



This update presents data for the 7 vocational nursing (VN) programs in Texas that offered options for high school students during the 2021 reporting year.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2021 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 4, 2021. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2020-2021 (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

In 2017, TCNWS and the BON added a supplement to the survey 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.

Program Characteristics

Programs were asked when the high school track begins. 2 programs begin in the high school senior year, 4 in the junior year, and 1 in the sophomore year. 5 tracks count high school students as nursing students upon their admission to the nursing program, and 2 count them after they have taken prerequisites. Table 1 shows the geographic designation and program setting of these 7 programs.

Table 1. Geographic Designation of Programs with High School Tracks, 2021

Program Setting	Geographic Designation				Total
	Metro Border	Metro Non-Border	Non-Metro Border	Non-Metro Non-Border	
Community, State, or Technical College	1	1	0	3	5
For Profit and other institutions	1	0	0	1	2
Total	2	1	0	4	7

Programs were also asked about other characteristics of their high school tracks (programs could select more than one option):

- 3 programs form a pathway for students to matriculate into a Board of Nursing approved nursing program after high school graduation.
- 3 programs require students to take required high school courses and nursing program courses at the same time.

- 1 program provides prerequisite courses and at least one nursing course while students are in high school.
- 2 programs allow students to complete the nursing program curriculum while in high school.
- 4 programs allow students to complete the nursing program curriculum after high school graduation.
- No programs allowed students to graduate from high school with a certificate as a VN, and students in only 1 program would be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN immediately upon high school graduation.

Programs were asked about the nursing classes taught to high school students (programs could select more than one option):

- In 5 tracks, classes are taught by nursing program faculty.
- 4 tracks teach in one high school setting.
- 3 tracks teach on the college campus.
- 3 tracks teach by distance learning (online, video transmission, or other methods).
- 4 tracks integrate the high school students with traditional nursing students.
- 4 tracks follow the same clinical requirements as for the traditional program.
- 5 tracks use the same clinical settings as used in the traditional program.
- 6 tracks use the same instructional strategies as used in the traditional nursing program.



Applications to High School Tracks

Table 2 lists data on qualified applications¹ and admissions to high school tracks from 2017 through 2021.

- Seats for new students² decreased by 3.3% from 2017 to 2021 while the number of programs increased by 1.
- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
 - There were 105 qualified applications in 2021, a decrease of 6.3% from 2020.
 - Of the qualified applications, admission was offered to 100, or 95.2%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission (QANA) was 5.
- 5 programs accepted all qualified applications in 2021.

Table 2. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA) in High School Tracks, 2017-2021

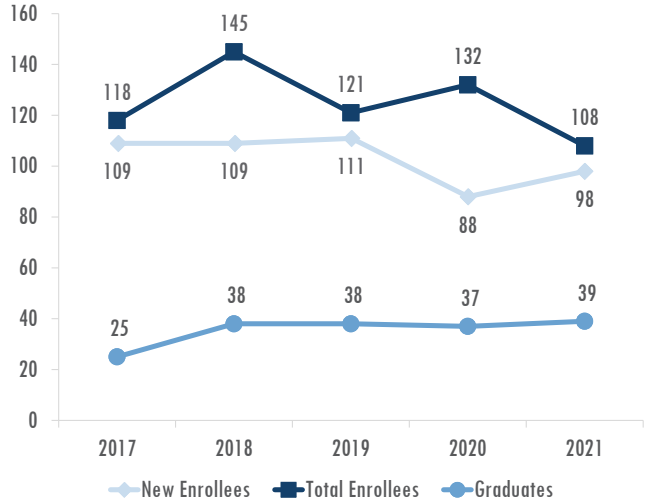
Year	# of Programs	Seats for New Students ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2017	6	122	138	110	28 (20.3%)
2018	6	143	167	119	48 (28.7%)
2019	5	130	122	111	11 (9.0%)
2020	6	104	112	93	11 (9.8%)
2021	7	118	105	100	5 (4.8%)

Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation in High School Tracks

Figure 1 shows the yearly change in the number of newly enrolled students, total enrolled students, and graduates from 2017 to 2021. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From 2020 to 2021, the number of graduates stayed virtually the same, while the number of total enrollees decreased by 24 and the number of newly enrolled students increased by 10.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollees, and Graduates in High School Tracks, 2017-2021



¹Qualified applications refer to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

²Per 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.).

