



Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Advanced Practice Nursing Education Programs

2014

This update presents data for the 24 schools with advanced practice nursing education programs that participated in the 2014 NEPIS. These schools offer advanced practice nursing education programs leading to advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) licensure in Texas. These schools represent 31 programs:

- 4 Nurse Anesthetist programs,
- 2 Nurse Midwife programs,
- 21 Nurse Practitioner programs, and
- 4 Clinical Nurse Specialist programs.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2014 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2014. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2013-2014 (September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Qualified Applications for APRN Programs

Table 1 lists data on qualified applications and admissions from 2011 through 2014. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The total enrollment capacity, based on the standards set by individual programs, increased by 94 enrollment spaces (3.8% increase) from AY 2012-2013 to AY 2013-2014.
- From 2013 to 2014, there was a 27.8% increase in the number of qualified applications and a 7% increase in applications offered admission.¹
- In 2014, 2,452 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), representing nearly half of applications submitted to APRN programs for the AY 2013-2014

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & QANA, 2011-2014

	Enrollment Capacity ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
2011	1,837	3,278	1,957	1,321 (40.3%)
2012	1,933	3,983	1,983	2,000 (50.2%)
2013	2,496	3,876	2,338	1,538 (39.7%)
2014	2,590	4,953	2,501	2,452 (49.5%)

Table 2 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to all 31 APRN programs.

- Nurse practitioner programs had the highest percentage of qualified applications not offered admission with 42% not admitted. Nurse practitioner programs also had the highest number of applicants and admission offers.
- 2 nurse midwife programs, 5 nurse practitioner programs, and 1 clinical nurse specialist programs offered admission to all qualified applications.

Table 2. Qualified Applications & Admissions by Program Type, 2014

Program Type	Enrollment Capacity ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
Nurse Anesthetist	325	562	279	283 (50.4%)
Nurse-Midwife	27	23	22	1 (4.3%)
Nurse Practitioner	2,814	4,310	2,501	1,809 (42%)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	54	58	34	24 (41.4%)
Total	3,220	4,953	2,836	2,117 (42.7%)

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

²Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Enrollment capacity may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).



The 23 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the most important reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- Lack of budgeted faculty positions was the reason most often chosen as “very important” (13 programs).
- The second most often rated as “very important”

was lack of clinical placement (11 programs).

- Lack of qualified faculty applicants for budgeted positions was rated as “very important” by 6 programs and was rated as “important” by 11 programs.
- 20 programs rated limited classroom space as “not at all important” and only 1 program rated this reason as “very important” or “important”.

Newly Enrolled Students in APRN Programs

Table 3 shows the number of newly enrolled, first year students by program type and academic year. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.³

- Overall, there was a 22.1% increase in the number of newly enrolled students from AY 2012-2013 to AY 2013-2014, even though the number of APRN programs stayed the same.
- The number of newly enrolled students was lower than the total program enrollment capacity by 952 students (29.6%).
- From AY 2012-2013 to AY 2013-2014, the number of newly enrolled students decreased in only the clinical nurse specialist program (3.1% decrease).
- Similar to last year, nurse practitioner programs have reported the highest number of newly enrolled students. The number of newly enrolled nurse practitioner students increased by 24.7% in 2014.

Table 3. Newly Enrolled Students by Program Type, AY 2012-2013 & AY 2013-2014

Program Type	Newly Enrolled APRN Students, AY 2012-2013	Newly Enrolled APRN Students, AY 2013-2014	% Change from AY 2012-2013 to AY 2013-2014
Nurse Anesthetist	240	258	7.5%
Nurse-Midwife	10	13	30%
Nurse Practitioner	1,576	1,966	24.7%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	32	31	-3.1%
Total	1,858	2,268	22.1%

³All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master’s students as well as post-master’s certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master’s DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

Total Enrollment in APRN Programs

Table 4 displays enrollment numbers by program type over the past 4 academic years.³

- Overall, there was an increase in enrolled students from 4,627 in AY 2012-2013 to 5,301 in AY 2013-2014.
- From 2013 to 2014, the number of students enrolled in nurse anesthetist programs increased by 0.6%.
- The number of students enrolled in nurse-midwife programs has remained steady over the past 4 years. There was a total of 30 enrolled students in 2014.
- The number of students enrolled in nurse practitioner programs has steadily increased since 2011. From 2013 to 2014, there was a 17.9% increase in enrolled students.
- Nurse practitioner enrollees accounted for 85.2% of all enrolled APRN students in 2014.

- Clinical nurse specialist enrollees increased slightly from 2012 to 2013, but dropped considerably in 2014 (16.7% decrease).

