



Program Characteristics in Graduate Nursing Education Programs

2017

This update presents data for the 31 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There are 36 programs that prepare graduates for licensure as advanced practice nurses (APRN) and there are 73 programs that are not designated for licensure as an APRN, but for roles in nursing administration, informatics, research, leadership, and public health, as indicated below:

APRN Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 4 Nurse Anesthetist programs, ■ 2 Nurse Mid-wife programs, ■ 26 Nurse Practitioner programs, ■ 4 Clinical Nurse Specialist programs, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7 Nursing research programs, ■ 8 DNP-No specialty, ■ 20 Nursing Education programs, ■ 5 Clinical Nurse Leader programs, ■ 1 Public Health program, and ■ 10 Other programs.
Non-APRN Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 19 Nursing Administration programs, ■ 3 Nursing Informatics programs, 	

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2017 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2017. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2016-2017 (September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Geographic Location of Graduate Programs

Table 1 and Figure 1 present the location of schools that offered graduate programs in Texas by geographic designation.

- The 31 schools were located in 24 different counties in Texas.
- The majority of schools (87.1%) were located in a metropolitan non-border county, 3 were located in a metropolitan border county, and 1 was located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Graduate Main Campuses

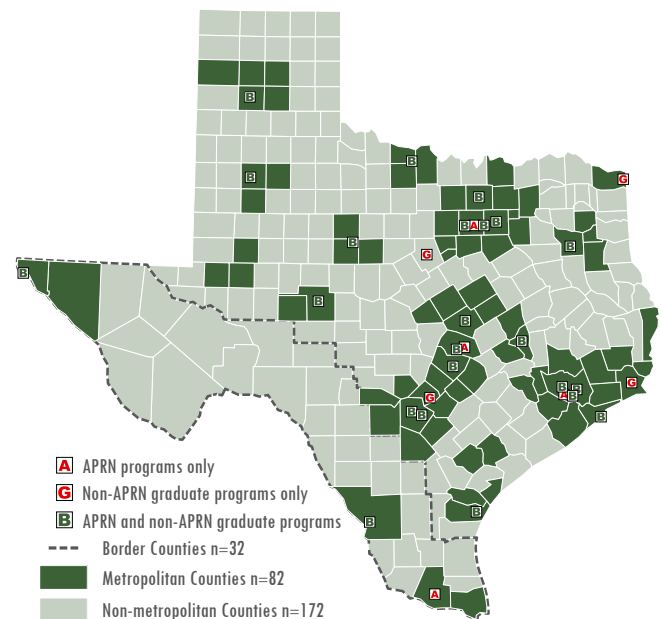


Table 1. Geographic Designation of Graduate Main Campuses

Geographic Designation	# of Schools	% of Schools
Metropolitan Border	3	9.7%
Non-Metropolitan Border	0	0%
Metropolitan Non-Border	27	87.1%
Non-Metropolitan Non-Border	1	3.2%

Changes in the Number of Graduate Programs

Table 2 displays the changes over time in the number of APRN programs.

- The number of nurse practitioner (NP) programs increased by 2 programs from 2014 to 2015, and by 3 from 2015 to 2016.
- The number of clinical nurse specialist (CNS) programs steadily decreased from 2010 to 2013. There were half as many programs from 2013-2015 as there were in 2010, and the number of CNS programs remained at 3 for 2017.
- The number of nurse anesthetist programs and nurse-midwife programs have remained steady from 2010 to 2017.

Table 2. Number of APRN Programs by Program Type, 2011-2017

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nurse Practitioner	19	19	21	21	23	26	26
Nurse Anesthetist	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Clinical Nurse Specialist	7	5	4	4	3	3	3
Nurse-Midwife	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nursing Administration	-	-	-	10	13	19	19
Nursing Education	-	-	-	15	17	22	20
Nursing Informatics	-	-	-	1	2	4	3
Nursing Leadership	-	-	-	5	5	5	5
Nursing Research	-	-	-	5	5	7	7
Public Health	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nurse Practice	-	-	-	-	-	6	8
Other	-	-	-	3	4	7	7

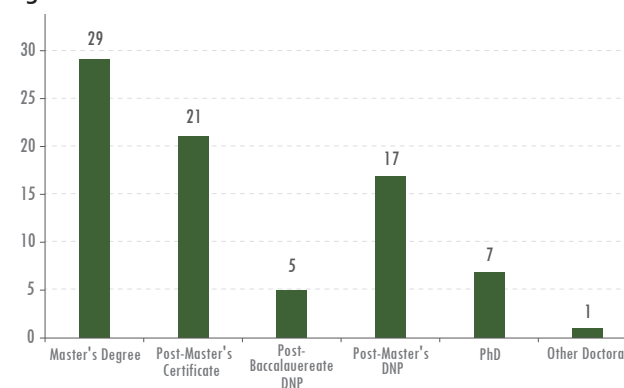
Note: “-” indicates these data were not available

Models of Education

Programs were also asked to select the models of education they provided for their graduate tracks (Figure 2).

