



**CHARACTERISTICS IN GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

This update presents data for the 40 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 45 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 85 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

**Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2025**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=33)	29	25	9	4	0
Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	5	7	5	1	0
Acute Care Pediatric	4	4	1	1	0
Family	27	19	8	3	0
Neonatal	3	1	1	1	0
Pediatric	6	5	2	1	0
Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	3	2	1	0	0
Psychiatric/Mental Health	12	17	7	2	0
Women's Health	1	1	0	0	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	1	1	1	0	0
Adult/Gerontology	1	1	1	0	0
Neonatal	0	0	0	0	0
Pediatric	0	0	1	0	0
Psychiatric	0	0	0	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=8)	0	0	7	3	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	1	0
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=25)	21	6	2	10	0
Nursing Education (n=25)	24	12	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics (n=4)	3	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=14)	0	0	0	14	0
Other (n=7)	5	2	1	0	0

Note: n=number of programs. Programs can have multiple models of education. Programs were also asked if they offered any other doctoral degrees, but none were reported.

\*The Post-Master's DNP models for APRN programs do not lead to APRN licensure. Those enrolled in these programs already hold an APRN license.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2025 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2025. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2024-2025 (September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025) 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.

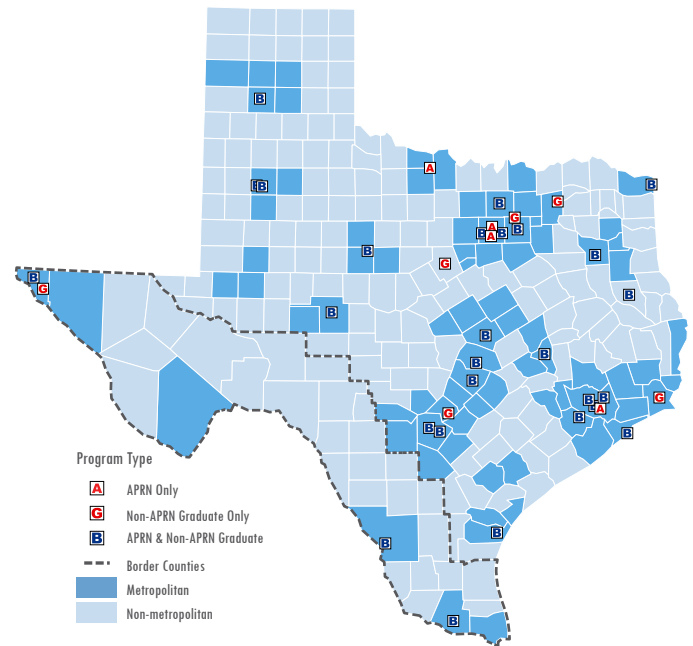
These 40 schools were located in 27 different counties in Texas.

The majority of schools (33 or 82.5%) were located in a metropolitan non-border county, 4 were located in a metropolitan border county, and 3 were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.

**Table 2. Geographic Designation of Graduate Nursing School Main Campuses, 2025**

Geographic Designation	# of Schools	% of Schools
Metropolitan Border	4	10.0%
Non-Metropolitan Border	0	0.0%
Metropolitan Non-Border	33	82.5%
Non-Metropolitan Non-Border	3	7.5%

**Figure 1. Geographic Location of Graduate Nursing School Main Campuses, 2025**



### Graduate Program Types Over Time

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

- Since 2020, the number of APRN programs has increased by 25.0%, from a total of 36 to 45 programs.
- The number of non-APRN programs has increased by 16.4%, from a total of 73 to 85.
- The number of nurse-midwife (NM), nursing research, and public health programs has remained unchanged for over 6 years.
- Nurse Practitioner programs have grown the most over the past 6 years, increasing by 7 programs.
- In 2025, “other” programs included simulation, forensic nursing science, leadership in diverse settings (LeadDS), correctional nursing care certificate, practice innovation, dual MSN in Leadership and MBA, and advanced pain management.

**Table 3. Number of Graduate Nursing Programs by Program Type, 2020-2025**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nurse Practitioner	26	28	30	29	31	33
Nurse Anesthetist	5	5	5	5	6	8
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	2	2	2	2	2
Nurse-Midwife	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nurse Leadership/Admin	22	23	23	24	26	25
Nursing Education	21	23	23	22	24	25
Nursing Informatics	3	3	3	3	4	4
Clinical Nurse Leader	4	2	2	2	2	2
Nursing Research	7	7	7	7	7	7
Public Health	1	1	1	1	1	1
*DNP-No Specialty	10	10	10	11	12	14
Other	5	6	6	6	6	7

\*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-graduate certificates.
- Nursing education programs and CNL programs were only offered as master’s degrees or post-graduate certificates.
- All 7 nursing research programs offered a PhD in nursing.

## Length of Curriculum for Graduate Programs

In the 2025 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, model of education, and program tracks.

- The PhD programs in nursing research required a median of 60 credit hours, consistent with previous years.
- Nurse Practitioner programs with an Adult Care Pediatric track and Certified Nurse-Midwife programs required the most hours among master’s and post-graduate certificate programs, with a median of 51 credit hours.
- Among Post-Baccalaureate DNP programs, CRNA programs had the most required credit hours (114.5).
- Among non-APRN Post-Master’s DNP models of education, nursing informatics required the most credit hours with a median of 50.

