RN Refresher Course expands throughout Texas

It may not be necessary that you live in San Antonio to take the RN Refresher Course; the course has clinical affiliations in San Antonio and select locations throughout the state. A variety of clinical sites are available to meet the needs of returning nurses and the changing healthcare system, including inpatient and ambulatory settings.

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requires experienced nurses, who have not practiced in more than four years, or who are transitioning into new practice settings, to take a refresher course before re-entering the clinical setting. The Department of Lifelong Learning first launched the RN Refresher Course in the summer of 2010 to meet the community need for a local option for nurses to prepare to re-enter practice in accordance with the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requirements.

Do the nurses taking the course look like you?
- 80% have BSNs
- Average age is 48
- Years away from clinical practice ranges from less than 5 years to more than 20 years, but 35% have been away from clinical practice for 11 to 15 years.

A recent survey of nurses that completed the entire course showed that 54% were employed in clinical nursing jobs; 85% of those were employed in less than six months, primarily at their clinical practicum site. Work schedules met the nurses’ needs with 46% working full-time and the remainder working part-time or float pool.

The RN Refresher Course is offered in both the fall and spring semesters and designed to expand the nurses’ knowledge, skills and attitudes by applying information related to new technology, equipment, current nursing trends and legal and ethical issues to previously acquired formal education. The 16-week course is comprised of both a didactic and clinical component where the didactic component consists of 112 hours of online course instruction and 16
hours of skills lab. The clinical component is led by a registered nurse instructor and conducted on campus over three days. Students will be paired with a registered nurse preceptor to complete the 80 hours of clinical practicum in an affiliated clinical agency.

Clinical practicum sites are selected by the registered nurse instructor based on the nurses’ prior clinical experience, years in clinical nursing practice, desired practice setting, and available clinical sites.

If you are interested in learning more about our RN Refresher Course, and for application deadlines, please visit [http://nursing.uthscsa.edu/ce/rnRefresherCourse.aspx](http://nursing.uthscsa.edu/ce/rnRefresherCourse.aspx).