

The Coordinating Board may authorize public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs as provided by Education Chapter 130, Subchapter L. Offering a baccalaureate degree program under Subchapter L does not otherwise alter the role and mission of a public junior college.

All baccalaureate degree programs offered at public junior colleges must comply with the provisions of 19 Administrative Code Chapter 9, Subchapter N. A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program under Subchapter N must meet all applicable accreditation requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) of a Level II institution.

Degree programs offered under Education Code Chapter 130, Subchapter L and 19 Administrative Code Chapter 9, Subchapter N are subject to the continuing approval of the Coordinating Board.

Education Code 130.302, .306(c); 19 TAC 9.673(a)–(b), (e)–(f)

Definitions

Baccalaureate
Degree Programs

“Baccalaureate degree programs” means any grouping of subject matter courses consisting of at least 120 semester credit hours which, when satisfactorily completed by a student, will entitle that student to a degree from a public junior college, public senior college or university, or a medical or dental unit. *19 TAC 9.672(1)*

Bachelor of Applied
Arts and Science

A “Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science (BAAS)” builds on an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, as defined in 19 Administrative Code 9.1 [see EFBA], combined with enough additional core curriculum courses and upper-level college courses to meet the minimum semester credit hour requirements for a bachelor's degree. The degree program is designed to grow professional management skills of the learner and meet the demand for leadership of highly technical professionals in the workplace. May also be called a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) or Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS). *19 TAC 9.672(2)*

Pilot Project

“Pilot project” refers to a public junior college authorized by the Coordinating Board to offer a baccalaureate degree before January 1, 2017. *19 TAC 9.672(10)*

Positive
Assessment of the
Overall Financial
Health of a District

“Positive assessment of the overall financial health of a district” means a score of 2.0 or higher on the composite financial index as produced by the Coordinating Board in the annual Community College Financial Condition Report. (As required by the General Appropriations Act, 85th Texas Legislature, Article III, Public Community/Junior Colleges, Rider 12 and any successor(s) thereto). *19 TAC 9.672(11)*

**Former Pilot
Program Participants**

The Coordinating Board shall authorize baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of applied science, applied technology, and nursing at each public junior college that previously participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs. *Education Code 130.303(a)*

Applied Science

The Coordinating Board may authorize baccalaureate degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a degree program in the field of applied science, including a degree program in the field of applied science with an emphasis in early childhood education, applied technology, or nursing and have demonstrated a workforce need. *Education Code 130.303(b)*

Dental Hygiene

The Coordinating Board shall authorize 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. *Education Code 130.304*

Criteria

In determining whether a public junior college may offer baccalaureate degree programs and what degree programs may be offered, the Coordinating Board shall:

1. Apply the same criteria and standards the Coordinating Board uses to approve baccalaureate degree programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units; and
2. Consider the following factors:
 - a. Whether those degree programs would unnecessarily duplicate the degree programs offered by other institutions of higher education; and
 - b. The ability of the junior college to support the degree programs with student enrollment and the adequacy of the junior college's facilities, faculty, administration, libraries, and other resources.

Before a baccalaureate degree program can be offered at a public junior college, these additional requirements must be met:

1. Workforce need for the degree program must be documented in the region served by the junior college;
2. How the degree program would complement the other programs and course offerings of the junior college; and

3. Documentation of program success for the underlying associate degree, such as licensure pass rates, employment placement rates, and completion rates.

A public junior college may be approved to offer a baccalaureate degree program only if its junior college district:

1. Has a taxable property valuation of not less than \$6 billion based on the preceding year's calculations as determined by the county's appraisal district. This valuation shall include the valuation of the taxing district as well as any branch campus maintenance tax valuations; and
2. Has received a positive assessment of the overall financial health, as defined in 19 Administrative Code 9.672, on the most recent Community College Financial Condition Report. If changes to financial reporting, mandated by external financial governing bodies as defined in Section 9.672 directing financial reporting processes, or other extraordinary factors have a short-term impact to the assessment of the financial health of the institution, the Coordinating Board may, at the commissioner's discretion:
 - a. Use the most recent report not impacted by the mandated changes; or
 - b. Calculate the financial health correcting for the mandated changes or extraordinary factors.

The Coordinating Board may not authorize a public junior college to offer a baccalaureate degree in a field if articulation agreements with general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental units are sufficient to meet the needs of that field.

