



# NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY

TEXAS CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE STUDIES  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



**2012**

## Update on Professional Nursing Program Characteristics

This update presents data for the 106 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2012 reporting year which includes:

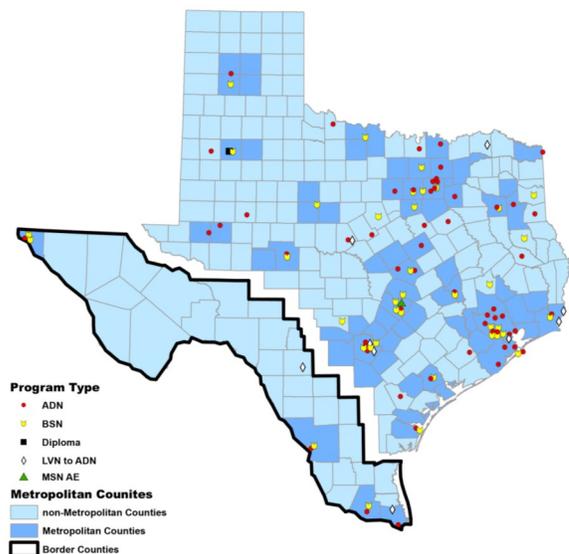
- ◆ 1 Diploma program,
- ◆ 66 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 57 basic ADN programs and 9 Licensed Vocational Nursing to Associate Degree in Nursing (LVN to ADN) programs,
- ◆ 38 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, and
- ◆ 1 Master of Science in Nursing Alternate Entry (MSN AE) program.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2012 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 8, 2012. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2011-2012 (September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

### Geographic Location of Pre-licensure RN Programs

The 106 pre-licensure RN education programs in Texas represented an increase from the 2011 reporting year. There was one program closure and two new programs with enrollment data reported during the 2011-2012 reporting year.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Nursing Programs by Type



Map source: Texas Center for Health Statistics, GIS 2013

Table 1. Geographic Designation of the Main Campuses

Nursing Program Type	Geographic Region			
	Metro Border	Non-Metro Border	Metro Non-Border	Non-Metro Non-Border
Diploma	0	0	1	0
ADN	4	0	41	12
LVN to ADN	1	1	4	3
BSN	4	0	28	6
MSN AE	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>21</b>

Figure 1 presents the locations of the 106 pre-licensure RN nursing programs in Texas by metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties. Table 1 summarizes the location of programs by type and geographic designation.

- ◆ 10 pre-licensure RN programs (9.4%) were located in the border region of Texas.
- ◆ 21 programs were located in the non-metropolitan, non-border area of Texas.
- ◆ 70.8% of all programs were located in the metropolitan non-border counties of Texas.

### Governing Institutions

Of the 106 professional nursing programs operating in Texas during the AY 2011-2012, 79 operated within public colleges and universities, 15 within private colleges and universities, 7 within career schools and colleges, 4 within health science centers, and 1 within a hospital.

- ◆ 85 programs (80.2%) were governed by public institutions.
- ◆ 21 programs (19.8%) were governed by private institutions. 15 of these programs were governed by private, non-profit institutions and 6 of these programs were governed by private, for-profit institutions.

