

CURRICULUM VITAE

Sylvia Mercado Vargas
 Clinical Assistant Professor
 Texas A&M University College of Nursing
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EDUCATION

DNP	University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio - Advanced Practice Leadership	2021
MSN	Texas A&M University Corpus Christi Family Nurse Practitioner Program	2013
BSN	University of Texas Pan American	2009
Associate of Applied Science in Nursing	University of Texas Pan American	1985

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATES

- Certified Academic Clinical Nurse Educator (CNEcl) February 2026-present
- BLS Certification, current through-10/31/2026
- Auricular Point Acupressure-Self Management (APA-SM) Pain Team – March 2025
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), Family Nurse Practitioner, 2013-present
- Texas Board of Nurse Examiners, APRN, 2013 – present, License # AP124078
- Texas Board of Nurse Examiners, RN, 1985 – present, License # 526176

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Texas A&M University College of Nursing,

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| Clinical Assistant Professor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of Evidence-Based Practice for the Registered Nurse (RN-BSN) (Undergraduate) • Community Health for the RN (Undergraduate) • Adult Health Nursing II (Undergraduate) • Adult Health Nursing I (Undergraduate) | 2018-present |
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- Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns (Undergraduate)
- Evidence Based Practice for Nurses (Undergraduate)
- Advanced Health Assessment for FNP (Graduate)
- Primary Care of Families I, II and III (Graduate)
- Procedures and Diagnostics (Graduate)
- Theoretical Foundations of Healthcare (Doctoral)

South Texas College 2007-2015

ADN and VN Faculty:

- Didactic Instructor for Pediatrics, Gerontology, Maternal-Child, and Foundations of Nursing
- Skills Lab Instructor
- Pediatric, OB and Med-Surg Clinical Instructor

PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE

Texas A&M CON Interim FNP Program Coordinator 2025-present

Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) 2023-present
Clinic Coordinator and Co-PI

Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Clinics 2020-present
Faculty Preceptor

Texas A&M Mobile Ambulatory Clinic 2022-present
Healthcare Provider and Student Preceptor

The Prenatal Clinic 2022
Family Nurse Practitioner providing obstetric care

Astella Hospice 2022-present
Family Nurse Practitioner

McAllen ISD School Health Clinic 2017-2018
Perez Elementary

University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine. 2015-2017
John A. Pena Adolescent Behavioral Clinic and
Pediatric Pulmonology Clinic
Senior Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Affairs Department

South Side Night Clinic with Dr. Bertha Medina 2014-2020
Family Nurse Practitioner providing pediatric and women's health care

South Texas College Nursing Instructor	2007-2015
Monte Cristo Family Clinic Nurse practitioner providing family health care	2013-2014
Mission Regional Hospital Staff and Charge Nurse, NICU and newborn nurseries	2006-2007
Pro Care Health Services Home Health RN	2004-2006
McAllen Medical Center Staff Nurse, NICU Neonatal Resuscitation Program instructor in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics and The American Heart Association. Neonatal Transport team member	1997-2004
McAllen Medical Center Staff and charge nurse, NICU	1989-1992
La Joya ISD, La Joya, Texas School Nurse	1989
Rio Grande Regional Hospital, McAllen, Texas Charge nurse, Newborn nursery and NICU	1987-1989
Texas Medical Foundation, McAllen, Texas Quality Review Specialist	1987
McAllen Medical Center, Staff and charge nurse, NICU; Surgery, circulator.	1985-1987

HONORS AND AWARDS

Provost Academic Professional Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award- Nominee	2025
AFS University-Level Distinguished Achievement – Graduate Mentoring Award- Nominee	2025
Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence Award- Nominee	2024

Koldus Faculty Achievement Award – Nominee	2024
Team Daisy Award CPRIT Cancer Screening Team	2022
The Daisy Award® for Extraordinary Nurses, Nurse educator	2021
Recipient of Air Force Nurse Corps Scholarship	2019
Recipient of Texas Nurse Practitioners Scholarship	2012

PUBLICATIONS

Vargas, S., Haddad, L., & Clements, P.T. (In peer review). (2026). Challenges to rapid transition into leadership in nursing academia. *Teaching and Learning in Nursing*

