This update presents data for the 35 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 38 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 76 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2023

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=29)	24	23	9	6	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	1	1	1	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=5)	0	0	5	2	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	1	0
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=24)	20	7	3	9	0
Nursing Education (n=22)	21	13	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics (n=3)	2	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=11)	0	0	1	10	0
Other (n=6)	5	2	0	0	0

Note: n=number of programs. Programs can have multiple models of education.
*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 2023 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 2, 2023. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2023 (September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023) 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.
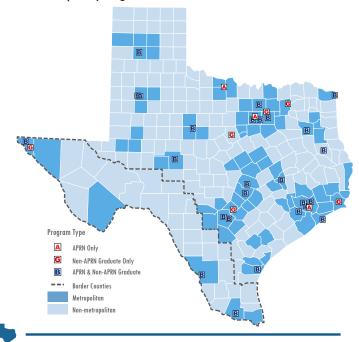
These 35 schools were located in 25 different counties in Texas.

The majority of schools (29 or 82.9%) were located in a metropolitan non-border county, 4 were located in a metropolitan border county, and 2 were located in a non-metropolitan, non-border county.

Table 2. Geographic Designation of Graduate Nursing School Main Campuses, 2023

Geographic Designation	# of Schools	% of Schools
Metropolitan Border	4	11.4%
Non-Metropolitan Border	0	0.0%
Metropolitan Non-Border	29	82.9%
Non-Metropolitan Non-Border	2	5.7%

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Graduate Nursing School Main Campuses, 2023

Program Type
- **A** APRN Only
- **G** Non-APRN Graduate Only
- **B** APRN & Non-APRN Graduate
- --- Border Counties
- Metropolitan
- Non-metropolitan

Graduate Program Types Over Time

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

- Since 2018, the number of APRN programs has increased from a total of 37 to 38 programs.

- The number of non-APRN programs has increased from a total of 71 to 76.

- The number of nurse-midwife (NM) and nursing research programs has remained unchanged for over 6 years.

- The number of nursing programs across all program types has remained relatively unchanged for the past 6 years.

- In 2023, "other" programs included comprehensive, simulation, forensic nursing science, leadership in diverse settings (LeaDS), psychiatric-mental health, and advanced pain management.

Table 3. Number of Graduate Nursing Programs by Program Type, 2018-2023

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Nurse Practitioner	27	26	26	28	30	29
Nurse Anesthetist	5	3	5	5	5	5
Clinical Nurse Specialist	3	4	3	2	2	2
Nurse-Midwife	2	2	2	2	2	2
Nurse Leadership/Admin	23*	22	22	23	23	24
Nursing Education	22	21	21	23	23	22
Nursing Informatics	2	2	3	3	3	3
Clinical Nurse Leader	5	6	4	2	2	2
Nursing Research	7	7	7	7	7	7
Public Health	0	1	1	1	1	1
**DNP-No Specialty	6	9	10	10	10	11
Other	6	7	5	6	6	6

*Nursing leadership and nursing administration were combined into nurse leadership/administration for 2018.

**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 "other" 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 Non-APRN Programs

In the 2023 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 and model of education for non-APRN programs.

- The PhD programs in Nursing Research required a median of 60 credit hours.

- Clinical nurse leader programs, only offered as master's degrees in 2023, required the most hours among master's and post-graduate certificate programs, with a median of 43 credit hours.

- Among Post-Master's DNP models of education, nursing informatics required the most credit hours with a median of 50.

- The one public health program required the most credit hours (69) for non-APRN programs.

Table 4. Median Length of Non-APRN Curriculum in Credit Hours, 2023

Program Type	Master's Degree and Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Leader/Admin	36	61.5	40	-
Nursing Education	36	-	40	-
Nursing Informatics	36	-	50	-
Clinical Nurse Leader	43	-	-	-
Nursing Research	-	-	-	60
Public Health	-	69	48	-
DNP - No Specialty	-	-	42	-
Other	39	-	-	-

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

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

Online Availability of Graduate Programs

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology.

- All 35 graduate schools of nursing indicated that they offered nursing courses via online technology in the AY 2022-2023.
- 71.9% of master's/post-graduate certificate programs offered the didactic content of all nursing courses entirely online, compared to 81.0% of DNP programs and 37.5% of PhD programs.
- 40.6% of master's/post-graduate certificate programs offered select nursing courses entirely online, compared to 42.9% of DNP programs and 12.5% of PhD programs.
- 62.5% of PhD programs offered select nursing blendid/hybrid courses compared to 50.0% of master's/post-graduate certificate programs and 85.7% of DNP programs.

APRN Program Characteristics

Program Content

All 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.

Population Focus Areas

A population focus area is the section of the population for which the student has been prepared to apply for APRN licensure to practice by the Texas Board of Nursing. Tables 5 and 6 (page 4) list the number of schools that offered NP and CNS programs, respectively, in each population focus area.

- The family population focus area was the most commonly offered among NP programs, offered by 28 of the 29 NP programs.
- Women's health was the least commonly offered population focus area in NP programs, offered by only 1 NP program.

Table 5. Nurse Practitioner Population Focus Areas, 2023

Nurse Practitioner (n= 29 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Family	28
Psychiatric/Mental Health	17
Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	9
Pediatric	7
Acute Care Pediatric	5
Neonatal	4
Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	4
Women's Health	1

Table 6. Clinical Nurse Specialist Population Focus Areas, 2023

Clinical Nurse Specialist (n= 2 programs)	
Population Focus Area	Number of Programs
Adult / Gerontology (Primary care)	2
Pediatric	1

- Both CNS programs offered the adult/gerontology focus area, and 1 offered the pediatric focus area.

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

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

Curriculum Length

Table 7 shows the median APRN curriculum length in credit hours by program type, education model, and where applicable, population focus area.

- Post-baccalaureate DNP models had the longest curriculum overall, with median credit hours ranging from 64 to 112 hours.
- Post-graduate certificate models had the shortest curriculum overall, with median credit hours ranging from 27 to 39 hours.

Table 7. Median APRN Curriculum Length in Credit Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2023

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	46.5	32.5	75	38.5
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	51	36.5	89	35
NP-Family	48	30	75.5	39
NP-Neonatal	46	36	75	35
NP-Pediatric	46	28	75.5	35
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	43	32	79	42
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	48	27.5	74.5	42
NP-Women's Health	45	27	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	49	28	64	-
CNS-Pediatric	-	-	66	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	51	39	75	35
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	-	112	33

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

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

Precepted Practice Hours

In the 2023 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 8 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 540 to 2,500 hours.
- Master's degree models required a range of median hours from 615 in Adult/Gerontology CNS programs to 790 in NM programs.
- Post-master's DNP models required a range of median hours from 120 in CRNA programs to 600 in Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner programs.

Table 8. Median Precepted Practice Hours by Education Model, Program Type, and Population Focus Area, 2023

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*
NP-Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	697.5	670	1,020	430
NP-Acute Care Pediatric	675	630	1,725	600
NP-Family	675	675	1,022.5	500
NP-Neonatal	765	660	1,125	500
NP-Pediatric	675	660	892.5	500
NP-Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	750	720	1,140	360
NP-Psychiatric/Mental Health	650	585	1,000	500
NP-Women's Health	780	780	-	-
CNS-Adult/Gerontology	615	615	540	-
CNS-Pediatric	-	-	570	-
Certified Nurse-Midwife	790	500	1,125	500
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	-	-	2,500	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.