## Length of Curriculum in Pre-Licensure RN Programs

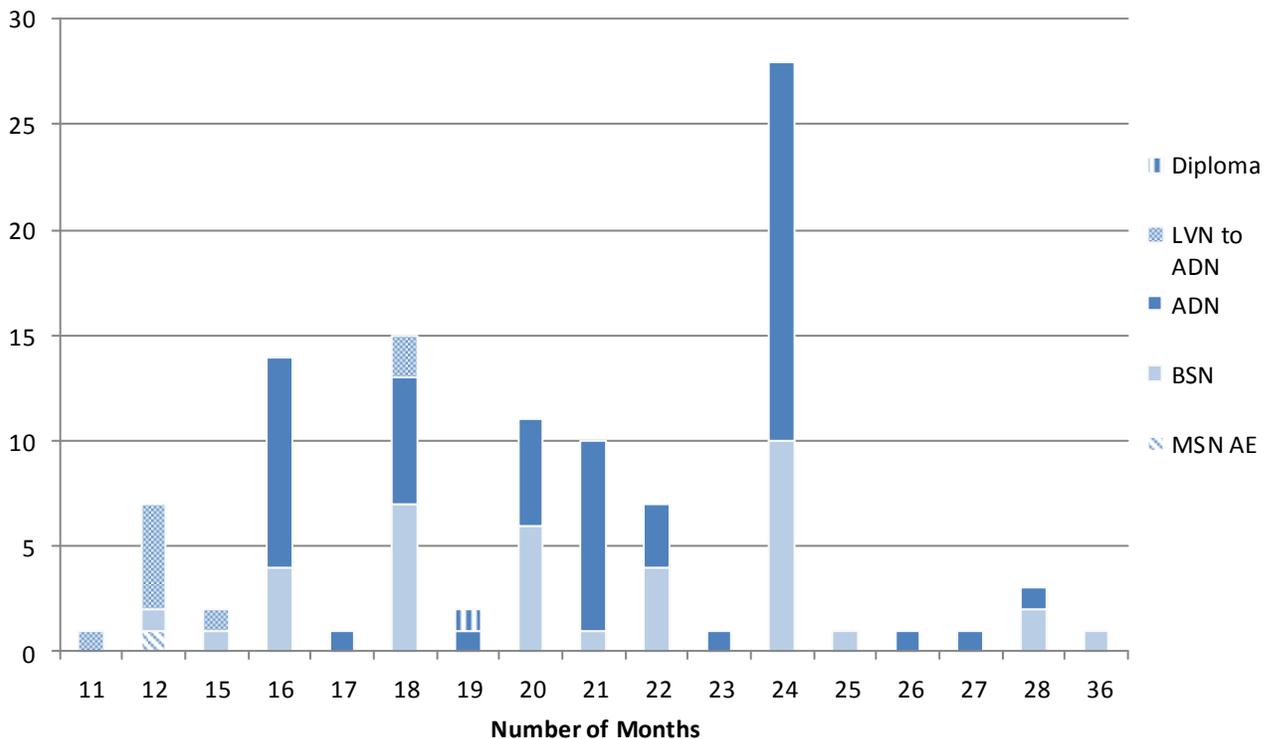
In the 2012 NEPIS, programs were asked to report the length of their nursing curriculum in months, not including nursing prerequisites.

- ◆ The one diploma program was 19 months in length.
- ◆ ADN programs ranged from 16 to 28 months in length. The mean and median length for ADN programs was 20.9 and 21 months, respectively.
- ◆ LVN to ADN programs ranged from 11 to 18 months in length. The mean and median lengths for LVN to ADN programs were 13.5 and 12 months, respectively.
- ◆ BSN programs ranged from 12 to 36 months in length. The mean and median length for BSN programs was 21.2 months and 21.5 months, respectively. The 12 month program was a second degree BSN program designed for students who already held bachelor's or master's degrees in other fields.

Figure 2 shows the number of programs that reported each value of nursing curriculum length.

- ◆ 18 ADN programs and 10 BSN programs reported a nursing curriculum length of 24 months.
- ◆ 2 LVN to ADN, 7 ADN, and 5 BSN programs reported an 18 month curriculum.
- ◆ 10 ADN and 4 BSN programs reported a 16 month curriculum.

Figure 2. Frequency of Nursing Curriculum Length by Program Type



## Program Tracks in Pre-Licensure RN Programs

99 of the 106 RN programs (93.4%) offered tracks in addition to their basic program. 5 ADN and 2 BSN programs did not offer any additional program tracks.

- ◆ 58 programs (54.7%), including 9 stand-alone LVN to ADN programs, offered an LVN to ADN track.
- ◆ 27 programs (25.5%) offered an RN to BSN track.
- ◆ 19 programs (17.9%) offered a bachelor's to BSN track.
- ◆ 17 programs (16.0%) offered a paramedic to ADN track.
- ◆ 16 programs (15.1%) offered an accelerated/compressed curriculum.

## Advanced Placement

Some students may be eligible for advanced placement. Those students include students with prior VN or RN nursing education, paramedics, students with a background in allied health, LVNs, or students that hold a baccalaureate or master's degree in a discipline other than nursing.