**Table 4. Median Length of Curriculum in Credit Hours by Education Model, 2025**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	48	75	38.5	-
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	51	89	35	-
NP-Family	48	76	39	-
NP-Neonatal	47	75	35	-
NP-Pediatric	45.5	75.5	35	-
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	45	79	42	-
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	48	75	42	-
NP-Women's Health	45	-	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	49	66	-	-
CNS-Pediatric	-	66	-	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	51	75	37	-
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	114.5	87	-
Nurse Leadership/Admin	36	61.5	40	-
Nursing Education	36	-	-	-
Nursing Informatics	36	-	50	-
Clinical Nurse Leader	41.5	-	-	-
Nursing Research	-	-	-	60
Public Health	-	69	48	-
*DNP-No Specialty	39	-	42	-
Other	37.5	-	-	-

Note: “-” indicates these programs/education models were not offered.

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



**Table 5. Percent of Programs offering Online Availability by Program Type and Education Model, 2025**

Program Type	Online Availability Type	Master's Degree and Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=33)	Didactic*	18/29 (62.1%)	3/9 (33.3%)	0/4 (0.0%)	-
	Select Courses**	3/29 (10.3%)	0/9 (0.0%)	2/4 (50.0%)	-
	Hybrid***	14/29 (48.3%)	7/9 (77.8%)	3/4 (75.0%)	-
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	Didactic	0/1 (0.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)	-	-
	Select Courses	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-	-
	Hybrid	1/1 (100.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-	-
Nurse Anesthetist (n=8)	Didactic	-	0/7 (0.0%)	0/3 (0.0%)	-
	Select Courses	-	2/7 (28.6%)	2/3 (66.7%)	-
	Hybrid	-	4/7 (57.1%)	2/3 (66.7%)	-
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	Didactic	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Select Courses	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Hybrid	1/1 (100.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)	-
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=25)	Didactic*	17/21 (81.0%)	1/2 (50.0%)	5/10 (50.0%)	-
	Select Courses**	1/21 (4.8%)	0/2 (0.0%)	1/10 (10.0%)	-
	Hybrid***	4/21 (19.0%)	1/2 (50.0%)	6/10 (60.0%)	-
Nursing Education (n=25)	Didactic	20/24 (83.3%)	-	-	-
	Select Courses	2/24 (8.3%)	-	-	-
	Hybrid	7/24 (29.2%)	-	-	-
Nursing Informatics (n=4)	Didactic	3/3 (100.0%)	-	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Select Courses	0/3 (0.0%)	-	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Hybrid	0/3 (0.0%)	-	0/1 (0.0%)	-
Clinical Nurse Leader (n=2)	Didactic	0/2 (0.0%)	-	-	-
	Select Courses	1/2 (50.0%)	-	-	-
	Hybrid	1/2 (50.0%)	-	-	-
Nursing Research (n=7)	Didactic	-	-	-	3/7 (42.9%)
	Select Courses	-	-	-	1/7 (14.3%)
	Hybrid	-	-	-	3/7 (42.9%)
Public Health (n=1)	Didactic	-	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Select Courses	-	0/1 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-
	Hybrid	-	1/1 (100.0%)	1/1 (100.0%)	-
DNP-No Specialty (n=14)	Didactic	-	-	10/14 (71.4%)	-
	Select Courses	-	-	1/14 (7.1%)	-
	Hybrid	-	-	4/14 (28.6%)	-
Other (n=7)	Didactic	4/5 (80.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-	-
	Select Courses	0/5 (0.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-	-
	Hybrid	1/5 (20.0%)	0/1 (0.0%)	-	-

Note: “-” indicates these programs/education models were not offered.

n= the total number of programs offered for that program type.

\* Didactic refers to didactic content of all nursing courses offered entirely online

\*\* Select courses refers to select nursing courses offered entirely online

\*\*\* Hybrid refers to select nursing courses offered as blended/hybrid nursing courses (courses are partially online and partially face-to-face)



## Online Availability of Graduate Programs

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Table 5 (page 4) shows the number and percent of programs that offered nursing courses via online technology through didactic, select, or hybrid courses.

- All 40 graduate schools of nursing indicated that they offered nursing courses via online technology for at least one of their programs in the AY 2024-2025.
- Nurse Practitioner programs were most often offered as hybrid courses.
- 81.0% of Nursing Leadership/Administration, 83.3% of Nursing Education, 100.0% of Nursing Informatics, and 80.0% of other programs for masters/post-graduate certificate models offered the entire didactic content online.

- No Clinical Nurse Midwife, Clinical Nurse Leader, or Public Health programs offered all of their program's didactic content online.
- The one public health program only had online availability in the form of hybrid courses, where select nursing courses were offered partially online.

## APRN Program Characteristics

### Program Content

All but one CRNA program, of the 45 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.

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

- Three schools reported offering dual-track programs in acute care and primary care for nurse practitioner students.

## Precepted Practice Hours

In the 2025 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 6 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 570 to 2,000 hours.
- Master's degree models required a range of median hours from 615 in Adult/Gerontology CNS programs to 790 in CNM programs.
- Post-master's DNP models required a range of median hours from 480 in Primary Care Adult/Gerontology NP programs to 1,120 in CRNA programs.

**Table 6. Median Precepted Practice Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2025**

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	720	660	1,020	490
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	675	630	1,725	600
NP-Family	720	667.5	930	500
NP-Neonatal	765	660	1,125	500
NP-Pediatric	667.5	660	892.5	500
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	780	750	1,140	480
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	657.5	607.5	975	500
NP-Women's Health	780	780	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	615	615	570	-
CNS-Pediatric	-	-	570	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	790	500	1,125	500
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	-	2,000	1,120

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

\*The post-master's DNP track does not prepare students for APRN licensure. The 120 hours listed for the post-master's DNP CRNA program are for students who are already CRNAs.

