

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program
Everest College, Fort Worth, Texas
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request:

Consider the Everest College proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) education program in Fort Worth, Texas, and the report of the survey visit (See Attachment #1). The final revised proposal was made available online to members of the Board. A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #3).

Historical Perspective:

- Everest College, Fort Worth, Texas is one of a network of career schools and colleges owned and operated by Corinthian Colleges, Incorporated (CCI).
- The Fort Worth campus has been in operation since 2004, and offers diploma programs in dental assisting, medical administrative assisting, and medical insurance coding and billing. Associate degree programs are offered in accounting, applied management, business administration, paralegal, and criminal justice.
- Everest College has been involved in vocational nursing (VN) education since 1997 and professional nursing education since 2007. Currently, there are ten (10) nursing programs nationwide in the Everest College system: four (4) VN programs; five (5) ADN programs; and one (1) BSN program.
- The 2010 NCLEX pass rates for the six (6) Everest College nursing programs exceed 80%. Data regarding outcomes for the other programs is not yet available because of their newness.
- Everest College, Fort Worth is approved by both the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The college is also accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS).
- During the proposal process, Board staff had several telephone conferences, as well as a face-to-face meeting with Ms. Kathy Smith RN, MSN, ACNP, proposed program director, and Lori Ferguson, RN, MSN, director of program development for Everest College.
- A site visit was conducted on June 17, 2011, by Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN.

Summary of Proposal:

Overview of the Proposal:

- Everest College proposes to establish a new two-year single entry ADN program in Fort Worth, Texas.
- An initial cohort of 40 students is projected for the October 2011 enrollment, and the program plans to admit a total of 80 students each year thereafter, with a cohort of 40 students accepted each Fall and Spring.
- The projected graduation date for the first cohort will be Spring 2013.
- All classes will be conducted in a face-to-face format at the Fort Worth campus with clinical experiences in health facilities throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area.
- The curriculum has been developed for 12-week quarters. General education courses are incorporated into the curriculum plan, and the first nursing courses begin in the second quarter, with clinical courses beginning in the fourth quarter.
- The curriculum is based upon a core curriculum for the five new Everest College ADN programs across the country with individualization for state laws and rules.
- Board Staff recommended that the science courses be pre-requisite rather than co-requisite courses in order to increase the rigor of the admission criteria, as well as provide students with a stronger knowledge base prior to taking nursing courses. The recommendation was not implemented.
- Program representatives report plans to seek National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) accreditation at a later date.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- The rationale for establishing the ADN program at Everest College, Fort Worth includes the fact that the North Fort Worth community has no other nursing education program.
- Although a survey sent to local employers generated a limited response regarding the need for more associate degree nurses in the (DFW) area, the letters of support in the proposal indicate a need for the ADN program.

Administration and Organization:

- Kathy Smith, MSN, RN, ACNP will assume the director role for the ADN program. Ms. Smith is an experienced nurse educator and has served as the director of a VN and an A DN program.
- The college administration have pledged support for the program.

Students:

- Program representatives report that a large number of potential students are ready to apply to enter this program.
- The Student Handbook includes all required student policies in Rule 215.

Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- The proposal has identified three interested, qualified, and experienced faculty to provide instruction for the program.
- The Faculty Handbook includes all required policies outlined in Rule 215, as well as many policies to assist faculty with consistency in their role.
- The nursing program has secured a variety of clinical learning experiences, and has clinical agreements or letters of intent from eleven clinical affiliating agencies.
- Clinical evaluation tools include required progression in expected student behaviors across the curriculum.

Financial Support and Resources:

- The Everest College campus offers a complete array of student services.
- The Nursing Department is spacious, modern, and well equipped.
- A financial report from Everest College, included in the proposal, reflects adequate resources for the development and implementation of the nursing program.

Program of Study:

- The curriculum meets all requirements of the rule.
- The DEC's are woven throughout the program, into courses and clinical evaluation tools. DEC competencies are detailed in each course and tailored to the different courses and clinical specialties.
- Each clinical course includes skills lab and simulation experience components to prepare the student for safe, competent and confident bedside nursing practice in the direct patient care setting.
- Clinical evaluation tools demonstrate progression in expectations of student outcomes across the curriculum.
- Clinical learning experiences will be provided in all required study content areas.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan follows the NLNAC evaluation format and includes the required components to meet Rule 215.13.

Comments from Survey Visit:

Staff met with the proposed director of the program and administration. The college is located in the center of an industrial complex, and is housed in a spacious, modern building with ample parking and convenient access to public transportation. The nursing program has a state-of-the art nursing skills lab and the classrooms are fully furnished and well equipped.

Pros:

- The administration have committed resources to the implementation of the program.
- The space allocated to the nursing program is spacious, modern, well equipped, with a state-of-the-art skills laboratory
- The proposed director is fully qualified and experienced in nursing education at both the VN and ADN level.
- A wide variety of clinical learning experiences throughout the DFW area have been secured for the nursing program.

