In October, 1971, The University of Texas System Board of Regents purchased the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing to establish the El Paso School of Nursing (SON) as the sixth component of The University of Texas System School of Nursing. Students were first admitted to The University of Texas School of Nursing in September 1972. At the time, Christine Bonds was named dean of the El Paso Campus and Sister Aloysius became director of continuing education. Hotel Dieu graduated its final class in 1973 and the first class from the new school graduated with a baccalaureate degree in nursing in May 1974.

On March 26, 1976, the board of Regents moved to dissolve The University of Texas System School of Nursing.

On September 1, 1976, The School of Nursing became an integral part of The University of Texas at El Paso and was redesigned The University of Texas at El Paso College of Nursing. Dr. Eileen Jacobi was appointed as its first dean. Dr. Lynne Welch assumed the deanship in September 1986 when Dean Jacobi retired. Professor Dorothy Corona was Interim Dean from 1989-1990. Dr. Patricia Castiglia was Dean from 1991-2001. The college received more than 12 millions dollars in external funding during this period through her outstanding leadership.

In the years that followed the nursing program change its name to The College of Nursing and Allied Health, and, in 1999, to The College of Health Sciences School of Nursing.

On September 1, 2006, The School of Nursing again became an independent academic unit. Dr. Robert Anders was named dean. Under Dr. Anders’ impressive leadership, The School has increased its external funding from $1.7million to nearly $18 million since 2003.

As a major Hispanic-serving institution located on the U.S.-Mexico border, the UTEP School of Nursing continues to increase both undergraduate and graduate enrollment to help meet the need for more nurses. The School has emerged as a premier academic setting with achievements in education, research, practice, and community service. Today, The School of Nursing takes pride in having four (probably the largest in the nation) doctorally prepared Mexican American faculty members renowned in research endeavors: Dr. Maria Amaya, Dr. Nelda Martinez, Dr. Gloria Mckee, and Dr. Josie Lujan.