



## Program Characteristics of Vocational Nursing Programs

# 2013

**This update presents data for the 98 vocational nursing (VN) programs in Texas during the 2013 reporting year, including:**

- 93 generic programs
  - 67 in public colleges and universities
  - 20 in career schools/colleges
  - 3 in private colleges/universities
  - 3 in private/public hospitals
- 5 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEP)
  - All in public colleges and universities

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2013 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2013. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2012-2013 (September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

- The majority (58.2%) of programs were located in a metropolitan non-border area.
- 27.6% of VN programs were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border area.
- 11 (11.2%) programs were located in a metropolitan border area.
- 3 (3.1%) VN programs were located in a non-metropolitan border area.

### Governing Institution

The 98 vocational nursing programs were governed by different types of institutions.

- 5 programs were governed by private/non-profit institutions.
- 20 programs were governed by private/for-profit institutions.
- 73 programs were governed by public institutions.

## Geographic Location of Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 1 below indicates the county designation for the programs' main campus locations as well as the affiliation of each vocational nursing education program.

**Table 1. Geographic Designation of Main Campuses**

Program Affiliation	Geographic Designation				Total
	Metro Border	Metro Non-Border	Non-Metro Border	Non-Metro Non-Border	
Public College/University	6	39	3	3	3
Private College/University	2	0	0	1	3
Public/Private Hospital	1	0	0	2	3
Career Schools/Colleges	2	18	0	0	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>98</b>

Figure 1 below 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 of VN Programs**

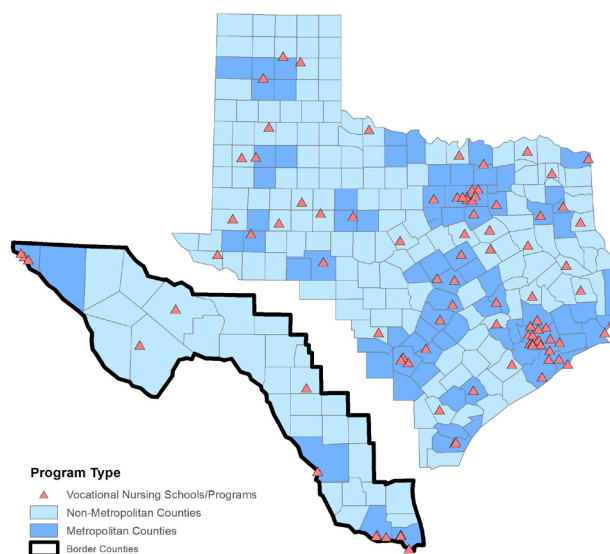


Table 2 shows the number of newly opened, closed, and total VN programs by year.

- Between 2006 and 2008, many programs consolidated, leading to a decrease in total number of programs from 115 to 89.
- In 2013, there were 98 VN programs. There was one new program, and no programs closed between 2012 and 2013.

**Table 2. Number of Opened, Closed, and Total VN Programs, 2006-2013**

	Newly Opened Programs	Closed Programs	Total Programs
2006	-	-	115
2007	2	25	92
2008	4	7	89
2009	3	0	92
2010	6	2	96
2011	2	1	97
2012	2	2	97
2013	1	0	98

## Length of Curriculum

In the 2013 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.
- 82 (83.7%) vocational nursing programs were 12 months in length.

## Online Availability of Vocational Nursing Programs

43 of 98 vocational nursing education programs indicated that they offered nursing courses via online technology:

- 1 program offered the entire didactic portion online.
- 20 programs offered only select nursing courses entirely online.
- 36 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.

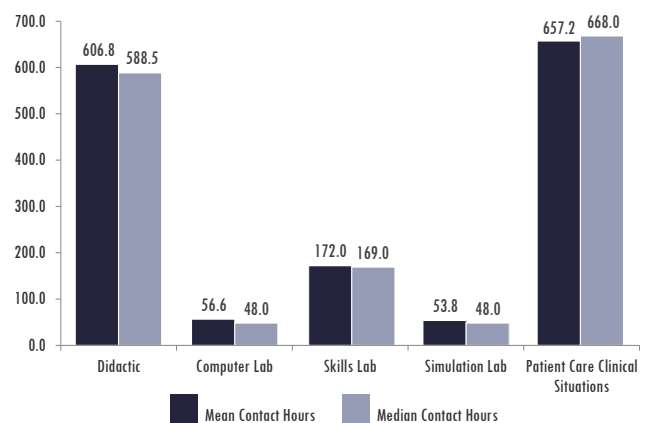
## Program Hours

**Table 3. Didactic and Contact Hours among Vocational Nursing Programs**

		Mean Contact Hours	Median Contact Hours
Didactic	Didactic Total	606.8	588.5
	Clinical Total	921.0	883.0
Clinical	Computer Lab	56.6	48.0
	Skills Lab	172.0	169.0
	Simulation Lab	53.8	48.0
	Patient Care Clinical Situations	657.2	668.0

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

**Figure 2. Didactic and Contact Hours among Vocational Nursing Programs**



## 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 3 and Figure 2 report 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 programs<sup>1</sup>. The mean number of didactic hours reported by VN programs was 606.8 hours. The median number of hours was 588.5.
- 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 921.0 hours. The median reported was 883 hours and the highest number of hours reported was 1,254 hours. BON rules required a minimum of 840 total hours in clinical learning experiences for VN programs<sup>1</sup>.
- 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 56.6 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 172.0 and 169.0 hours, respectively.
- Simulation lab was defined as high-fidelity situations including orientation, learning objectives, simulation experience, debriefing, and evaluation. 75 of 98 (76.5%) programs reported simulation hours for their program of study. The mean and median hours reported for simulation lab were 53.8 and 48.0 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 657.2 and 668.0 hours, respectively.

Table 4 shows the percentage of hands-on clinical time programs reported students spent in several different clinical settings.

- The largest percentage of hands-on clinical practice hours were spent in acute care, with programs reporting an average of 46.1% of clinical time spent.
- The next most used setting was Long Term Acute Care, with an average of 20.3% of clinical practice hours.

**Table 4. Average Percentage of Hand-On Clinical Time Spent by Setting**

Clinical Setting	Average % of Time Spent
Acute Care	46.1%
Clinics	8.2%
Community Settings	8.5%
Long Term Acute Care (LTAC)	20.3%
Long Term Care	20.2%
Nursing Home	19.2%
Other	10.5%
Rehabilitation	9.1%

<sup>1</sup>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)