- 29 schools provided a master’s degree model.
- 21 schools provided a post-master’s certificate.
- 5 schools offered a post-baccalaureate practice doctorate (DNP/DNAP¹).
- 17 schools offered a post-master’s practice doctorate (DNP/DNAP¹).
- 7 schools provided a PhD and 1 school offered a doctoral degree not listed for their nurse anesthetists.

Figure 2. Models of Graduate Education



¹ Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

Length of Curriculum in Graduate Programs

In the 2017 NEPIS, the 31 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 3 shows the median length of curriculum by program type and level of education.

- Nurse anesthetist programs required the most hours for the master’s degree with a median of 66 credit hours.
- Among degrees that did not lead to APRN certification, nursing leadership required the most hours for a master’s degree with a median of 40 hours.

Table 3. Median Length of Curriculum in Credit Hours

Program Type	Master's				PhD
	Master's	Post-Master's Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	
Nurse Practitioner	48.0	29.5	75.0	39.0	-
Nurse Anesthetist	66.0	-	112.0	39.0	-
Clinical Nurse Specialist	38.0	20.0	65.0	-	-
Nurse-Midwife	51.0	33.0	75.0	38.0	-
Nursing Administration	36.5	21.0	-	42.0	-
Nursing Education	38.0	15.0	-	-	-
Nursing Informatics	39.0	18.0	-	50.0	-
Nursing Leadership	40.0	19.0	-	-	-
Nursing Research	-	-	-	-	60.0
Public Health	39.0	-	-	-	-
Nurse Practice	-	-	-	42.5	-
Other ²	39.5	15.0	-	41.8	-

- The average number of credit hours in post-master's certificate programs ranged from 15 in other programs to 33 in nurse-midwife programs.
- Nurse anesthetist programs reported the highest average number of credit hours for BSN to DNP at 110.3, while nurse informatics programs required the highest average number of credit hours for a post master's DNP/DNAP at 50.

Note: "-" indicates these data were not available

² "Other" degrees reported included child health, forensic nursing science, patient management, and executive administrative management.

Programs of Study: Interprofessional Collaboration

The 2017 NEPIS again included a question on interprofessional collaboration, based on a recommendation from the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report. 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. "Other graduate level health professional students" may include physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, etc.

- 13 schools reported that they do not require any nursing courses that include other graduate level health professional students.

- 18 schools required nursing courses that included other graduate level health professional students.
- The number of courses involving interprofessional collaboration ranged from 1 course to 20 courses.

Table 4. Programs Requiring Courses that Offer Clinical or Simulation Experiences for Both APRN Students and One or More Types of Other Graduate Health Professional Students

Program Type	Programs Participating	Range of required classes
Nurse Practitioner	13	1-20
Nurse Anesthetist	3	5-18
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1	2
Nurse-Midwife	1	5

Programs of Study: Online Availability³

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Of the 31 schools that offered graduate nursing education programs:

- 18 schools (58.1%) offered their entire didactic content online.
- 13 schools (41.9%) offered select courses entirely online.

- 19 schools (61.3%) offered web-enhanced sections of courses online (blended/hybrid courses).
- 1 school had no online course availability.

³ Please note that programs may offer select courses entirely online and select courses as hybrids. Also note that all programs, whether or not they offer any portion of their program online, require hands-on, face-to-face clinical experiences.



APRN Programs: Population Focus Areas

A population focus area is the section of the population for which the student has been prepared to apply for licensure to practice by the Texas Board of Nursing. Tables 5 and 6 list the number of schools that offered NP and CNS programs, respectively, in each population focus area.

- The most commonly offered population focus area in NP programs was family, which was offered by all schools with an NP program.
- 4 schools offered a CNS program. Of these programs, population focus areas offered included adult/gerontology and pediatric.
- Schools were also asked if they offered any dual-track programs. None of the schools offered dual-track programs.

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 APRNs are required to take to be approved for prescriptive authority by the Board of Nursing.

Table 5. Nurse Practitioner Population Focus Areas

Nurse Practitioner (n= 26 schools)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Acute Care Adult / Gerontology	8
Acute Care Pediatric	4
Adult / Gerontology	5
Family	26
Neonatal	4
Pediatric	7
Psychiatric / Mental Health	9
Women's Health	2

Table 6. Clinical Nurse Specialist Population Focus Areas

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

- 3 of the 4 CNS programs offered a course on diagnosis and management and reported that the course was required.

APRN Programs: Precepted Practice Hours

In the 2017 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.

Figure 3 shows the median number of precepted practice hours by program type and level of education.

- Nurse anesthetist programs required the most hours for the master's degree program. This was the only nurse anesthetist master's degree program.
- The median required hours in post-master's certificate programs ranged from 540 in CNS programs to 682 in nurse-midwife programs.

- Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP programs required a range of median hours from 540 in CNS programs to 2,000 hours in nurse anesthetist programs.
- Post-master's DNP/DNAP programs required a range of median hours from 500 in nurse-midwife programs to 1,000 hours in NP programs.

Figure 3. Median Precepted Practice Hours in APRN Programs by Degree Type

