



NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY

TEXAS CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE STUDIES
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



2012

Update on Vocational Nursing Program Characteristics

This update presents data on the 97 vocational nursing (VN) education programs in Texas during the 2012 academic year, including:

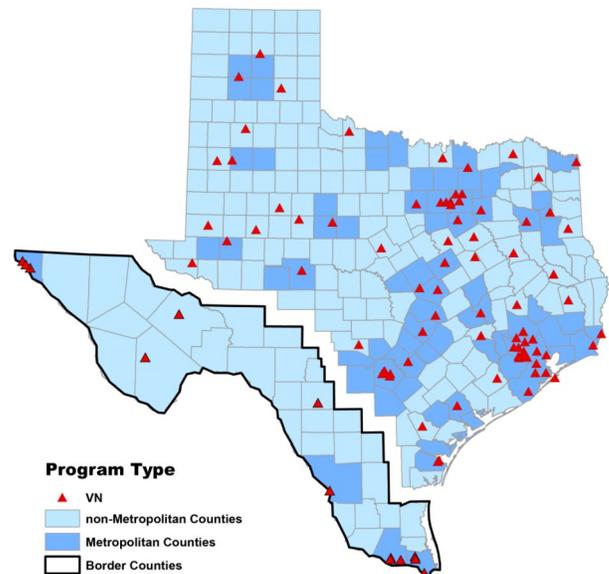
- ◆ 92 Generic Programs
 - ◆ 67 in public colleges/universities
 - ◆ 17 in career schools/colleges
 - ◆ 5 in private colleges/universities
 - ◆ 3 in private/public hospitals
- ◆ 5 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEP)
 - ◆ All located in public colleges/universities

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the Board of Nursing’s (BON) 2012 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 8, 2012. The reporting year was academic year (AY) 2011-2012 (September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012). TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and implementation of the survey.

Geographic Location and Affiliation of Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 1 at right depicts the geographic location of the vocational nursing programs in Texas by metropolitan and non-metropolitan counties and border county designations.

Figure 1. Geographic Location



Map source: Texas Center for Health Statistics, GIS 2013

Table 1. Geographic Designation of the Main Campuses

Program Affiliation	Geographic Region				Total
	Metro Border	Metro Non-Border	Non-Metro Border	Non-Metro Non-Border	
Public College/University	6	39	3	24	72
Private College/University	3	1	0	1	5
Public/Private Hospital	1	0	0	2	3
Career Schools/Colleges	1	16	0	0	17
Total	11	56	3	27	97

Table 1 above indicates the county designation for the programs’ main campus locations as well as the affiliation of each vocational nursing educational program.

- ◆ The majority (57.7%) of programs were located in a metropolitan non-border area.
- ◆ 27.8% of VN programs were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border area.
- ◆ 11 (11.4%) programs were located in a metropolitan border area.
- ◆ 3 (3.1%) VN programs were located in a non-metropolitan border area.

The 97 vocational nursing programs were governed by different types of institutions.

- ◆ 6 programs were governed by private/non-profit institutions.
- ◆ 18 programs were governed by private/for-profit institutions.
- ◆ 73 programs were governed by public institutions.

Program of Study

Length of Curriculum

In the 2012 NEPIS, programs were asked to report the length of their vocational nursing curriculum in months.

- ◆ Program length ranged from 9 to 17 months among vocational nursing programs.
- ◆ 80 (82.5%) vocational nursing programs were 12 months in length.

Online Availability of Vocational Nursing Programs

43 of 97 vocational nursing educational programs indicated that they offered nursing courses via online technology:

- ◆ 1 program offered the entire didactic portion online.
- ◆ 15 programs offered only select nursing courses entirely online.
- ◆ 28 programs offered select nursing courses as blended/hybrid courses.

Please note: Programs may have offered select courses entirely online and select courses as hybrids; all programs, despite if they offered any portion of their program online, offered clinical experiences. The curriculum content must also include clinical learning experiences involving direct contact with patients or simulation.

Program Hours

Programs were asked to report the total number of hours students were required to participate in didactic and clinical portions of the program of study. The clinical portion is the sum of computer lab, skills lab, simulation lab, and patient care clinical situation hours.

Table 2. Didactic and Clinical Contact Hours

		Mean Contact Hours	Median Contact Hours
Didactic	Didactic Total	616.9	576.0
	Clinical Total	903.9	880.0
Clinical	Computer Lab	50.5	48.0
	Skills Lab	154.4	125.0
	Simulation Lab	50.5	42.5
	Patient Care Clinical Situations	642.7	683.0

Please note: The above table excludes programs who reported zero hours.

Table 2 reports the mean and median number of contact hours (didactic and clinical) reported by VN programs. Clinical hours are further broken down by computer lab, skills lab, simulation lab, and patient care clinical situation hours.

- ◆ The didactic contact hours included face-to-face or online delivery of classroom instruction. BON rules required a minimum of 558 didactic hours in VN programs¹. The mean number of didactic hours reported by VN programs was 616.9 hours. The median number of hours was 576.0.
- ◆ The mean number of clinical contact hours reported by VN programs, which included computer lab, skills lab, simulation lab, and patient care clinical situations was 903.9 hours. The median reported was 880 hours and the highest number of hours reported was 1,152 hours. BON rules required a minimum of 840 total hours in clinical learning experiences for VN programs¹.
- ◆ Computer lab was an optional component of clinical hours that included interactive tutorials and learning modules. The mean and median hours reported by VN programs for computer lab were 50.5 and 48.0 hours, respectively. This does not include programs who reported zero hours of computer lab.
- ◆ Skills lab was defined as low- and medium- fidelity simulations and task training. All but 2 schools reported skills lab hours in their program of study. The mean and median hours reported for skills lab were 154.4 and 125.0 hours, respectively.
- ◆ Simulation lab was defined as high-fidelity situations including orientation, learning objectives, simulation experience, debriefing, and evaluation. 59 of 97 (60.8%) programs reported simulation hours for their program of study. The mean and median hours reported for simulation lab were 50.5 and 42.5 hours, respectively.
- ◆ Patient care clinical situations included direct care, observational experiences and clinical conferences. The mean and median number of hours reported for patient care clinical situations were 642.7 and 683.0 hours, respectively.

¹22 Tex. Admin. Code § 214.9. Accessed at: [http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=11&ch=214&rl=9](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=22&pt=11&ch=214&rl=9)