Vargas, S., Kroll, N.P., & Wilson, K.L. (submitted for review). (2026). Texas A&M np care program: Advancing well-woman cervical cancer screening in medically underserved rural communities. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*

Hepfer, K., **Vargas, S., Haddad, L. & Clements, P.T.** (in progress). Preparing novice nurse leaders: Structural, interpersonal, and organizational strategies. Target Journal: *The Nurse Practitioner*

PRESENTATIONS

National Conferences:

AANP National Conference- Poster Presentation “Nurse Practitioners CARE: Cancer Addressed through rural engagement” June 17-22, 2025

State and Local Conference/Organization Presentations:

Lunch and Learn Presentation, Texas A&M University, April 4, 2024; “Nurse Practitioners CARE: Cancer Addressed through rural engagement”

La Voz Aggieldand Spanish Podcast “Explorando el Bienestar y la Salud: Una Conversación con la Dra. Sylvia Vargas” December 8, 2023

The CPRIT Innovations Conference- Poster Presentation “Texas A&M NPs CARE: Cancer Addressed through Rural Engagement” October 2-3, 2023.

Texas A&M School of Nursing Presentation “Barriers Hispanic Students Face When Pursuing a Higher Education” September 20, 2022

Texas Health Occupation Association Conference- Presentation “Identifying Barriers Hispanic Students Face When Pursing a Nursing Career” July 19, 2022

UT Health San Antonio presentation of “Development of a Peer Chart Review Process for APRNs at a Behavioral Health Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project” Nov. 24, 2021

Texas Nurse Practitioner Association- Poster Presentation “Cultural Competence in the Care of the Hispanic Mother-Baby Couplet” 32nd Fall Conference Sept. 25-27, 2020

Texas A&M Health Science Center Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptor and Provider of Care at Operation Lone Star-Brownsville July 23-27, 2018

UTRGV-McAllen ISD School Nurse Health Assessment Workshop Co-Developer and Lead Instructor on pediatric asthma, signs, symptoms, and interventions; January 6, 2017

UTRGV-McAllen ISD Health Fairs, Health Care Provider of school physical assessments; August, 2016

South Texas College, Teaching Circles Academy, Member; contributed to the development, filming and editing of multi-disciplinary nursing allied health student scenario showcased during SUN (Simulation Users Network) Conference, and future college presentations.

SPONSORED PROJECTS:

Continuation/Expansion of Texas A&M's interdisciplinary Cancer Prevention Program for Rural and Medically Underserved Women; TAMHSC - Primary Care Medicine; Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (Grant Extension 2023-2024: PD: **Vargas, S.**, and Co-I's: OBriant, D., Page, R., Total Award Amount: 2,499,570.00 (over 3 years.)

Expansion of Texas A&M'S Cancer Prevention Program to Rural and Medically Underserved Women (Grant Extension 2023-2024: PD: **Vargas, S.**, and Co-I's: Hare, M., OBriant, D., Page, R., Amount: 1,656,478.00 (over 4 years.)

Texas A&M Nursing CARES: Cancer Addressed through Rural Engagement and Screening. Funding Source (2022-2023), The Discovery Foundation, PD: Weston, C., and Co-I's: Hare, M., OBriant, D., Page, R., & **Vargas, S.** Amount: \$75,000.

OTHER:

Vargas, S. Complex Case Study- Respiratory, GINA Guidelines n/a (2022).