Education Code 130.307(a)–(b), (d); 19 TAC 9.673(d), .674(a)–(b), .675(b)

Nursing Degree

Before a public junior college may offer a baccalaureate degree program in nursing, the institution shall:

1. Provide evidence to the Coordinating Board and the Texas Board of Nursing that the public junior college has secured adequate long-term clinical space and documentation from each clinical site provider indicating that the clinical site has not refused a similar request from a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit;

2. Establish that the corresponding associate degree nursing program offered by the public junior college has been successful as indicated by job placement rates and licensing exam scores for the previous three years;
3. Be a bachelor of science degree program that meets the standards and criteria the Texas Board of Nursing uses to approve pre-licensure degree programs at general academic teaching institutions and medical and dental units regardless of whether the program is a pre-licensure or post-licensure program; and
4. Be accredited or seeking accreditation by a national nursing accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education.

A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program in the field of nursing must demonstrate to the coordinating board that it will maintain or exceed the 2016–17 academic year enrollment level of the institution's associate degree nursing program each academic year until the 2021–22 academic year. The institution must receive program approval from the Texas Board of Nursing.

Education Code 130.308; 19 TAC 9.676

Application

Before a public junior college may be authorized to offer a baccalaureate degree program, the public junior college must submit a report to the Coordinating Board that includes:

1. A long-term financial plan for receiving accreditation from the SACSCOC;
2. A long-term plan for faculty recruitment that:
 - a. Indicates recruitment strategies and the ability to pay the increased salaries of doctoral faculty; and
 - b. Ensures the program would not draw faculty employed by a neighboring institution offering a similar program; and
3. Detailed information on the manner of program and course delivery.

Before a public junior college may offer a baccalaureate degree program, the institution must provide at least three articulation agreements with general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental units that:

1. Provide detailed information regarding existing course transfer and dual enrollment pathways, detailing the maximum number of students that can be served by the agreements, and
2. Explain why existing facilities and resources cannot be expanded to meet workforce need, and
3. Documentation that the established articulation agreements are at capacity, or
4. The reasons why no articulation agreements have been established.

Education Code 130.307(c); 19 TAC 9.674(c), .675(a)

Limitations

A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program may not offer more than three baccalaureate degree programs at any time. *Education Code 130.306(b); 19 TAC 9.673(c)*

Exception

A public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program under Education Code 130.303(a) may not offer more than five baccalaureate degree programs at any time. *Education Code 130.306(a)*

Articulation Agreement

Each public junior college that offers a baccalaureate degree program must enter into a teach-out agreement for the first five years of the program with one or more general academic teaching institutions or medical and dental units to ensure that students enrolled in the degree program have an opportunity to complete the degree if the public junior college ceases to offer the degree program.

The Coordinating Board may require a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit that offers a comparable baccalaureate degree program to enter into an articulation agreement with the public junior college.

Each public junior college that offers a baccalaureate program must inform all students who enroll in the program covered by the articulation agreement about the opportunity to complete the degree at a general academic teaching institution or medical and dental unit.

Education Code 130.309; 19 TAC 9.675(c)–(e)

Funding

A baccalaureate degree program may be funded solely by a public junior college's proportionate share of state appropriations under Education Code 130.003, local funds, and private sources. This provision does not require the legislature to appropriate state funds to support a baccalaureate degree program.

The Coordinating Board shall weigh contact hours attributable to students enrolled in a junior-level or senior-level course offered under Education Chapter 130, Subchapter L used to determine a public junior college's proportionate share of state appropriations under Section 130.003 in the same manner as a lower division course in a corresponding field unless the college participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

In its recommendations to the legislature relating to state funding for public junior colleges, the Coordinating Board shall recommend that a public junior college that participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs receive substantially the same state support for junior-level and senior-level courses in the fields of applied science, applied technology, dental hygiene, and nursing offered under this subchapter as that provided to a general academic teaching institution for substantially similar courses.

Education Code 130.310(a); 19 TAC 9.677(a)–(d)

Tuition and Fees

A public junior college may not charge a student enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program tuition and fees in an amount that exceeds the amount of tuition and fees charged by the junior college to a similarly situated student who is enrolled in an associate degree program in a corresponding field. This provision does not apply to tuition and fees charged for a baccalaureate degree program in the field of applied science or applied technology previously offered as part of a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs. *Education Code 130.310(c); 19 TAC 9.677(f)*

Report

Each public junior college offering a baccalaureate degree program shall conduct a review of each baccalaureate degree program offered and prepare a biennial report on the operation, quality, and effectiveness of the baccalaureate degree programs in a format specified by the Coordinating Board. A copy of the report shall be delivered to the Coordinating Board by January 1 of each odd-numbered year. *Education Code 130.011; 19 TAC 9.678*