**Table 2. Number of Programs that Grant Different Types of Students Advanced Placement by Program Type**

Nursing Program Type	Types of Advanced Placement					
	Students with prior VN or RN nursing education	Paramedic	Allied health	LVN	Baccalaureate/ master's in discipline other than nursing	Military healthcare personnel
Diploma (n=1)	0	0	0	1	0	0
ADN (n=57)	37	18	2	48	2	4
LVN to ADN (n=9)	2	1	0	7	0	0
BSN (n=38)	23	0	0	9	6	2
MSN AE (n=1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=106)</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

- ◆ More than half of programs (61.3%) offered advanced placement to LVNs and 58.5% of programs offered advanced placement to students with some prior VN or RN nursing education.
- ◆ 17.9% of programs offered advanced placement to paramedics, 1.9% of programs offered advanced placement to allied health professionals, 7.6% offered advanced placement to those with baccalaureate/master's degrees in other disciplines, and 5.7% offered advanced placement to military healthcare personnel.

There were several mechanisms used by programs to grant advanced placement to students. Such mechanisms included direct transfer of credit or granting credit with a transition course, the completion of designated courses, passing written exam(s), or tech prep courses. Table 3 indicates the types of mechanisms used to grant advanced placement by program type.

**Table 3. Number of Programs Using Different Mechanisms to Grant Advanced Placement by Program Type**

	Direct transfer of credit	Grant credit with transition course	Grant credit with completion of designated courses	Grant credit with passing written exam(s)	Tech prep courses*
Diploma (n=1)	1	0	1	1	0
ADN (n=57)	50	38	22	19	10
LVN to ADN (n=9)	6	2	2	2	0
BSN (n=38)	29	8	13	13	0
MSN AE (n=1)	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (n=106)</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>10</b>

\*Tech prep courses are courses taken as part of a tech prep program. Section 2, Chapter 61, Subchapter T of the Texas Education Code defines tech prep programs as programs of study that combine secondary and post-secondary study through the integration of academic instruction with vocational and technical instruction. For more information on Tech Prep programs please see the above stated section of the Texas Education Code.

- ◆ Direct transfer of credit was the most widely used mechanism to grant advanced placement to pre-licensure nursing students across all program types, followed by granting credit with a transition course. 82.1% of all programs used direct transfer of credit and 45.3% of programs granted credit with a transition course to grant advanced placement.

**Online Availability of Pre-Licensure RN Programs**

Of the 106 total programs:

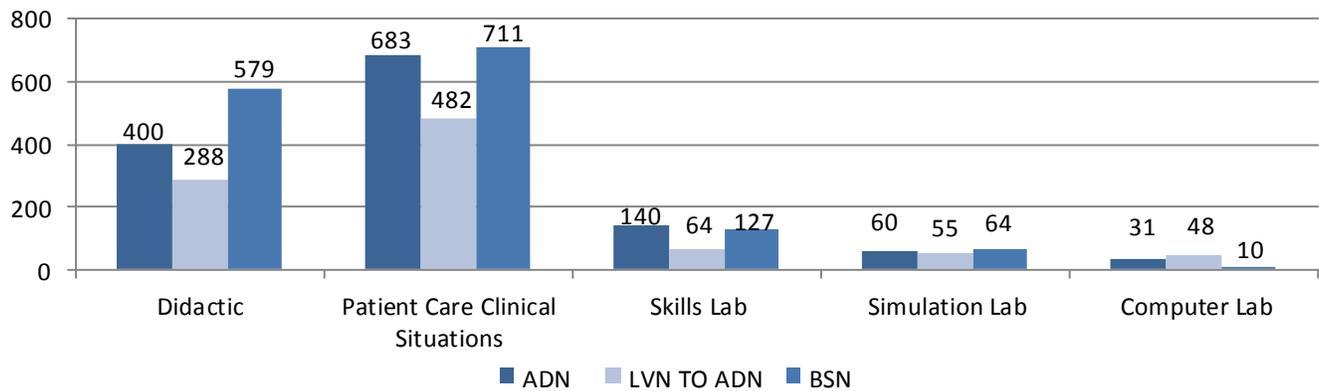
- ◆ 5 programs (4.7%) offered the entire didactic program curriculum online. Of these, 2 were ADN programs and 3 were BSN programs.
- ◆ 40 programs (37.7%) offered select courses online. Of these, 20 were ADN, 3 were LVN to ADN, and 17 were BSN programs.
- ◆ 65 programs (61.3%) offered web-enhanced sections of courses online. Of these, 34 were ADN, 5 were LVN to ADN, 1 was a diploma program, and 25 were BSN programs.
- ◆ 28 programs (26.4%) had no online course availability. These included 17 ADN, 4 LVN to ADN, 6 BSN, and 1 MSN AE.