TEACHING

Texas A&M University College of Nursing

2025 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II- Course Coordinator NURS 653 NURS Advanced Health Assessment-20% responsible NURS 323 Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns-25% responsible
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2025 Summer	NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III- 25 % responsible
2025 Spring	NURS 461 Application of Evidence-Based Practice for the RN-100% NURS 625 Primary Care of Families Practicum- 25% responsible NURS 653 NURS Advanced Health Assessment-20% responsible
2024 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II- Course Coordinator NURS 653 NURS Advanced Health Assessment-20% responsible NURS 323 Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns-25% responsible
2024 Summer	NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III- 25 % responsible
2024 Spring	NURS 625 Primary Care of Families Practicum- 25% responsible NURS 653 NURS Advanced Health Assessment-20% responsible
2023 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II- Course Coordinator NURS 618 Advanced Pharmacology
2023 Summer	NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III- 25 % responsible NURS 323 Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns
2023 Spring	NURS 461 Application of Evidence-Based Practice for the RN NURS 622 Primary Care of Families I – 25% responsible NURS 320 Adult Nursing I
2022 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II- Course Coordinator NURS 323 Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns NURS 621 Diagnostics and Procedures NURS 725 Theoretical Foundations of Healthcare
2022 Summer	NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III- 25 % responsible
2022 Spring	NURS 625 Primary Care of Families Practicum- 25% responsible NURS 323 Nursing Care of Women, Families, & Newborns - 67.5 % responsible
2021 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II-Course Co-Coordinator NURS 320 Adult Nursing I- 67.5 % responsible NURS 653 Advanced Health Assessment-20% responsible NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III- 25 % responsible

2021 Summer	
2021 Spring	NURS 320 Adult Nursing I -67.5 % responsible NURS 625 Primary Care of Families Practicum- 25% responsible
2020 Fall	NURS 420 Adult Nursing II -67.5% responsible NURS 623 Primary Care of Families III 25% responsible
2020 Summer	NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III – 25% responsible
2020 Spring	NURS 411 Evidence Based Practice for Nurses – 35% responsible NURS 622 Primary Care of Families I – 25% responsible
2019 Summer	NURS 625 Primary Care of Families Practicum – 25% responsible
2019 Spring	NURS 466 Community Health for RN - 20% responsible NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III - 25% responsible
2018 Fall	NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II - 25 % responsible NURS 653 Advanced Health Assessment - 20% responsible
2018 Summer	NURS 522 Primary Care of Families I - 25 % responsible
2018 Spring	NURS 466 Community Health for RN - 20% responsible

MEMBERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties- Member- 2026

TAMU CON CPRIT Principal Investigator- Summer 2025-2027

TAMU CON CPRIT Principal Investigator- Summer 2023-2025

Cancer Alliance of Texas-Member at large- 2023-present

International Association of Latino Nurse Faculty
Member 2022- present

Texas A&M School of Nursing
Student Policy and Scholarship Committee- Member 2023
Climate and Diversity Committee Chair 2022-23; 2023-24

Texas A&M College of Nursing
Climate and Diversity Committee Member 2020 - present
Graduate Admissions, Progression & Graduation Committee Member 2021-present

American Association of Nurse Practitioners – Member 2016-present

Texas Nurse Practitioners - Member 2012-present

Valley Advanced Practice Nurse Association – Member 2015-2018

STC Vocational Nursing: Curriculum Committee Member
Budget Committee Member 2013

STC Associate Degree Nursing: Curriculum Committee Member.
Voter Registration Taskforce Member 2014

Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society
181 Eta Omicron Chapter, member 2012-2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

TAMU College of Medicine MMI Interviewer, Oct. 1, 2024- present

TAMU CON Disaster Day Faculty Observer, March. 1, 2024

TAMU CON CPRIT Principal Investigator- Summer 2023-present

Cancer Alliance of Texas-Member at large- 2023-present

TAMU CON Nurses Christian Fellowship Student Organization-Advisor Fall 2022-present

TAMU CPRIT Clinics Healthcare Provider and Student Preceptor 2020- present

TAMU CON Mobile Ambulatory Clinic Healthcare Provider and Student Preceptor
Brenham ISD Health Screenings 2022

TAMU CON Disaster Day Faculty Observer, Feb. 25, 2022

Prenatal Clinic Health Care Provider Feb. 1, 2022-Dec. 2022

TAMU CON CPRIT Clinic Team Faculty Member- 2021-present

Flu Clinic Volunteer Faculty TAMU CON and St. Joseph's Health- Oct. 14, 2021

TAMU IPER Symposium Group Facilitator- Nov. 17, 2021

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium- Nov. 9-10, 2021

Botox Aesthetics Training and Certification- Sept. 15, 2021

STC Faculty Advisor Certification, 2009

Texas A&M College of Nursing Advisory Board Member

Rio Grande Valley 2017 - present