

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.7.5.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE
Establishing a Dual Credit High School Track in Nursing
07/27/2016

Nursing programs interested in establishing a dual credit high school track should follow the steps listed below so that the dual credit track will be recognized by the Board of Nursing (BON) and graduates will be eligible to apply to take the NCLEX® examination.

Required Steps in Planning a Dual Credit High School Track in Nursing:

1. Establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the nursing program and/or governing institution and the high schools and/or school district.
2. Secure a letter of support from the governing institution administration to support the nursing program.
3. Notify the BON that the nursing program will be seeking approval as a Multi-Entry-Exit Program (MEEP) or as a Major Curriculum Change Proposal.
4. Contact other successful dual credit programs to learn about different models.
5. Submit to the BON a completed proposal (including information below) for approval of the new track. Include copies of all documents listed above with the proposal.

The BON will notify other appropriate agencies of the new dual credit tracks: The Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board, and/or the Texas Workforce Commission.

Since the program will be developed to prepare graduates for eligibility to take the NCLEX® examination, evidence should be provided verifying that the students in the dual credit high school track will receive the same didactic and clinical education as students in the Board-approved traditional track. Any differences in program requirements for the high school students should be described with rationales.

Information to Include in the Proposal:

- Name and address of the approved nursing education program
- Contact information for the responsible person for the proposed track (This person is usually the Program Director but may be a qualified designee.)
- Matching tables showing current approved program and dual credit track
- Rationales for differences between the dual credit track and the traditional track
- Name of the High School District(s) and participating high schools
- Admission criteria for the high school students applying for the dual credit track
- Rationale for differences in the admission criteria for the two tracks
- Admission process and selection process for the dual credit track
- Expected starting date and graduation date for first cohort from the dual credit track
- Projected month each year for the graduation times for students in the dual credit track from high school and from the nursing education program
- Planned admission points each year with projected enrollment numbers
- Location and format of delivery for courses in dual credit track
- Selection of faculty engaged in teaching dual credit track

- Special training for faculty engaged in teaching dual credit track
- Plans for integration of dual credit track students and traditional students during the program
- Consequences when a student is not successful or decides to withdraw from the dual credit track (including any impact on high school graduation)
- Remediation activities planned for at-risk students
- A list of clinical agencies where the students in the dual credit track will carry out their clinical learning experiences
- Site for nursing skills labs and simulation experiences
- Teaching strategies to be used for dual credit track students
- Use of standardized examinations with dual credit track students
- Grading standards for dual credit track students
- Provision of transportation for students in dual credit track
- A complete schedule of nursing and high school courses for each week day and semester during the program (including clinical and lab hours)

Board Staff may request additional information.

Essentials for BON Approval:

- The nursing program should control or participate in the admission criteria and selection.
- The dual credit program must comply with all requirements in Education Rule 214 or Rule 215.
- The basic BON-approved curriculum including clinical practice and clinical objectives shall be consistent with the main program.