

Second Report on the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at Tyler Junior College

**A Report to the Texas Legislature
House Bill 3348, 84th Texas Legislature**

DRAFT

October 2018

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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for Texas higher education and to promote access, affordability, quality, success, and cost efficiency through *60x30TX*, resulting in a globally competitive workforce that positions Texas as an international leader.

Agency Vision

The THECB will be recognized as an international leader in developing and implementing innovative higher education policy to accomplish our mission.

Agency Philosophy

The THECB will promote access to and success in quality higher education across the state with the conviction that access and success without quality is mediocrity and that quality without access and success is unacceptable.

The THECB's core values are:

Accountability: We hold ourselves responsible for our actions and welcome every opportunity to educate stakeholders about our policies, decisions, and aspirations.

Efficiency: We accomplish our work using resources in the most effective manner.

Collaboration: We develop partnerships that result in student success and a highly qualified, globally competent workforce.

Excellence: We strive for excellence in all our endeavors.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

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Background

House Bill 3348

The 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, passed House Bill (HB) 3348, "An Act relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs." Effective June 19, 2015, HB 3348 amended Section 130.0012 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), which authorizes baccalaureate degree programs at public junior colleges. The bill directed the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to "establish a pilot project to examine the feasibility and effectiveness of authorizing baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene at a public junior college that offers a degree program in that field, has a main campus located in the county seat of a county with a population greater than 200,000, and includes territory in at least six public school districts located in two counties."

HB 3348 also charged the THECB to prepare a progress report on the pilot project no later than January 1, 2017, and to provide another report on the effectiveness of the pilot project, including any recommendations for legislative action regarding the offering of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene by a public junior college, no later than January 1, 2019. The THECB is required to "deliver a copy of each report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chair of the standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education."

The THECB submitted the first report, *Progress Report on the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene at Tyler Junior College*, to the Governor and the Chairs of the House and Senate Higher Education Committees on August 25, 2016. The progress report described the proposal process for the bachelor's degree in dental hygiene at Tyler Junior College (TJC), and included information submitted directly by TJC about the operations of the program, including student recruitment and admissions, enrollment, program administration, faculty, facilities, and instruction. Due to the recent implementation of the dental hygiene program, the initial progress report did not include assessments or recommendations.

Proposal Process

On December 3, 2015, the Academic Quality and Workforce (AQW) division of the THECB received planning notification from TJC about its intention to apply for a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. On February 5, 2016, TJC submitted a request for a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in dental hygiene. AQW staff reviewed the request, and based on the materials submitted, staff issued an approval letter for a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) in dental hygiene to TJC on April 1, 2016. In subsequent communications with the AQW division, TJC indicated a strong preference for a BS degree designation rather than a BAAS, and the institution provided a rationale and evidence for this preference. Accordingly, the AQW division issued a second approval letter on July 15, 2016, authorizing TJC to create a BS degree program in dental hygiene.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the pilot project has been effective. The TJC dental hygiene program is offered in both one-year and two-year tracks, with total tuition and fees costs for in-district students estimated at \$5,530 for the one-year track and \$5,616 for the two-year track. TJC has admitted 22 students and graduated 13 since fall 2016, when the program began operation. Eleven of the 13 graduates are now employed at a dental practice. The program has a department chair, a program coordinator, and two full-time faculty.

However, the statutory environment has changed considerably since the passage of HB 3348. Given that baccalaureate programs at community colleges are no longer a pilot project, examining the “the feasibility and effectiveness of authorizing baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene at a public junior college” is no longer necessary. Community colleges that meet the criteria set in statute may request authority to offer bachelor’s degrees in dental hygiene at their own discretion. Accordingly, the THECB has no recommendations for legislative action regarding the offering of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene by a public junior or community college.

Second Report from Tyler Junior College

AQW staff contacted TJC and invited the institution to submit a second report on the implementation of the BS degree in dental hygiene. The college’s report is provided, unedited and in its entirety, as Appendix A.

Appendix A
TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE
SECOND REPORT ON BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL
HYGIENE DEGREE
Submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
June 25, 2018

BACKGROUND

Tyler Junior College (TJC) received approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and was authorized to create a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program in July 2016. The College's new pilot program began in fall 2016.

