



This update presents data for the 35 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 39 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 75 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2022

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=30)	25	23	8	6	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	1	2	1	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=5)	0	0	5	3	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	1	0
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=23)	19	6	2	10	0
Nursing Education (n=23)	22	14	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics (n=3)	2	2	0	1	0
Clinical Nurse Leader (n=2)	2	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research (n=7)	0	0	0	0	7
Public Health (n=1)	0	0	1	1	0
DNP-No Specialty (n=10)	0	0	0	10	0
Other (n=6)	5	2	0	0	0

Note: n=number of programs. Programs can have multiple models of education.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2022 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 3, 2022. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2022 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) 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.

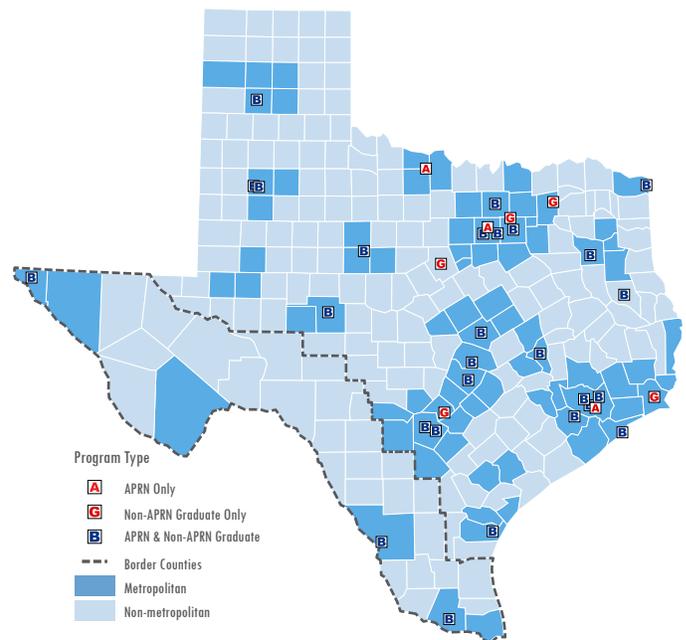
These 35 schools were located in 27 different counties in Texas.

The majority of schools (30 or 85.7%) 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 Graduate Nursing Program Main Campuses, 2022

Geographic Designation	# of Schools	% of Schools
Metropolitan Border	3	8.6%
Non-Metropolitan Border	0	0%
Metropolitan Non-Border	30	85.7%
Non-Metropolitan Non-Border	2	5.7%

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Graduate Nursing Program Main Campuses, 2022



Graduate Program Types Over Time

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

- Since 2017, the number of APRN programs has increased from a total of 35 to 39 programs.
- The number of nurse-midwife (NM) and nursing research programs has remained unchanged for over 6 years.
- The number of nurse leadership/administration programs has increased by 4 since 2017.
- The number of nursing education, nursing informatics, public health, and “other” programs has remained relatively unchanged for the past 6 years.
- In 2022, “other” programs included comprehensive, simulation, forensic nursing science, leadership in diverse settings (LeaDS), psychiatric-mental health, and advanced pain management.

Table 3. Number of Graduate Nursing Programs by Program Type, 2017-2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Nurse Practitioner	26	27	26	26	28	30
Nurse Anesthetist	4	5	3	5	5	5
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	3	4	3	2	2
Nurse-Midwife	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nurse Leadership/Admin	19	23*	22	22	23	23
Nursing Education	20	22	21	21	23	23
Nursing Informatics	3	2	2	3	3	3
Clinical Nurse Leader	5	5	6	4	2	2
Nursing Research	7	7	7	7	7	7
Public Health	1	0	1	1	1	1
**DNP-No Specialty	8	6	9	10	10	10
Other	7	6	7	5	6	6

*Nursing leadership and nursing administration were combined into nurse 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.

Length of Curriculum for Non-APRN Programs

In the 2022 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.

- The PhD programs in Nursing Research required a median of 60 credit hours.
- Clinical nurse leader programs, only offered as master's degrees in 2022, required the most hours among master's and post-master's certificate programs, with a median of 43 credit hours.
- Among Post-Master's DNP models of education, nursing informatics required the most credit hours with a median of 50.
- The one public health program required the most credit hours (69) for non-APRN programs.