Table 4. Enrollment by Program Type, 2011-2014

Program Type	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nurse Anesthetist	654	611	683	687
Nurse-Midwife	30	31	31	30
Nurse Practitioner	3,271	3,574	3,829	4,514
Clinical Nurse Specialist	95	82	84	70
Total	4,050	4,298	4,627	5,301

³All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master’s students as well as post-master’s certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master’s DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

Graduates from APRN Programs

Table 5 shows the APRN graduates by program type for the past 4 academic years.³

- A total of 1,454 students graduated from APRN programs in AY 2013-2014. This is an increase of 8.8% from the number of graduates in AY 2012-2013.
- All schools reported the number of graduates who will work in Texas. Of the 1,454 total graduates, 1,234 (84.9%) will work in Texas.
- In AY 2013-2014, state of residence and family in other states were the reasons schools most frequently cited as to why graduates planned to work in states other than Texas (15 schools).
- Independent practice (5 schools) and higher pay in other states (4 schools) were also cited by schools as reasons why graduates will work in states other than Texas.⁴
- 6 schools did not specify why graduates chose to leave Texas.

Table 5. Graduates by Program Type, 2011-2014

Program Type	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nurse Anesthetist	213	229	235	215
Nurse-Midwife	2	8	9	13
Nurse Practitioner	774	970	1,067	1,190
Clinical Nurse Specialist	30	53	26	36
Total	1,019	1,260	1,337	1,454

³All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master's students as well as post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

⁴Schools were able to report more than one reason for why graduates planned to work in states other than Texas.

Program Profile: Nurse Anesthetist Programs

In the 2014 NEPIS, nurse anesthetist programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 4 programs offered 3 different education models: master's degree, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP.

Table 6 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 4 nurse anesthetist (NA) programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The majority of newly enrolled nurse anesthetist students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- The post-baccalaureate practice doctorate model offered admission to the smallest percentage of qualified applicants (45.7%).

Table 7 (page 4) displays enrollment numbers for nurse anesthetist programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (56.8% of all nurse anesthetist enrollees).
- Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP enrollees made up 31.3% of nurse anesthetist enrolled students.

- Post-master's DNP/DNAP enrollees accounted for 11.9% of all nurse anesthetist enrolled students.
- From 2013 to 2014, enrollment in nurse anesthetist programs declined in the master's education model.

Table 6. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse Anesthetist Programs, 2014

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students
Master's Degree	155	312	155 (49.7%)	141
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	116	232	106 (45.7%)	101
Post-Master's DNP/DNAP	54	18	18 (100%)	16
All NA Programs	325	562	279 (49.6%)	258

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

²Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Enrollment capacity may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).

Table 7. Nurse Anesthetist Enrollment by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2014
Master's Degree	390
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	215
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	82
All Nurse Anesthetist Programs	687

Table 8 shows the number of nurse anesthetist graduates by education model.

- In 2014, there were 215 graduates from nurse anesthetist programs, a decrease from 235 in 2013.
- The majority of the nurse anesthetist graduates were in the master's degree model (70.7%).

- There were no post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP graduates in AY 2012-2013, but in AY 2013-2014 there were 38 graduates.
- Post-master's DNP/DNAP graduates made up 11.6% of all Nurse Anesthetist graduates.

Table 8. Nurse Anesthetist Graduates by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	AY 2013-2014 Graduates
Master's Degree	152
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	38
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	25
All Nurse Anesthetist Programs	215

Program Profile: Nurse Practitioner Programs

In the 2014 NEPIS, nurse practitioner (NP) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 21 programs offered 4 different education models: master's degree, post-master's certificate, post baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP.

Table 9 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 21 nurse practitioner programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The majority of newly enrolled nurse practitioner students were admitted to the master's degree education model (90.5%).
- The master's degree model offered admission to the smallest percentage of qualified applications (57.2%) but also had the highest number of qualified applications.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP and post-master's DNP/DNAP education models.
- In the master's degree and post-master's certificate models, the number of qualified applications exceeded enrollment capacity.¹

Table 10 displays enrollment numbers for nurse practitioner programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (93.4% of all nurse practitioner enrollees).
- There were 14 enrolled students in the post-

baccalaureate DNP/DNAP model.

- Post-master's DNP/DNAP enrollees accounted for 1.8% of all nurse practitioner enrolled students.