In fulfillment of HB 3348 requirements, TJC submitted a progress report on the BSDH pilot program to the THECB in June 2016. Per HB 3348, "not later than January 1, 2017, the coordinating board shall prepare a progress report on the pilot project established under Subsection (b-1). Not later than January 1, 2019, the coordinating board shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of the pilot project, including any recommendations for legislative action regarding the offering of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of dental hygiene by a public junior college. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of each report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chair of the standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education."

Although SB 2118 (85th Legislature) removed the pilot status of the baccalaureate in dental hygiene offered by TJC and extended its authorization to January 1, 2020, this June 2018 follow-up, effectiveness report is being submitted to the THECB to demonstrate the success of the College's program.

Contributions to this report were made by the following: Carrie Hobbs (Professor/Department Chair - Dental Studies), Julie Mettlen (Professor - Professor/Program Coordinator – Bachelor Degree Completion, Dental Hygiene), Devon Wiggins (Director - Financial Aid and Enrollment Support), Carol Hutson (Executive Director, Business Services), Billie Anderson (Director, Curriculum Development), Dr. Lisa Harper (Dean - Curriculum and Compliance), and Dr. Juan Mejia (President for Branch Locations & District Provost).

STUDENT INFORMATION

Admissions Requirements

TJC is an open admissions institution of higher education and promotes access and opportunity for students. Some programs, however, require a selective admissions process; students must complete a *Selective Admissions Program Application* to be considered for admission to any TJC selective admissions program. All applicants to Selective Admissions programs must meet certain minimum requirements and standards, including but not limited to:

- Admission to the College;
- Reading, writing and math abilities (TSI completion);
- Prior educational achievement;

- Negative criminal background check; and
- A clear drug screening evaluation.

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program at TJC is considered a Selective Admissions Program. The *Selective Admissions Program Application* as well as the *Apply Texas* website have been updated to include BSDH as a possible major selection.

To be considered for admission to the BSDH, applicants must:

- Hold an Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene earned from a program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
- Be licensed or eligible for licensure as a dental hygienist;
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and
- Complete and submit the BSDH Admissions packet.

Enrollment in the BSDH program is limited due to a maximum class size of 24 students; currently, qualified applicants are selected on a first come first served basis until class size is met. Students may either have already completed a 42-hour core curriculum at another institution or may complete it at TJC. It has become apparent through student interviewing that an open enrollment period is more beneficial for interested students rather than the original plan to admit students one time each year.

Transfer Credit

TJC is eligible to receive transfer credit from other entities toward the completion of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) completion degree in accordance with the *Texas Administrative Code (TAC)*. Certain stipulations apply. To be accepted, any transfer Associate of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene must be from a program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Incomplete general education requirements (fewer than the state mandated 42-hour core curriculum) are evaluated on a course-by-course basis.

The baccalaureate degree does not change TJC's published policies for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit through transfer and non-traditional credit. These policies are consistent with TJC's mission to provide a quality education.

Recruitment Efforts

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program is promoted through a link on the TJC Department of Dental Studies webpage, as well as notification of the program on several dental hygiene educational and professional organization social media pages and websites.

Additional accomplishments include the following recruitment efforts:

- A one-page marketing fact sheet was created for distribution at events where the program can be promoted. This fact sheet demonstrates how the program enhances and advances the associate degree in dental hygiene.
- A standing banner was created for display at any event where the program can be promoted.
- TJC Academic Advisors are consistently updated on the 3rd year option for AAS Dental Hygiene applicants.
- The BSDH program is listed in the Road Piece and View Book for College recruiting advisors.

- The program is represented and promoted at local, state, and national events including the following venues:
 - TJC New Student Orientation;
 - A variety of TJC student activities throughout the year;
 - Orientation for incoming AAS Dental Hygiene students;
 - Guest speaker presentations to the Introduction to Health Profession classes;
 - Local, state and national oral health professional organization meetings, conferences, and continuing education courses.

Plans for future recruitment include the following efforts:

- Representation and promotion of the TJC BSDH Degree Completion program at 3-day Southwest Dental conference as an exhibitor;
- Small recruiting rack card to include in conference materials for quick reference information;
- Representation at local dental hygiene professional organization meetings;
- Representation at dental continuing education course offerings.

