

## VOCATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

This update presents data for the 5 vocational nursing (VN) programs in Texas that offered options for high school students during the 2024 reporting year. It should be noted that these 5 programs are not identical to the 8 programs that offered options for high school students in 2023. In 2024, 4 of the 8 programs from 2023 closed and 1 new program opened.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2024 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2024. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2023-2024 (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Each year since 2017, TCNWS and the BON have added a supplement to the NEPIS to collect additional data on nursing programs that offer options for high school students. This report contains a summary of those findings, including characteristics of high school tracks, admissions, enrollment, and graduation.

### Geographic Location of High School Tracks

Table 1 summarizes the location of the 5 programs that offered options for high school students by setting and geographic location. Figure 1 presents the geographic locations of the 5 programs main campuses in Texas by metropolitan and border counties.

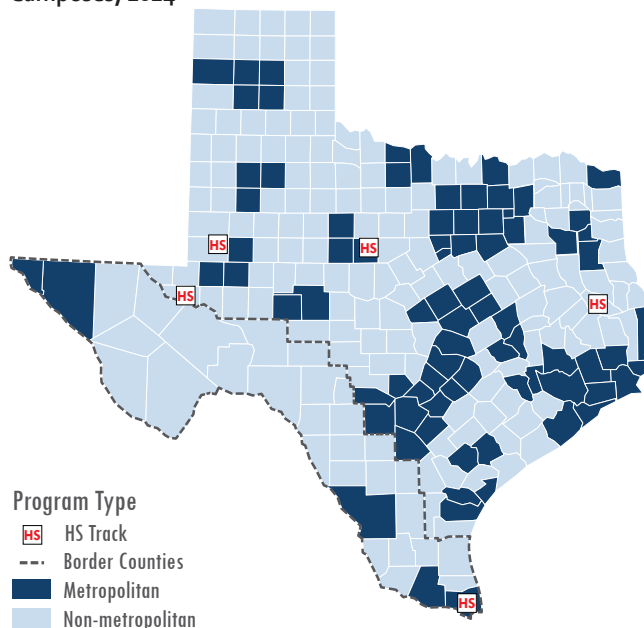
- 3 programs were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.
- 1 program was located in a metropolitan, border county.
- 1 program was located in a metropolitan, non-border county.

**Table 1. Geographic Designation of Programs with High School Tracks, 2024**

Institution Type <sup>1</sup>	Geographic Designation				Total
	Metro Border	Metro Non-Border	Non-Metro Border	Non-Metro Non-Border	
Community, State, or Technical College	0	1	0	3	4
Private/Independent Institutions of Higher Education	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

<sup>1</sup>Institution types are classified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in their program inventories list.

**Figure 1. Geographic Location of High School Tracks, Main Campuses, 2024**



## Program Characteristics of High School Tracks

Programs were asked when the high school track begins:

- 2 program begins in the senior year.
- 3 programs begin in the junior year.

Programs were also asked about other characteristics of their high school tracks. Programs could select more than one option:

- 4 programs allow students to complete the nursing program curriculum after high school graduation.
- 2 programs require students to take required high school courses and nursing program courses at the same time.
- 2 programs allow the student to complete the nursing program curriculum while in high school
- 1 program allows students to graduate from high school with a VN certificate.
- 1 program forms a pathway for students to matriculate into BON approved nursing program after high school graduation.

2 programs responded that students would be eligible to apply to take the NCLEX exam upon high school graduation, while 3 programs responded that students would be eligible to apply after additional nursing coursework is completed following high school graduation. Additionally, all 5 programs reported that high school students counted as vocational nursing students upon admission to a nursing program. This is the same as reported in 2023.

Programs were asked about the nursing courses taught to high school students. Programs could select more than one option. Program responses are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2. Nursing Courses Taught to High School Students, 2024**

Nursing Courses Are Taught:	# of Programs
By nursing program faculty	5
In one high school setting	1
In several high school settings	0
On the college campus	4
By distance learning (online, video transmission, other)	0
By integrating the high school students with the traditional vocational nursing students	2
Following the same clinical requirements as for the traditional program	4
Using the same clinical settings as used in the traditional program	5
Using the same instructional strategies as used in the traditional program	5
Using individualized didactic and clinical instruction for high school students	2
Using dedicated education units for clinical learning experiences	0

## Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation in High School Tracks

Table 3 lists data on qualified applications<sup>1</sup> and admissions to high school tracks from 2019 through 2024.

- Seats for new students<sup>2</sup> decreased by 23.1% from 2019 to 2024.
- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
  - There were 85 qualified applications in 2024, an increase of 23.2% from 2023.
  - Of the qualified applications, admission was offered to 75, or 88.2%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission was 10.
- 4 programs accepted all qualified applications in 2024.

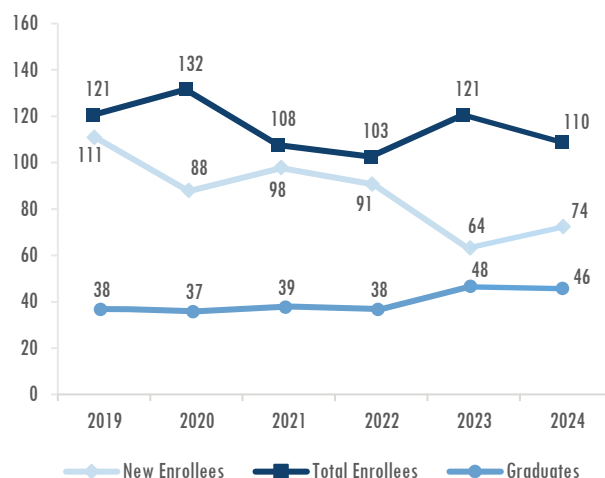
**Table 3. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA) in High School Tracks, 2019-2024**

Year	# of Programs	Seats for New Students <sup>2</sup>	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2019	5	130	122	111	11 (9.0%)
2020	6	104	112	93	11 (9.8%)
2021	7	118	105	100	5 (4.8%)
2022	7	117	125	91	34 (27.2%)
2023	8	93	69	65	4 (5.8%)
2024	5	100	85	75	10 (11.8%)

Figure 2 shows the number of newly enrolled students, total enrolled students, and graduates from 2019 to 2024. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and registered and enrolled in the program.

- From 2023 to 2024, the number of total enrollees and graduates decreased by 11 and 2, while the number of new enrollees increased by 10, respectively.

**Figure 2. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollees, and Graduates in High School Tracks, 2019-2024**



<sup>1</sup>Qualified applications refer to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

<sup>2</sup>Per the survey operational definition, seats for new students refers to the maximum number of seats for new students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Seats for new students may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).