



This update presents data for the 33 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 36 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 73 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

**Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2020**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=26)	23	19	5	4	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=3)	2	2	1	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=5)	1	0	5	2	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	0	0
Nursing Leader/Admin (n=22)	21	8	2	7	0
Nursing Education (n=21)	21	11	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics (n=3)	1	2	0	1	0
Clinical Nurse Leader (n=4)	3	1	0	1	0
Nursing Research (n=7)	0	0	0	0	7
Public Health (n=1)	0	0	1	1	0
DNP-No Specialty/Generic (n=10)	0	0	1	9	0
Other (n=5)	4	1	0	0	0

Note: n=number of programs

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2020 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2020. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2020 (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

**GRADUATE PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS**

**Geographic Location of Main Campuses**

Table 2 and Figure 1 present the location of the schools that offer a graduate nursing education program in Texas by geographic designation.

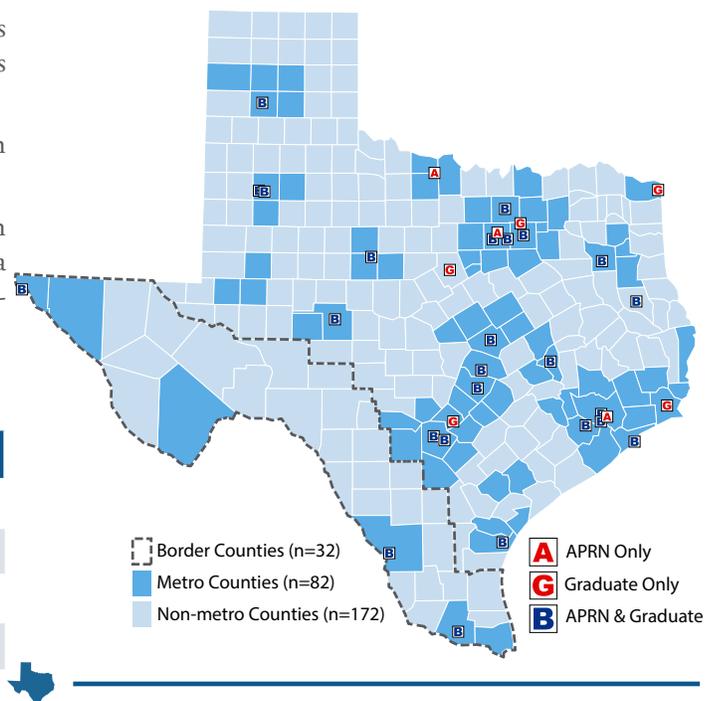
These 33 schools were located in 26 different counties in Texas.

The majority of schools (28 or 84.8%) were located in a metropolitan non-border county, 3 were located in a metropolitan border county, and 2 were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.

**Table 2. Geographic Designation of Main Campuses, 2020**

Geographic Designation	# of Schools	% of Schools
Metropolitan Border	3	9.1%
Non-Metropolitan Border	0	0%
Metropolitan Non-Border	28	84.8%
Non-Metropolitan Non-Border	2	6.1%

**Figure 1. Geographic Location of Main Campuses, 2020**



## Graduate Program Types Over Time

Table 3 displays the changes over time in the number of graduate nursing programs.

- Since 2015, the number of nursing administration/leadership programs have increased by 9, from 13 to 22 programs.
- The number of nursing education programs have increased by 4 since 2015.
- The number of nurse-midwife (NM) programs has remained unchanged for the past 6+ years.
- The number of nurse practitioner, nursing informatics, nursing research, public health, and “other” programs have remained relatively unchanged for the past 6 years.
- In 2020, “other” programs included comprehensive, forensic nursing science, leadership in diverse settings (LeaDS), advanced pain management, and a RN post-baccalaureate master’s program.