Tuition and Fees

The BSDH program is offered in one-year and two-year tracks. Information for tuition and fees associated with the program is provided in the tables below. As reflected in the tables, the in-district tuition and fees for students in the one-year track had a modest increase of \$60.00 from the 2016-2017 to the 2017-2018 academic year. In addition, the in-district tuition and fees for students in the two-year track had a modest increase of \$116.00 from the 2016-2018 to the 2017-2019 academic year.

2016-2017	One-Year Track
In District	\$5470
Out of District	\$7174
2017-2018	One-Year Track
In District	\$5530
Out of District	\$7270
2016-2018	Two-Year Track
In District	\$5500
Out of District	\$7222
2017-2019	Two-Year Track
In District	\$5616
Out of District	\$7362

Program Graduates

Since the program’s inception in fall 2016, 22 students have been admitted to the BSDH completion degree program. There are a total of 13 graduates: 3 in 2017 and 10 in 2018. Currently, 2 additional

students are projected to graduate in summer 2018. Presently, there are 4 new applicants and 2 returning students (these students were a part of the inaugural class and took a break to work on core classes) enrolled in the program for fall 2018.

The placement of graduates in the BSDH program has been successful. The following tables provide the name and location of employers for de-identified graduates, by year, in the program:

2017 Placement of Graduates

Student	Employer	Employer Address
S001	Bullard Road Dental	5615 Old Bullard Rd., Tyler, TX
S002	Merrick Roche, DDS Steven Puffer, DMD	1502 S John Redditt Dr., Lufkin, TX 1211 Park St., Nacogdoches, TX

2018 Placement of Graduates

Student	Employer	Employer Address
S003	Dentistry for Children	1634 Jackson St., Jacksonville, TX
S004	St. Paul's Dental Clinic	132 S. Horace St., Tyler, TX
S005	St. Paul's Dental Clinic	132 S. Horace St., Tyler, TX
S006	Crestway Park Dental	208 Crestway St., Athens, TX
S007	Love Cosmetic & General Dentistry	215 S. Washington Ave., Marshall, TX
S008	Paluxy Dental Group	3201 Paluxy Dr., Tyler, TX
S009	Platinum Dental Kitt Dental	2020 Lindburgh Lane; Tyler, TX 10752 FM 2813, Flint, TX
S010	Travis Markle, DDS	1120 E Front St., Tyler, TX
S011	Quinlan Family Dentistry	9011 TX-34 Suite A, Quinlan, TX

Student Debt

TJC has documented and monitored the average student debt upon graduation, by year, for the BSDH program. Student debt accumulated at TJC in general and for the program is quite reasonable as shown in the tables below.

Graduation Year	2017
Student Loans at TJC	\$9,083
Student Loans at TJC in BSDH Program	\$3,246

Graduation Year	2018
Student Loans at TJC	\$5,854
Student Loans at TJC in BSDH Program	\$2,821

The College has also tracked the total cumulative student debt average for students in the BSDH program. The cumulative debt of a student begins when he or she first enters a college and borrows funds to finance an award. This figure can be quite misleading unless it is understood that the debt follows the student from college to college and program to program until the completion of an award. For 2017, the total cumulative student debt average for students (N=3) in the BSDH program is \$14,788 and for 2018, the total cumulative student debt average for students (N=10) is \$5,854. The total cumulative student debt average for students in the BSDH program for 2017 versus 2018 is drastically different because one student brought a significant amount of debt from a previous institution.

BSDH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Organization
Academic Affairs

Under the direction of the President for Branch Locations & District Provost, the Division of Academic/Student Affairs facilitates the excellence of teaching and learning at TJC. Primary responsibility for the coordination of credit programs, as well as curriculum development and review, is assigned to school deans who are academically qualified in the field. The Dean of Nursing and Health Sciences has direct oversight over the BSDH program. He meets requirements from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges as a faculty member in a discipline within his school and has experience as an instructional leader.