Please note that programs may offer select courses entirely online and select courses as hybrids. Also note that all programs, whether or not they offered any portion of their program online, offered clinical experiences.

**Program Hours**

In the 2012 NEPIS, programs were asked to provide information regarding the number of contact hours required in each of the following areas in their program of study: didactic, computer lab, skills lab, simulation lab, and patient care clinical situations. Figure 3 below, graphs the median value for each of the program activities for ADN, LVN to ADN, and BSN programs. Please note that there was only one Diploma program and one MSN Alternate Entry program so the median value was equal to the actual value reported by each program. For that reason, they are not graphed in Figure 3.

**Figure 3. Median Hours Reported by Program Type**



As evidenced by Figure 3 and the data that follow on page 5, there was wide variation in the hours required by professional nursing programs both between and within program types. Some reasons for the variation may include: inherent differences between the program types (e.g. LVN to ADN programs were generally more abbreviated programs of study than ADN or BSN programs), differences between the operational definitions used in the NEPIS and how programs define these activities, or variations in the accuracy of self-reporting these hours by professional nursing programs. Further study of the variation in program hours is needed and is being studied by a Texas Board of Nursing Task Force, the Texas Nurses Association Subcommittee on Education, and the Texas Team Subcommittee on Education.

Didactic Contact Hours

In this report, didactic includes face-to-face or online delivery of classroom instruction. The median hours of didactic reported by professional nursing programs ranged from 288 hours in the LVN to ADN program to 616 hours for the diploma program.

Nursing Program Type	Didactic Contact Hours			
	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Diploma (n=1)	616	616	616	616
ADN (n=57)	445	400	288	1,136
LVN to ADN (n=9)	362	288	192	784
BSN (n=38)	621	579	37	2,520
MSN AE (n=1)	336	336	336	336

## 2012 Update on Professional Nursing Program Characteristics

### Patient Care Clinical Situations

In this report, faculty-supervised patient care clinical situations include direct care, observational experiences, and clinical conferences. The median number of hours reported for patient care clinical situations ranged from 482 hours in the LVN to ADN programs to 864 in the MSE AE program.

	Patient Care Clinical Situations Contact Hours			
Nursing Program Type	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Diploma (n=1)	777	777	777	777
ADN (n=57)	679	683	192	960
LVN to ADN (n=9)	583	482	360	1,024
BSN (n=38)	760	711	486	1,154
MSN AE (n=1)	864	864	864	864

### Skills Lab (low- and medium-fidelity simulations and task training)

In this report, skills lab is defined as low- and medium- fidelity simulations and task training. All but one program reported skills lab hours as part of their nursing curriculum. The median hours of skills labs reported by professional nursing programs ranged from 64 hours in LVN to ADN programs to 246 hours in the diploma program.

	Skills Lab Contact Hours			
Nursing Program Type	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Diploma (n=1)	246	246	246	246
ADN (n=57)	168	140	24	544
LVN to ADN (n=9)	65	64	0	144
BSN (n=38)	132	127	40	336
MSN AE (n=1)	90	90	90	90

### Simulation Lab (high-fidelity simulations)

Simulation lab is defined as high-fidelity situations including orientation, learning objectives, simulation experience, and evaluation. 92 out of 106 programs (86.8%) reported simulation lab hours for their programs of study. The median for simulation labs hours reported ranged from 16 in the MSN AE program to 277 in the diploma program.

	Simulation Lab Contact Hours			
Nursing Program Type	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Diploma (n=1)	277	277	277	277
ADN (n=57)	74	60	0	360
LVN to ADN (n=9)	68	55	0	222
BSN (n=38)	54	64	0	144
MSN AE (n=1)	16	16	16	16

### Computer Lab

Computer lab is defined as interactive tutorials and learning modules that are part of a curriculum that is separate from didactic. 63 programs (59.4%) reported computer lab hours for their program of study. The median for computer labs hours reported ranged from 0 in the MSN AE program to 84 in the diploma program.

	Computer Lab Contact Hours			
Nursing Program Type	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
Diploma (n=1)	84	84	84	84
ADN (n=57)	45	31	0	211
LVN to ADN (n=9)	60	48	0	192
BSN (n=38)	49	10	0	237
MSN AE (n=1)	0	0	0	0