

# Educational Options to Become A Nurse



**High School Graduate**  
4 years of science and mathematics recommended



**Vocational Program**

**College or University**

**Vocational Nurse**  
9-12 months

**Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)**  
2-3 years

**Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN)**  
4 years

**Vocational Nurse (LVN)**  
Licensure Exam  
[www.bvne.state.tx.us](http://www.bvne.state.tx.us)

**Registered Nurse (RN) Licensure Exam**  
[www.bne.state.tx.us](http://www.bne.state.tx.us)

**Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) to Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)**  
1 year

**RN to BSN Program**  
Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN)  
1-2 years

**Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**  
Nurse Practitioner (NP), Nurse Administrator (NA), Clinical Specialist (CNS), Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)  
2-2 ½ years

**Doctorate in Nursing**  
Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD), Doctorate in Nursing Science (DNS), Doctorate in Nursing (DN)  
3+ years

## ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES OF TEXAS GRADUATES OF VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS

### A. Provider of Care:

1. **Assist** in determining the health status and health needs of clients (individual based on interpretation of health related date, and preventive health practices in collaboration with clients (individual), their families, and other members of the immediate health care team.
2. **Assist** in the formulation of goals/outcomes and a **plan of care** in collaboration with the client (individual), their families, and interdisciplinary health care team members.
3. Implement plan of care within legal and ethical parameters, including scope of **education**, in collaboration with the client (individual) and interdisciplinary health care team to assist client (individual) in meeting health care needs.
4. Implement teaching plan for client (individual) **with common health problems and well-defined learning needs**.
5. **Assist** in the evaluation of the client's (individual) responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions.
6. Provide **direct basic care to assigned multiple clients** (individual) in structured settings.
7. Use the **problem-solving approach** as the basis for decision making in practice.

### B. Coordinator of Care:

1. **Assist** in the coordination of human and material resources for the provision of care for assigned clients (individual).
2. Collaborate with clients (individual) and the interdisciplinary health care team to provide direct care to assigned clients (individual).
3. **Participate in the identification of client (individual) needs** for referral to resources that facilitate continuity of care.
4. **Participate in activities which support** the organizational framework of structured health care settings.

### C. Member of a Profession:

1. **Demonstrate accountability for own nursing practice**.
2. **Participate** as an advocate in activities that focus on improving the health care of clients (individual).
3. **Demonstrate behaviors** that promote the development and practice of **vocational** nursing.

## ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES OF TEXAS GRADUATES OF DIPLOMA/ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

### A. Provider of Care:

Competencies of the prior level plus;

1. **Determine** the health status and health needs of clients (individuals **and family**) based upon interpretation of health data and preventive health practices in collaboration with clients (individual **and family**) and **interdisciplinary** health care team members.
2. **Formulate** goals/outcomes and plan of care based on **nursing diagnoses** in collaboration with clients (individual **and family**) and interdisciplinary health care team members.
3. Implement plan of care within legal and ethical parameters, including scope of **practice**, in collaboration with the client (individual **and family**) and interdisciplinary health care team to assist client (individual **and family**) in meeting health care needs.
4. **Develop and implement** teaching plans for clients (individual **and family**) **concerning promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health**.
5. Evaluate clients' (individual **and family**) responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions.
6. **Provide for** the care of multiple clients (individual and family) either through direct care or assignment and/or delegation of care to other members of the health care team.
7. Use **critical thinking approach to analyze clinical data and current literature** as a basis for decision making in nursing practice.

### B. Coordinator of Care:

1. **Coordinate** human and material resources for the provision of care for clients' (individual **and family**).
2. Collaborate with clients (individual and family) and the interdisciplinary health care team **for the planning and delivery of care**.
3. Refer clients (individuals **and family**) to resources that facilitate continuity of care.
4. **Function within** the organizational framework of various health care settings.

### C. Member of a Profession:

1. Assume accountability **and responsibility for the quality of nursing care provided to clients (individuals and family)**.
2. **Act** as an advocate to promote the provision of quality health care for clients (individual **and family**).
3. **Participate in activities** that promote the development and practice of **professional** nursing.

## ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES OF TEXAS GRADUATES OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

### A. Provider of Care:

Competencies of the prior levels plus;

1. **Determine** the health status and health needs based on **expanded** interpretation of health-related data and preventive health practices in collaboration with clients (individual, **their families, and groups**) and the interdisciplinary health care team.
2. **Formulate** goals/outcomes and plan of care using an **evidence-based and theoretical analysis of available data** in collaboration with client (individual, **their families, and groups**) and interdisciplinary health care team members.
3. Implement plan of care within legal and ethical parameters, including scope of **practice**, in collaboration with the clients (individual, **their families, and groups**) and interdisciplinary health care team to assist client (individual, their families, and groups in meeting health care needs.
4. **Develop and implement comprehensive** teaching plans to meet the learning needs of clients (individual, **their families, and groups**).
5. Evaluate clients' individual, **their families, and groups** responses and outcomes to therapeutic interventions.
6. **Provide for** the care of multiple clients (individual, **their families, and groups**) either through direct care or assignment and/or delegation of care to other members of the health care team.
7. Use an evidence based analytical approach as the basis for decision making in practice.

### B. Coordinator of Care:

1. **Coordinate** human and material resources for the provision of care for clients (individual, **their families, and groups**).
2. Collaborate with clients (individual, **their families, and groups**) and the interdisciplinary health care team for the planning and delivery of care.
3. Refer clients (individual, **their families, and groups**) to resources that facilitate continuity of care.
4. Function **as a facilitator** within the organizational structure of **various** health care settings.

### C. Member of a Profession:

1. **Assume accountability and responsibility for the quality of nursing care provided to clients (individual, their families, and groups)**.
2. **Serve as health care advocate in monitoring and promoting access to and quality of health care for clients (individual, their families, and groups)**.
3. **Act as a leader in promoting nursing as a profession**.