

**Proposal to Establish A New Nursing Education Program  
Clarendon College in Pampa, Texas  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program**

**Summary of Request:**

Consider the Clarendon College proposal to establish a new Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Education Program in Pampa, Texas, that includes a generic ADN track and an LVN-to-ADN mobility track. The final revised proposal was provided electronically to members of the Texas Board of Nursing (Board or BON). A notice of public hearing has been posted (See Attachment #1).

**Historical Perspective:**

- Clarendon College is the oldest institution of higher education in the Texas Panhandle, having been established in 1898 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Clarendon College was re-established in 1927 as a non-sectarian junior college and moved to its present main campus location in Clarendon in 1968.
- Clarendon College has a 107-acre campus in Clarendon and two (2) additional campuses in Pampa and Childress.
- Clarendon College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to award the associate degree and is approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).
- Clarendon College has had a Vocational Nursing Education (VN) Program since 1978 with current BON Full Approval status.
- According to the Clarendon College Vocational Nursing Education Program Information Survey (VN-NEPIS), the VN program enrolled one hundred eighty-one (181) new students during the 2012-2013 academic year (AY) and fifty-five (55) students graduated during the 2012-2013 AY.
- The 2013 NCLEX-PN® examination pass rate is 85.71%.
- The process of developing the ADN Program at Clarendon began in August 2013. A well-developed, comprehensive third and final version of the proposal was received in the Board office in March 2014 and timely reviewed by Board Staff.
- The proposal is being presented to the Board for approval, pending a site visit by Board Staff.

**Summary of Proposal:**

Overview of the Proposal:

- Clarendon College proposes to establish a new ADN Program that includes a generic ADN track and an LVN-to-ADN mobility track.
- The proposal requests three (3) admission periods each calendar year (January and August for the generic ADN track and May for the LVN-to-ADN mobility track).
- The anticipated date for enrollment of the initial cohort of twenty (20) LVN-to-ADN students is May, 2014 with an expected graduation date of May 2015.
- The anticipated enrollment date for the initial cohort of thirty-five (35) generic students is August 2014 with an expected graduation date of May 2016.
- The didactic courses will be delivered at Clarendon College – Pampa Center using a combination of face-to-face, interactive television (ITV), online, and hybrid courses allowing course content to be delivered simultaneously to all three (3) sites.
- The generic program is designed to be completed in five (5) semesters; the LVN-to-ADN mobility track is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters.
- The mobility track will merge with the generic track in the third semester.

Rationale and Need for the Program:

- Data presented in the proposal indicate a need for the ADN education program in the community. There are currently no professional nursing programs within a twenty-five (25) mile radius of any Clarendon College campus (Clarendon, Pampa, and Childress).

- A survey of clinical facilities indicated available clinical spaces will accommodate Clarendon College professional nursing students for all required clinical courses.
- Letters from community leaders in the Texas Panhandle area indicate support for the proposed nursing program.

#### Administration and Organization:

- The college is accredited by SACS and the appropriate prospectus was submitted to SACS. Clarendon College has been approved by SACS to award an ADN.
- The proposed ADN program director, Jackie Sublett, MSN, RN is fully qualified according to Board Rule 215.6. Ms. Sublett has over fifteen (15) years teaching experience in VN education programs. In addition, she has served for three (3) years as the Associate Department Head-Instructor for an RN-to-BSN degree program where she has developed an accelerated LVN-to- BSN program with online courses. She also has clinical experience as both a licensed vocational nurse and a registered nurse. In 2003 she served as the Associate Director of Education for the Board of Vocational Nurse Examiners. Ms. Sublett has also served as an independent nursing education consultant in the Texas Panhandle for over eight (8) years.

#### Availability of Faculty and Clinical Sites:

- Clarendon College has identified two (2) qualified faculty besides the director who are available to begin teaching in the ADN program.
- The primary source for recruiting qualified faculty will be from graduates of the local universities who have earned a master's or doctoral degree in nursing with a major or minor in nursing education. Additional sources for potential faculty include nurses who live in the Texas Panhandle region with previous teaching experience.
- Advertising for teaching positions will begin on the Clarendon College webpage and in newspapers within the service area. Additionally, advertising through nursing publications including the *Texas Nursing Voice* is being considered.
- Two (2) acute care facilities in the Clarendon College service area that will be used for clinical learning experiences are Pampa Regional Medical Center, Pampa, Texas, and Childress Regional Medical Center, Childress, Texas.

