Recruiting graduate nurses into oncology practice postgraduation continues to be challenging. Graduate nurses tend to prefer clinical settings that they consider high-tech or challenging, with oncology ranking low. In addition, new oncology nurses have the highest turnover rate among all cancer clinicians. Higher cancer incidence rates and advances in cancer treatments have increased the demand for oncology nurses. Because of these challenges, this study sought to explore undergraduate nursing students’ attitudes toward oncology nursing, describe factors influencing their preferred practice setting for employment, and examine the correlation between these factors.

**AT A GLANCE**

- Family members and nursing mentors are the main influences on nursing students’ field choice.
- Students who felt prepared to care for a patient with cancer were more likely to be aged older, be further along in their studies, be enrolled in a nursing program with an oncology course, have previously cared for a patient with cancer, and report that their nursing program prepared them to care for a patient with cancer.
- Increasing awareness among prelicensure faculty about developing a dedicated oncology nursing course is essential.

**KEYWORDS**

prelicensure nursing student; attitudes; oncology; cancer; education; preparation

**DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER**

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