and other resources*

Financial Requirements

- community college district must have a taxable property valuation amount of *not less than \$6 billion in the most recent year* as determined by the county's appraisal district.
- received a *positive assessment of the overall financial health* of the district for the *most recent period* as reported by the Coordinating Board.
- a report to the Coordinating Board outlining *the long-term financial plan* for receiving accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges of the (SACSCOC).

Other Criteria and Standards

- Before a new program can be authorized a public junior college must submit a report:
 - *detailing a long-term plan for faculty recruitment, that indicates the ability to pay increased salaries of doctoral prepared faculty*
 - *ensuring the program would not cannibalize faculty from neighboring institutions*
 - *specifying information on mode of course delivery*

Existing Program Capacity

- The Coordinating Board is specifically prohibited from approving new programs if existing programs have capacity to meet the *workforce* needs of the field.
 - each public junior college *must submit at least three articulation agreements for each proposed program* with general academic teaching institutions or medical dental units agreements that provide *information and regarding existing transfer pathways, including dual credit, and the current capacity of the program.*
 - If agreements are not available, *explain why the program will not be offered by the four-year college, or why the current capacity of the existing program will not be expanded.*

Teach Out Agreements

- Public junior colleges must enter into an articulation agreement for the *first five years of offering a baccalaureate degree program* with one or more general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental units to *ensure students have an opportunity to complete the degree program if the community college ceases to offer the degree*.
- The *Coordinating Board shall prescribe procedures* to guide public junior colleges in *informing each student who enrolls in the baccalaureate degree program* of the articulation agreements with other colleges.

Reporting

- Each public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program under this subchapter *shall conduct a review of each baccalaureate degree program offered and prepare a biennial report* on the operation, *quality, and effectiveness* of the junior degree programs *in a format specified by the board.*
- A copy of the report shall be delivered to the coordinating board by *January 1 of each odd numbered year.*



Additional Requirements
Applicable to
Bachelors of Science in
Nursing Programs
at Public Community Colleges

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Requirements for Bachelors of Science in Nursing Programs

- In determining if a public junior college may offer a baccalaureate degree program in nursing, the *Coordinating Board must*:
 - *require the public junior college to provide evidence to the Coordinating Board and the Texas Board of Nursing that the public junior college has secured adequate long-term clinical space.*
 - *receive documentation from each clinical site provider indicating that the clinical site has not refused a similar request from a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit.*
 - *establish that the corresponding associate degree nursing program offered by the public junior college has been successful as indicated by job placement rates and licensing exam scores.*

Requirements for Bachelors of Science in Nursing Programs

- the *program must meet the standards and criteria* the *Texas Board of Nursing* uses to approve *pre-licensure degree programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units* **regardless** of whether the program is a *pre-licensure or post-licensure program*.
- be *accredited by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education*.

Requirements for Bachelors of Science in Nursing Programs

- a public junior college offering a *baccalaureate degree program in the field of nursing* **must demonstrate** to the Coordinating Board that it will maintain or exceed the 2016-2017 academic year enrollment level of the institution's associate degree nursing program each academic year until the 2021-2022 academic year.

Funding for New Colleges approved to offer Baccalaureate degrees

- *contact hours attributable* to students enrolled *in a junior-level or senior-level course* will be funded in the *same manner as a lower division course in a corresponding field*.
- **may not charge a student enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program tuition and fees in an amount that exceeds** the amount of tuition and fees charged by the junior college to a similarly situated student who is enrolled in an associate degree program in a corresponding field.

Colleges Previously Authorized to offer Baccalaureate Degrees

- *a public junior college shall receive substantially the same state support for junior-level and senior-level courses in the fields of applied science, applied technology, dental hygiene, and nursing as that provided to a general academic teaching institution for substantially similar courses.*
- the tuition and fee limitations do not apply

Things to Consider

In addition to the Coordinating Board requirements for Baccalaureate degree programs, SACSCOC imposes additional requirements (e.g. 25 percent of the semester credit hours must be upper division).

BSN programs require Coordinating Board, SACSCOC, Texas Board of Nursing, and program accreditation approval.

By statute, the Coordinating Board has one year to consider a new program application.

Questions

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