#### Financial Support and Resources:

- Financial stability is demonstrated in the financial information included in the proposal.
- Clarendon College ADN program received a Title III grant sufficient to develop a professional nursing program for \$449,346 per year for a five-year period, totaling \$2.5 million dollars.

#### Program of Study:

- The program of study consists of five (5) semesters for the generic students and a minimum of three (3) semesters of course work for the LVN-to-ADN students, after completion of the required general academic courses. The majority of general education requirements are completed in the first semester of study with the remaining four (4) semesters of study focused on nursing courses.
- Degree requirements include thirty (30) credit hours of general academic content and forty-one (41) credit hours of nursing content.
- Congruent with the Clarendon College mission and student objectives, the mission of the Clarendon College ADN program is to be responsive to the needs of the communities it serves and to strive to provide quality nursing education to diverse learners of the multicultural community.
- The program is designed to prepare the graduate for entry level into practice. The curriculum threads are intended to form the structure or architectural framework for practice in a variety of health care settings. The program in design and structure builds upon the mission, philosophy, conceptual threads, and the *Differentiated Essential Competencies of Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs, 2010* (DECs).
- The curriculum's sequencing is designed to progress from simple to complex. The first two (2) semesters of nursing courses are focused on an introductory acquisition and development of basic, intermediate, and advanced nursing skills and the remaining two (2) semesters are focused on more complex and advanced aspects of nursing care, management and leadership, and jurisprudence. Proof of competence, both academically and clinically, will be determined by evaluation.

Total Evaluation Plan:

- The program's total evaluation plan is well developed and provides measurable indicators of achievement.

Pros:

- Comprehensive and diverse clinical learning experiences have been secured.
- The proposed program director, Jackie Sublett, MSN, RN is qualified and experienced in prelicensure professional nursing education.
- Strong administrative and community support for the program is evident.

Cons:

- None identified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Move to grant initial approval to Clarendon College to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pampa, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order (See Attachment #2).

April 18, 2014

Jackie Sublett, MSN, RN, Director  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
Clarendon College  
1601 W. Kentucky  
Pampa, TX 79065

Dear Ms. Sublett:

At the April 16-17, 2014 meeting, the members of the Texas Board of Nursing discussed the Clarendon College Proposal to Establish a New Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pampa, Texas. The Board wishes to thank you and Ray Jarmillo, VP for being available to answer questions. Based upon the discussion and review of documents, it was the decision of the Board to grant initial approval to Clarendon College to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pampa, Texas, and impose the conditions/requirements in the attached Board Order.

If you have questions or if we may provide any assistance, please contact Board Staff at [gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov](mailto:gayle.varnell@bon.texas.gov) or (512) 621-5179.

Sincerely,

Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director

Copy: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Dr. Robert K. Riza, Clarendon College 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 Clarendon College  
To Establish An  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
in Pampa, Texas

Date and Time: April 16, 2014 at 2:20 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 April 11, 2013.

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

**BEFORE THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING**  
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**ORDER OF THE BOARD**

In the Matter of  
Clarendon College  
Associate Degree Nursing Education Program  
In Pampa, Texas

A public meeting of the Texas Board of Nursing, hereinafter referred to as the Board, was held on April 16, 2014, 333 Guadalupe, Tower II, Room 225, Austin, Texas, to consider the Clarendon College proposal to establish a new Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pampa, Texas, based upon the review of the Proposal, pursuant to Section 301.157, Texas Occupations Code and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Chapter 215.

After review and due consideration of the filed materials, as well as the presentation by the representatives from Clarendon College in Pampa, Texas, and other interested parties, if any, the Board hereby grants INITIAL APPROVAL of the Clarendon College Associate Degree Nursing Education Program in Pampa, Texas and imposes the following conditions/requirements:

1. The program shall not admit more than three (3) cohorts annually. The LVN-to-ADN mobility tract will admit not more than twenty (20) students in May of each year, and the generic program will admit not more than thirty-five (35) students in January and August of each year, for a total of ninety (90) students per year for both tracks.
2. The program shall not enroll students until Board Staff have conducted a survey visit and have determined that the facilities are adequate for the program.

Entered this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2014

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Katherine Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director