

Progress 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

September 2016

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Agency Mission

The mission of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to provide leadership and coordination for the Texas higher education system 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.

Agency Core Values

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 deals with 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 has no assessments of the program nor any recommendations at this time, as the pilot program has just begun. TJC has enrolled their first cohort in the dental hygiene program for the fall 2016 semester. Assessments and recommendations will be provided in the 2017 report.

Proposal Process

On December 3, 2015, the Academic Quality and Workforce (AQW) division of the THECB received planning notification from Tyler Junior College (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 Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree in Dental Hygiene.

Progress Report from Tyler Junior College

AQW staff contacted TJC and invited the institution to submit a progress report on the implementation of the BSDH degree. The college's report is provided, unedited and in its entirety, as Appendix A.

Appendix A
TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE
PROGRESS REPORT ON BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL
HYGIENE DEGREE
Submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
August 16, 2016

STUDENTS

Admissions and Transfer Information

Selective Admissions Requirements

Students must complete a *Selective Admissions Program Application* to be considered for admission to any Tyler Junior College selective admissions program, including the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) completion degree program. The *Selective Admissions Program Application* as well as the *Apply Texas* website have been updated to include BSDH as a possible major selection. 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.

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 a licensed 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 cohort capacity, and the first group of successful applicants is being 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 Tyler Junior College.

Transfer Credit

With the addition of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) completion degree, Tyler Junior College is eligible to receive transfer credit from other entities toward the completion of the baccalaureate 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 new baccalaureate degree does not change Tyler Junior College's published policies for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit through transfer, and non-traditional credit. These policies are consistent with Tyler Junior College's mission to provide a quality education.

Recruitment Efforts

The Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) degree completion program was promoted this summer through a link on the Department of Dental Studies website, as well as notification of the new program on several Dental Hygiene social media pages. Through these efforts sufficient interest was raised to prompt the implementation of an information session, held on July 1, 2016. During this session, attendees were informed of:

- The minimum criteria for eligibility;
- The process by which applicants are selected;
- 1-year and 2-year course planning;
- Financial aid options; and
- Core completion strategies.

A copy of the BSDH Admissions Guidelines was distributed and the process of accessing the Selective Admission Application was demonstrated. A video recording was made of the information session and it will be posted on pertinent social media pages and on the Tyler Junior College BSDH website after it has been edited for publication by the Office of Marketing, Media and Communications.

An application period of July 8 – August 12 was determined and this information was shared with the attendees at the information session, as well as with any interested parties via social media or email.

Plans for future recruitment include the following efforts:

- Brochure outlining the benefits of completing a baccalaureate degree after achieving an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Dental Hygiene;
- Advising efforts to include the "3rd year" option for those applying to the AAS Dental Hygiene program;

- Inclusion of the BSDH details in the Admissions Guide, Road Piece and View Book. These items are utilized by the College recruiting advisors when visiting recruitment sites.
- Web page updates to include marketing strategies;
- Visit local Dental Hygiene meetings to explain benefits of obtaining a BSDH;
- Standing banner to be displayed in College orientation events and school promotion and health care events; and
- Consistent updates on social media sites.

Current Enrollment

As of August 11, 14 students were enrolled in the program with two more full-time and three more part-time students confirming their positions in the program. All students enrolled as of this date are graduates of Tyler Junior College. Three of the five pending students are graduates of Tyler Junior College and two are transfers.

BSDH PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Organization

Academic Affairs

Under the direction of the Provost/Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, the Division of Academic/Student Affairs facilitates the excellence of teaching and learning at Tyler Junior College. 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 new 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. An attached table provides details of the qualifications of each of these administrators, aligned with the programs with which they are affiliated.

Educational Programs

Tyler Junior College 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 Tyler Junior College 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 new BSDH program has been 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 and adjunct 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.

Current Faculty

In addition to the program department chair who teaches lower-division courses which apply toward the BSDH, 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) completion degree program. Plans are also underway to employ an additional adjunct professor credentialed specifically for the grant writing course in the BSDH curriculum. The faculty roster indicates:

- All courses to be taught by each professor for Fall 2016, Spring 2017 and Summer 2017;
- Academic degrees; and
- Other qualifications.

Plans are in place for three more current Dental Hygiene faculty members to earn master's degrees and teach upper-division level Dental Hygiene courses in the future.

Impact of Program on Existing Programs and Faculty

The addition of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BSDH) completion degree complements the existing and highly successful Tyler Junior College 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 will be 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 two-person faculty office of 130 square feet equipped with Dell Optiplex computer systems with 17" flat panel monitors, a laser printer and the necessary office furniture.

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

Technology Infrastructure

Tyler Junior College 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 Tyler Junior College 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.

Tyler Junior College 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 Tyler Junior College 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 will continue 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 Tyler Junior College classroom faculty members to design instruction in information literacy that meets curriculum and student needs; and
- Providing workshops for Tyler Junior College 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 Tyler Junior College. 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

Tyler Junior College 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 have been 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 is in the process of acquiring 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 completion degree program.



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

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