

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 2025 reporting year. The same 5 programs also offered options for high school students in 2024. The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using 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.

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 institution type and geographic location. Figure 1 presents the geographic locations of the 5 programs' main campuses in Texas by metropolitan and border counties.

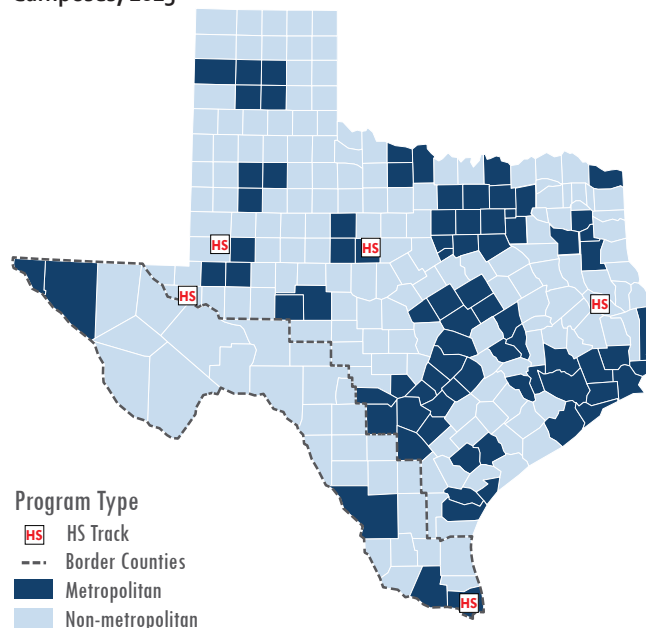
- 3 programs were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.
- 1 program was located in a metropolitan, border county.
- 1 program was located in a metropolitan, non-border county.

Table 1. Geographic Designation of Programs with High School Tracks, 2025

Institution Type ¹	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
Total	1	1	0	3	5

¹Institution types come from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Figure 1. Geographic Location of High School Tracks, Main Campuses, 2025



Program Characteristics of High School Tracks

Programs were asked when the high school track begins:

- 2 programs begin 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:

- 1 program allows 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.
- 3 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.

1 program responded that students would be eligible to apply to take the NCLEX exam upon high school graduation, while 4 programs responded that students would be eligible to apply after additional nursing coursework is completed following high school graduation.

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, 2025

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

Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation in High School Tracks

Table 3 lists data on qualified applications² and admissions to high school tracks from 2019 through 2025.

- Seats for new students³ decreased by 34.6% from 2019 to 2025.
- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
 - There were 70 qualified applications in 2025, a decrease of 17.7% from 2024.
 - Of the qualified applications, admission was offered to 63, or 90%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission was 7.
- 3 programs accepted all qualified applications in 2025.

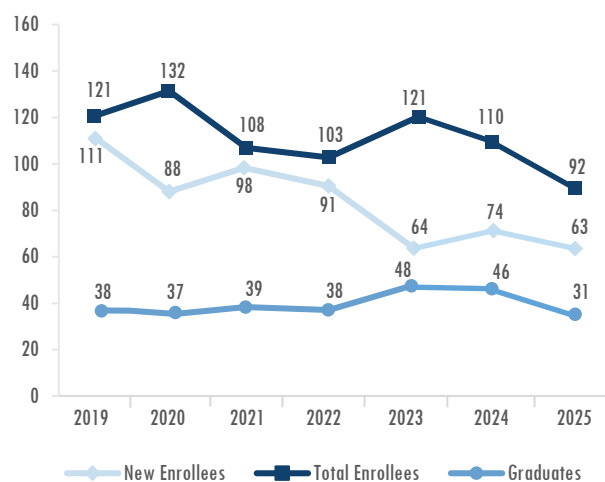
Table 3. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA) in High School Tracks, 2019-2025

Year	# of Programs	Seats for New Students ²	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%)
2025	5	85	70	63	7 (10.0%)

Figure 2 shows the number of newly enrolled students, total enrolled students, and graduates from 2019 to 2025. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and registered and enrolled in the program.

- From 2024 to 2025, the number of newly enrolled, total enrolled and graduates decreased.

Figure 2. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollees, and Graduates in High School Tracks, 2019-2025



²Qualified applications refer to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

³Per 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.).