**Table 3. Number of Graduate Nursing Programs by Program Type, 2015-2020**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nurse Practitioner	23	26	26	27	26	26
Nurse Anesthetist	4	4	4	5	3	5
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	3	3	3	4	3
Nurse-Midwife	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nursing Admin/Leader	13	19	19	23*	22	22
Nursing Education	17	22	20	22	21	21
Nursing Informatics	2	4	3	2	2	3
Clinical Nurse Leader	5	5	5	5	6	4
Nursing Research	5	7	7	7	7	7
Public Health	-	1	1	0	1	1
**DNP-No Specialty	-	6	8	6	9	10
Other	4	7	7	6	7	5

Note: “-” indicates these data were not available

\*Nursing leadership and nursing administration were combined into nursing leadership/administration for 2018.

\*\*DNP-no specialty refers to DNP programs that don’t identify any of the other categories as the focus of their program.

## Models of Education

Programs were also asked to select the models of education they provided for their graduate tracks (Table 1, Page 1).

- Nurse practitioner (NP) programs were most frequently offered as master’s degrees or post-master’s certificates.
- Nursing education programs were only offered as master’s degrees or post-master’s certificates.
- All 7 nursing research programs offered a PhD in nursing, the only program type to offer a PhD in nursing degree.

## Length of Curriculum for Non-APRN programs

In the 2020 NEPIS, the responding graduate schools were asked to report the length of their nursing curriculum in credit hours. An average was used when a range was provided. Table 4 shows the median length of curriculum by program type and model of education for non-APRN programs.

- PhD programs required the most hours overall with a median of 60 credit hours.
- Among master’s degrees and post-master’s certificates, clinical nurse leader programs required the most hours with a median of 40 credit hours.
- Among DNP models of education, nursing informatics required the most credit hours with a median of 50.
- DNP education models required more credit hours than master’s degrees and post-master’s certificates overall.

**Table 4. Median Length of Non-APRN Curriculum in Credit Hours, 2020**

Program Type	Master’s Degree and Post-Master’s Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate and Post-Master’s DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nursing Admin/Leader	36	40	-
Nursing Education	36	-	-
Nursing Informatics	36	50	-
Clinical Nurse Leader	40	-	-
Nursing Research	-	-	60
Public Health	-	48	-
DNP - No Specialty	-	45	-
Other	37.5	40	-

Note: “-” indicates these data were not available



## Online Availability of Graduate Programs

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Of the 33 schools that offered graduate nursing education programs:

- 5 schools of nursing indicated that they did not offer nursing courses via online technology. This included 3 DNP programs and 4 PhD in Nursing programs.
- 64.5% of master's/post-master's certificate programs offered the didactic content of all nursing courses entirely online, compared to 31.6% of DNP programs and 37.5% of PhD programs.

- 57.9% of DNP programs offered select nursing courses as blended/hybrid courses, compared to 37.5% of PhD programs and 38.7% of master's/post-master's certificate programs.
- Just 12.5% of PhD programs offered select nursing courses entirely online compared to 47.4% of DNP and 39.0% of master's/post-master's certificate programs.

## APRN PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

### Interprofessional Collaboration

The 2020 NEPIS again included a question on interprofessional collaboration, based on a recommendation from the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report. APRN programs were asked to indicate the number of required nursing courses that offer clinical or simulation experiences for both APRN students and one or more types of other graduate level health professional students (Table 5). Other graduate level health professional students may include physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and others.

- Of the 26 NP programs, 16 (61.5%) had at least one required interprofessional collaboration course.
- The number of courses involving interprofessional collaboration ranged from 1 course to 20 courses.
- NP programs offered the most interprofessional collaboration courses (up to 20), while nursing midwife programs offered the least (only 1).

**Table 5. APRN Programs With Required Interprofessional Collaboration Courses, 2020**

Program Type	Programs Participating	Range of required classes
Nurse Practitioner (n=26)	16	1-20
Nurse Anesthetist (n=5)	2	5-18
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=3)	2	3-4
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1

Note: n=the number of programs

### Diagnosis and Management Course

CNS programs were asked to report whether they offer a course on diagnosis and management, preparing the CNS to make medical diagnoses and medically manage individuals within the specialty area. This is one of the courses that CNS students are required to take to be approved for prescriptive authority by the Board of Nursing.