Table 4. Median Length of Non-APRN Curriculum in Credit Hours, 2022

Program Type	Master's Degree and Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Leader/Admin	36	64.5	40	-
Nursing Education	36	-	40	-
Nursing Informatics	36	-	50	-
Clinical Nurse Leader	43	-	-	-
Nursing Research	-	-	-	60
Public Health	-	69	48	-
DNP - No Specialty	-	-	41	-
Other	37.5	-	-	-

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

*The post-master's DNP track does not prepare students for APRN licensure.



Online Availability of Graduate Programs

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology.

- All 35 graduate schools of nursing indicated that they offered nursing courses via online technology in the AY 2021-2022.
- 59.4% of master's/post-master's certificate programs offered the didactic content of all nursing courses entirely online, compared to 47.4% of DNP programs and 42.9% of PhD programs.
- 43.8% of master's/post-master's certificate programs offered select nursing courses entirely online, compared to 21.1% of DNP programs and 14.3% of PhD programs.
- 57.1% of PhD programs offered select nursing blended/hybrid courses compared to 50.0% of master's/post-master's certificate programs and 47.4% of DNP programs.

APRN Program Characteristics

Program Content

All APRN programs indicated that the following characteristics applied to their program:

- includes a minimum of 500 separate, non-duplicated hours for each advanced role and population focus;
- content contains professional and legal implications of the advanced practice role;
- content contains separate courses in pharmacotherapeutics, advanced assessment, and pathophysiology at the graduate level;
- contains pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents;
- content contains advanced health assessment of all human systems;
- content contains pathophysiology across the lifespan.

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.

- Both 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 5 and 6 (page 4) list the number of schools that offered NP and CNS programs, respectively, in each population focus area.

- The family population focus area was the most commonly offered among NP programs, offered by 28 of the 30 NP programs.
- Women's health was the least commonly offered population focus area in NP programs, offered by only 1 NP program.

Table 5. Nurse Practitioner Population Focus Areas, 2022

Nurse Practitioner (n= 30 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	10
Acute Care Pediatric	5
Family	28
Neonatal	4
Pediatric	7
Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	4
Psychiatric/Mental Health	15
Women's Health	1

Table 6. Clinical Nurse Specialist Population Focus Areas, 2022

Clinical Nurse Specialist (n= 2 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Adult / Gerontology (Primary care)	2
Pediatric	1

- Both CNS programs offered the adult/gerontology focus area, and 1 offered the pediatric focus area.

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

- Two schools reported offering dual-track programs in primary care for nurse practitioner students.

Curriculum Length

Table 7 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.
- Post-master's certificate models had the shortest curriculum overall, with median credit hours ranging from 18 to 36.5 hours.

Table 7. Median APRN Curriculum Length in Credit Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2022

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	48.0	30.5	77.0	38.5
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	51.0	36.5	89.0	35.0
NP-Family	48.0	29.0	76.0	39.0
NP-Neonatal	46.0	36.0	75.0	35.0
NP-Pediatric	46.0	30.0	75.5	35.0
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	43.5	32.0	79.0	42.0
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	48.0	28.0	74.5	48.0
NP-Women's Health	46.0	34.0	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	49.0	23.0	64.0	-
CNS-Pediatric	38.0	18.0	64.0	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	51.0	27.0	75.0	35.0
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	19.0	112.0	33.0

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

*The post-master's DNP track does not prepare students for APRN licensure.

Precepted Practice Hours

In the 2022 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 8 shows the median number of precepted practice hours by program type, education model, and where applicable, population focus area.

- Post-baccalaureate DNP models had the longest precepted practice hours overall, with median precepted practice hours ranging from 540.0 to 2,300 hours.
- Master's degree models required a range of median hours from 540 in Pediatric CNS programs to 790 in NM programs.
- All programs in the post-master's DNP model required a median of 500 hours except the acute care pediatric NP program which required a median of 600 hours and the psychiatric/mental health NP program which required a median of 750 hours.

Table 8. Median Precepted Practice Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2022

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	660.0	630.0	1,062.5	500.0
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	675.0	630.0	1,725.0	600.0
NP-Family	667.5	652.5	1,025.0	500.0
NP-Neonatal	765.0	660.0	1,125.0	500.0
NP-Pediatric	660.0	645.0	892.5	500.0
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	690.0	630.0	1,140.0	500.0
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	640.0	562.5	987.5	750.0
NP-Women's Health	600.0	600.0	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	615.0	577.5	540.0	-
CNS-Pediatric	540.0	540.0	540.0	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	790.0	500.0	1,125.0	500.0
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	240.0	2,300.0	-

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

*The post-master's DNP track does not prepare students for APRN licensure.

**The median precepted practice hours for the nurse anesthetist master's degree refers to only one program.