Educational Programs

TJC defines an educational program as any course of study that leads to a degree or a stand-alone certificate. The Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene AAS and BSDH programs are assigned to the Department of Dental Studies within the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Program Coordination

Since TJC organizes its faculty and instruction by departments, in many cases the department chair is the person responsible for coordination of a degree program and its curriculum. In other cases, a faculty member with the proper academic credentials serves that function and is designated as a “coordinator” or “lead instructor.” Responsibility for program coordination, curriculum development and review, including coordination of all off- campus sites and distance learning offerings, appears on department chair job descriptions. In addition to the Department Chair of Dental Studies, a Program Coordinator for the BSDH program is assigned to assist with administrative duties.

The department chairs/coordinators of degree and certificate programs must meet the same academic qualifications required of faculty in general. The Department Chair of Dental Studies and the Program Coordinator for BSDH are qualified for their respective roles by educational background and/or professional experience.

Faculty Credentials

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Faculty

All full-time faculty members who teach upper-level Dental Hygiene completion degree program courses are required to have:

- Current Texas licensure as a Dental Hygienist;
- Baccalaureate or associate’s degree in Dental Hygiene from a program accredited through the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA);
- Demonstrated work-related experience;
- Master’s degree in Dental Hygiene; or
- Master’s degree with a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in an appropriate combination of administration, dental hygiene, education, education foundation, health sciences, leadership, public health, research, statistics/measurement, and supervision.

Any adjunct faculty not meeting the same criteria as the full-time faculty must hold a Master’s degree or higher, plus demonstrated academic or work experience credentials specific to course content area.

Current Faculty

In addition to the department chair whose role is primarily administrative, two current full-time professors with master’s degrees are assigned to teach upper-division courses for the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program, as well as one professor credentialed specifically for the grant writing course in the BSDH curriculum. The faculty roster indicates:

- All courses taught by each professor for fall, spring and summer courses;
- Academic degrees; and
- Other qualifications.

Impact of Program on Existing Programs and Faculty

The addition of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program complements the existing and highly successful TJC Dental Assisting Certificate program and Associate of

Applied Science (AAS) Dental Hygiene Degree. The upper-level Dental Hygiene courses were specifically designed to build on and enhance the associate degree curriculum.

At the certificate and associate degree levels, the addition of the new BSDH program impacts only the clinical responsibilities vacated by Julie Mettlen, new BSDH Program Coordinator, whose teaching load was restructured to accommodate the new upper-division courses and allow administrative time to develop and coordinate the new degree. One existing part-time clinical faculty member was hired full-time to cover clinical sessions left vacant by Professor Mettlen. Professor Mettlen will continue to instruct lower-division Dental Hygiene courses as needed. In addition, one new full-time faculty member was hired to teach upper-division courses in the BSDH program and perform clinical assignments in the AAS program.

Facilities

Rogers Nursing and Health Science Center

The BSDH program is located in the state-of-the-art Rogers Nursing and Health Sciences Center, completed in January 2015, on the Main Campus. Specifically, the facilities on the Main Campus consist of:

- A Dental Hygiene area of 9,530 square feet which includes the clinic area, sterilization area, panoramic x-ray suite, pre-clinical lab, dental materials lab, waiting area and storage;
- A thirty-seat instructional classroom of approximately 832 square feet. It is equipped with an instructor station consisting of a computer and screen that projects an image from the computer screen with a ceiling mounted projector. It also is able to project from multiple types of input resources in support of current and future technologies. In addition, the room has dry erase boards.
- A one-person faculty office utilized by the Program Coordinator and a two-person faculty office shared by one full-time BSDH faculty member and one full-time AASDH faculty member. Each office is at least 130 square feet and is equipped with Dell OptiPlex computer system with 17" flat panel monitors for each person along with the necessary office furniture.

No new equipment has been needed for the implementation of this program. Although the classroom area is shared with other Nursing and Health Sciences programs, there has been no impact on the physical resources required by existing programs since scheduling of rooms is coordinated between all programs.

Technology Infrastructure

TJC maintains a technology infrastructure that serves the needs of the institution, including its distance education offerings. Distance education courses are delivered online through the College's learning management system (LMS), currently Canvas. Canvas is a cloud-based application with no physical servers on campus. All servers supporting Canvas are maintained by Canvas in various locations throughout Utah. Canvas provides daily back-up service for TJC information and stores the back-up information on devices separate from the production environment and stored in a different location. The current contract with Canvas provides for 24-hour, 7-day-a-week, and 365-day-a-year helpdesk support to distance education administrators, faculty, and students.