Table 9. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse Practitioner Programs, 2014

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity ⁴	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students
Master's Degree	2,494	3,923	2,242 (57.2%)	1,780
Post-Master's Certificate	260	342	214 (62.6%)	153
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	15	15	15 (100%)	12
Post-Master's DNP/DNAP	45	30	30 (100%)	21
All NP Programs	2,814	4,310	2,501 (58%)	1,966

Table 10. Nurse Practitioner Enrollment by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2014
Master's Degree	4,215
Post-Master's Certificate	203
Practice Doctorate (Post Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	14
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	82
All Nurse Practitioner Programs	4,514

Table 11 shows the number of nurse practitioner graduates by education model.

- There were 1,190 graduates from nurse practitioner programs.
- The majority of the nurse practitioner graduates were in the master's degree model (88.7%).
- Post-master's certificate graduates made up 10.3% of all nurse practitioner graduates.
- Post-master's DNP/DNAP graduates made up 1% of all nurse practitioner graduates.

Table 11. Nurse Practitioner Graduates by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	AY 2013-2014 Graduates
Master's Degree	1,055
Post-Master's Certificate	123
Practice Doctorate (Post Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	0
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	12
All Nurse Practitioner Programs	1,190

Program Profile: Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs

In the 2014 NEPIS, clinical nurse specialist (CNS) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 4 programs offered 2 education models: master's degree and post-master's certificate.

Table 12 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 4 clinical nurse specialist programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- All of the newly enrolled clinical nurse specialist students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- 58.9% of the qualified applications were offered admission in the master's degree model.
- 1 qualified application was offered admission but did not enroll in the post-master's certificate model during the 2013-2014 academic year.
- Overall, clinical nurse specialist programs accepted 58.6% of qualified applications.¹

Table 12. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs, 2014

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students
Master's Degree	49	56	33 (58.9%)	31
Post-Master's Certificate	5	2	1 (50%)	0
All CNS Programs	54	58	34 (58.6%)	31

Table 13 displays enrollment numbers for clinical nurse specialist programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (92.9% of all clinical nurse specialist enrollees).

- There were 5 students enrolled in the post-master's certificate model of the clinical nurse specialist program.

Table 13. Clinical Nurse Specialist Enrollment by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2014
Master's Degree	65
Post-Master's Certificate	5
All Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs	70

Table 14 shows the number of clinical nurse specialist graduates by education model.

- There were 36 graduates from clinical nurse specialist programs.
- The majority of the clinical nurse specialist graduates were in the master's degree model (86.1%).
- 5 students graduated from a clinical nurse specialist program with a post-master's certificate.

Table 14. Clinical Nurse Specialist Graduates by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	AY 2013-2014 Graduates
Master's Degree	31
Post-Master's Certificate	5
All Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs	36

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

²Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Enrollment capacity may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).

Program Profile: Nurse-Midwife Programs

In the 2014 NEPIS, nurse-midwife (NM) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 2 programs offered 4 different education models: master's degree, post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP.

Table 15 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 2 nurse-midwife programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- 53.8% of the newly enrolled nurse-midwife students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in the master's degree, and post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP.
- In 2014, enrollment capacity decreased for the post-master's DNP/DNAP program, and there were no qualified applications.
- Enrollment capacity was greater than the number of qualified applications received by the master's degree.¹

Table 15. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse-Midwife Programs, 2014

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students
Master's Degree	9	11	11 (100%)	7
Post-Master's Certificate	6	6	5 (93.3%)	1
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	10	6	6 (100%)	5
Post-Master's DNP/DNAP	2	0	0 (0%)	0
All NM Programs	27	23	22 (95.7%)	13

Table 16 displays enrollment numbers for nurse-midwife programs by education model.

- The master's degree education model reported the highest student enrollment (53.3% of all Nurse-Midwife enrollees).
- Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP degree enrollees made up 46.7% of nurse-midwife enrolled students.

- There were no students enrolled in the post-master's certificate or post master's DNP/DNAP models of a nurse-midwife program.

Table 16. Nurse-Midwife Enrollment by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2013
Master's Degree	16
Post-Master's Certificate	0
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	14
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	0
All Nurse-Midwife Programs	30

Table 17 shows the number of nurse-midwife graduates by education model.

- There were 13 total graduates from nurse-midwife programs.
- The majority of the nurse-midwife graduates were in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP model (69.2%).
- There were 3 nurse-midwife graduates in the master's degree model and 1 Nurse-Midwife graduate in the post-master's certificate model.

Table 17. Nurse-Midwife Graduates by Education Model, 2014

Education Model	AY 2013-2014 Graduates
Master's Degree	3
Post-Master's Certificate	1
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	9
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	0
All Nurse-Midwife Programs	13

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⁴Schools were able to report more than one reason for why graduates planned to work in other states besides Texas.