Cons:

- The national core curriculum is fairly new, and there is limited evidence of its success in other states.
- The survey sent by Everest College to local employers did not generate a positive response regarding the need for more associate degree nurses in Fort Worth or the surrounding area.
- Everest College representatives have not implemented Board Staffs' recommendations for curricular changes to enhance and strengthen the rigor in the curriculum.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to grant initial approval to Everest College Associate Degree Nursing Program in Fort Worth, Texas with an initial cohort of 40 students beginning in Fall 2011, with the next admission in 2012 with 40 students admitted in the spring and 40 students admitted in the fall, based upon the proposal and survey visit as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

SURVEY VISIT PROGRAM REPORT
Professional Nursing Education Program

NAME OF NURSING PROGRAM: Everest College, Associate Degree Nursing Program

PROPOSED DIRECTOR: Kathy Smith, MSN, RN, ACNP

REASON FOR SURVEY: New Proposal

DATES: June 17, 2011

SURVEY VISITOR(S): Robin Caldwell, PhD, RN, CLNC

VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION: none

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

§215.11 Facilities, Resources, and Services	Evidence	Comments
(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. Board Staff met with the campus president, Lisa Ruszcyk and regional vice president of operations, Kathy Long.	Criteria met.
(b) An appropriately equipped skills laboratory shall be provided to accommodate maximum number of students allowed for the program. (1) The laboratory shall be equipped with hot and cold running water. (2) The laboratory shall have adequate storage for equipment.	The nursing skills lab is spacious, fully-equipped, with state-of-the-art simulation capabilities, hot and cold water, and ample storage space.	Criteria met.
(c) The director/coordinator and faculty shall have adequate secretarial and clerical assistance to meet the needs of the program.	Secretarial and clerical staff identified.	Criteria met

<p>(d) The physical facilities shall be adequate to meet the needs of the program in relation to the size of the faculty and the student body.</p> <p>(1) The director/coordinator shall have a private office.</p> <p>(2) Faculty offices shall be conveniently located and adequate in number and size to provide faculty with privacy for conferences with students and uninterrupted work.</p> <p>(3) Space for clerical staff, records, files, and equipment shall be adequate.</p> <p>(4) There shall be mechanisms which provide for the security of sensitive materials, such as examinations and health records.</p> <p>(5) Classrooms, laboratories, and conference rooms shall be conducive to learning and adequate in number, size, and type for the number of students and the educational purposes for which the rooms are used.</p> <p>(6) Teaching aids shall be provided to meet the objectives/outcomes of the program.</p> <p>(7) Adequate restrooms and lounges shall be provided convenient to the classroom.</p>	<p>Board Staff toured the Everest College campus. The nursing department contained private faculty offices, spacious, modern classrooms and conference rooms.</p> <p>State-of-the-art technology was present to assist student learning.</p> <p>Restrooms and lounges are conveniently located near classrooms.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<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>Board staff toured the library and discussed plans for the nursing department's virtual and traditional library with the campus librarian.</p>	<p>Criteria met.</p>
<p>§215.12 Records and Reports</p>		
<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>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>Discussed during survey visit.</p>	<p>Criteria met</p>

DRAFT LETTER

July 25, 2011

Kathy Smith, MSN, RN, ACNP, Director
Everest College Associate Degree Nursing Program
5237 North Riverside Dr. Ste.100
Fort Worth, Texas 76137

Dear Ms. Smith:

At the July 21, 2011 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing (BON or Board) discussed the Everest College Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Fort Worth, Texas, and the report of the June 17, 2011 survey visit. The members of the Board wish to thank you and Ms. Lori Ferguson, MSN, RN for being present to answer questions.

As indicated by the enclosed order, it was the Board's decision to grant Initial Approval status to the Everest College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program, Fort Worth, Texas, and to allow an initial admission of 40 students in Fall 2011, with the next admission in 2012 of 40 students in the spring and 40 students in the fall.

Congratulations and best wishes.

If you have questions, or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at (512) 463-4613.

Sincerely,

Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President of the Board

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

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 Everest College
in Fort Worth, Texas

For approval to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

ORDER OF THE BOARD

TO:

The Board of Nursing in and for the State of Texas in a regularly scheduled meeting, held on the 21st day of July 2011, considered the proposal for authority to implement an Associate Degree Nursing Education Program and obtain Approval from the Board, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code.

At the meeting, Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN, President of the Board, presided and the following members were present:

Deborah Hughes Bell, CLU, ChFC, Consumer Member
Patricia Clapp, BA, Consumer Member
Tamara Cowen, MN, RN, Representing Practice
Sheri Denise Crosby, JD, SPHR, Consumer Member
Marilyn J. Davis, RN, BSN, MPA, Representing Practice
Richard Robert Gibbs, LVN, Representing Practice
Kathy Leader-Horn, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary LeBeck, MSN, RN, Representing ADN Programs
Josefina Lujan, PhD, RN, Representing BSN Programs
Beverly Jean Nutall, LVN, Representing Practice
Mary Jane Salgado, MEd, Consumer Member
Verna Kathleen Shipp, APN, RN, Representing Advanced Nursing Practice

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 program offering an Associate Degree in Nursing.

ORDER

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

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT THE aforementioned school is authorized to proceed to implement a professional nursing education program and prior to admission of students, all requirements of Chapter 215 Professional Nursing Education shall be met.

DATED THIS 25th day of July, 2011.

THE BOARD OF NURSING IN AND
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

Seal

By: _____
Kristin K. Benton, MSN, RN
President

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 Everest College

To Establish An

Associate Degree Nursing Education Program

in Fort Worth, Texas

Date and Time: July 21, 2011 at 2:30 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 July 14, 2011.

Address written testimony to:

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, Executive Director

Texas Board of Nursing

333 Guadalupe Street, Suite 3-460

Austin, Texas 78701-3942