The College has a contract with Suddenlink to provide high-speed Internet service to all campus locations. Secure access to internal College systems, including the student information system, student portal, and telephone system, is provided at off-campus locations through the use of direct connections.

TJC maintains 60 computing labs containing 2,217 computing devices for instructional and student use throughout the College's Main Campus and off-campus locations. More than 150 classrooms, labs and meeting spaces are equipped with various types of projection systems and computing devices for teaching and meeting presentations. New projects and upgrades are continually being implemented to meet evolving needs and to respond to changing technology. As an example, all current computing labs are maintained using a virtual desktop infrastructure technology. All faculty, staff, and students start with a basic set of applications. Faculty and students are then provided additional applications based on the program they are teaching or studying. This allows groups of students and faculty to access required applications and information on any device at any time in any lab.

Library Overview

The TJC Vaughn Learning Resource Center/Library is committed to providing consistent, quality services and regular, timely instruction in the use of the library to all campus and remote-user students and faculty. To do so, the College has chosen a centralized, highly technology-driven approach and infrastructure for providing library information resource services. The same access continues with the implementation of the BSDH degree. The Director of the Learning Resource Center/Library manages the College Library.

Student and Faculty Instruction Face-to-Face Instruction

All five degreed librarians (plus one degreed part-time librarian) are trained in and responsible for delivering instruction in library use. This is accomplished by:

- Supporting information literacy through classroom and/or library presentations. Professors arrange with librarians to bring their classes to the library where face-to-face presentations are made to students, instructing them in library use. Librarians also visit classrooms to make the same presentation at the professor's request. Librarians work in partnership with all TJC classroom faculty members to design instruction in information literacy that meets curriculum and student needs; and
- Providing workshops for TJC faculty to support instruction. Librarians present workshops to faculty groups upon request. As of spring 2014, librarians make appointments with individual faculty to bring them up-to-date on the library's resources. As of spring 2015, the library offered workshops through the Professional Development Office during the week of convocation.

Online Instruction

The College offers online instruction in the following areas on its Vaughn Library website:

- A subject guide (LibGuide) on Library Help, Services & Resources;
- Journals and Magazines
- Off-campus Library Support;

- What Librarians Wished You Knew;
- A subject guide (LibGuide) on Faculty Resources;
- Journals and Magazines; and
- Library Services for Faculty.

To give students prompt answers to their questions, the library provides direct email and phone access to its librarians as well as immediate chat response through the Library Reference Chat. Librarians are available for online chat during most hours of library operation. Beginning in fall 2015, patrons may also schedule one-on-one 30 minute sessions with a librarian as often as needed through a new initiative called "Book a Librarian."

Distance Education (DE) students are informed about all student services, including library services, via the *Distance Education Online Student Orientation*. All DE students are required to complete this orientation which provides a complete introduction and orientation to distance learning at TJC. The student services portion of the orientation provides information on how to obtain access to the various student services, including library services. Links have been added into each individual online professor's initial Canvas page, allowing online or distance education students to access library resources. The library also has a presence on the Online Campus website.

Discipline-Specific Assistance

TJC provides and supports student and faculty access and user privileges to library collections and services and to other learning/information resources consistent with the degrees offered by the College. In support of the BSDH completion degree, library staff compiled lists of relevant sources from the existing collection. The Department Chair of Dental Studies and the library staff determined that there was an extensive supply of resources that included full text online databases, comprehensive journal coverage for Nursing and Allied Health students, as well as peer-reviewed dental-related journals, both in print and online. The library also holds an ample supply of current dental and health-related books for reference.

Two additional journals were purchased that are specific to courses being offered through the BSDH program: *Journal of Evidence-Based Dental Practice* and *International Journal of Evidence-Based Practice for the Dental Hygienist*. The library has since also acquired online versions of *Journal of Dental Hygiene* and *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

Library services works extensively with faculty in specific disciplines to build campus collections, as well as build LibGuides, or subject guides, to reflect concentrations of courses and thus meet the needs of faculty, staff and students. Specific databases, books, e-books and web resources are available for use by the students in the BSDH degree completion program.



This document is available on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

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