- All 3 of the CNS programs offered a course on diagnosis and management and reported that the course was required.

## Population Focus Areas

A population focus area is the section of the population for which the student has been prepared to apply for APRN licensure to practice by the Texas Board of Nursing. Tables 6 and 7 list the number of schools that offered NP and CNS programs, respectively, in each population focus area.

- All 3 CNS programs offered the adult/gerontology focus area, and 1 offered the pediatric focus area.
- Family was the most commonly offered population focus area in NP programs, offered by all 26 NP programs.
- Women's health was the least commonly offered population focus area in NP programs, offered by only 1 NP program.

Schools were also asked if they offered any dual-track APRN programs.

- One school reported offering dual-track programs in “adult gerontology acute and primary care” and “pediatric acute and primary care.”

## Curriculum Length

Table 8 shows the median APRN curriculum length in credit hours by program type, education model, and where applicable, population focus area.

- Post-baccalaureate DNP models had the longest curriculum overall, with median credit hours ranging from 64 to 112 hours.

**Table 6. Nurse Practitioner Population Focus Areas, 2020**

Nurse Practitioner (n= 26 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	9
Acute Care Pediatric	3
Family	26
Neonatal	3
Pediatric	6
Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	4
Psychiatric/Mental Health	11
Women's Health	1

**Table 7. Clinical Nurse Specialist Population Focus Areas, 2020**

Clinical Nurse Specialist (n= 3 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Adult / Gerontology (Primary care)	3
Pediatric	1

- The one Nurse Anesthetist master's program had the longest curriculum length (66 credit hours) compared to other program's median curriculum lengths, while NP programs focusing on women's health had the longest median curriculum for post-master's certificate models (34 credit hours).

**Table 8. Median APRN Curriculum Length in Credit Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2020**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	48	28	71	-
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	49	30	-	-
NP-Family	48	28	75	39
NP-Neonatal	44	27	75	33
NP-Pediatric	47	28	76	-
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	43.5	25	-	-
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	48	28	75	-
NP-Women's Health	46	34	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	49	23	64	-
CNS-Pediatric	38	18	64	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	51	33	75	33
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	66	19	112	34

Note: “-” indicates these data were not available

## Precepted Practice Hours

In the 2020 NEPIS, schools were asked to report the total number of precepted practice hours required (including assessment labs, simulation, and clinical practice) for their APRN programs of study. Precepted practice hours were defined as the designated portion of a formal APRN education program that is offered in a health care setting and affords students the opportunity to integrate theory and role preparation in both the population focus area and advanced nursing practice through direct patient care/client management. Precepted practice hours are planned and monitored by either a designated faculty member or qualified preceptor.

Table 9 shows the median number of precepted practice hours by program type, education model, and where applicable, population focus area.

- NA master's and post-baccalaureate DNP programs required the most hours overall—2,000 hours.
- Aside from the NA master's program, master's degree programs required a range of median hours from 540 in Pediatric CNS programs to 675 in acute care pediatric NP programs.
- Neonatal NP and NM programs in the post-master's DNP model required the fewest median hours overall—500 hours.

**Table 9. Median Precepted Practice Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2020**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	635	630	830	-
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	675	630	-	-
NP-Family	660	630	825	1,000
NP-Neonatal	620	600	1,125	500
NP-Pediatric	645	630	660	-
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	650	630	-	-
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	620	600	884	-
NP-Women's Health	630	630	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	615	577.5	540	-
CNS-Pediatric	540	540	540	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	577.5	577.5	1,125	500
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	2,000 <sup>1</sup>	-	2,000	-

Note: “-” indicates these data were not available or applicable.

<sup>1</sup>The median precepted practice hours for the nurse anesthetist master's degree refers to only one program.