



ADMISSIONS, ENROLLMENT, AND GRADUATION TRENDS IN VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS

This update presents data for the 87¹ vocational nursing (VN) programs and the military-based VN program¹ in Texas during the 2022 reporting year, including:

- 82 generic programs
- 5 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEPs)

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2022 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 3, 2022. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

¹Data collected from the military-based VN program were analyzed separately and can be found on page 5. Data on VN programs that offer options for high school students were analyzed separately and can be found in a separate factsheet.

Qualified Applications to Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 1 lists data on qualified applications² and admissions to VN programs from 2013 through 2022.

- Seats for new students^{3,4} decreased by 667 between 2021 and 2022.
- There were 7,806 qualified applications in 2022, a decrease of 5.2% from 2021.⁵
- Of the qualified applications, admission was offered to 6,312, or 80.9%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission (QANA) decreased by 2.0% from 2021 to 2022. The proportion of QANA (19.1%) was the highest it has been since 2015.
- 41 programs accepted all qualified applications, 10 more than in 2021.

The 46 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rank the reasons why qualified applications were not offered admission in order of importance.

- Lack of clinical space was ranked as the first or second most important reason for not offering admission to all qualified applications by 21 programs (45.6% of 46 responding programs).
 - Programs that ranked lack of clinical space first or second cited reasons such as preference given to professional nursing students (10 programs) and COVID-19 related restrictions (4 programs).

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA), 2013-2022

Year	Seats for New Students ^{3,4,6}	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2013	8,947	11,061	8,114	2,947 (26.6%)
2014	8,743	10,529	8,238	2,291 (21.8%)
2015	8,719	9,305	7,698	1,607 (17.3%)
2016	7,770	7,964	6,956	1,008 (12.7%)
2017	8,220	8,843	7,693	1,150 (13.0%)
2018	7,483	8,433	7,174	1,259 (14.9%)
2019	7,165	8,240	6,819	1,421 (11.4%)
2020	7,438	8,098	6,881	1,217 (15.0%)
2021	6,763	8,237	6,713	1,524 (18.5%)
2022	6,096	7,806	6,312	1,494 (19.1%)

- Limited classroom space was ranked first or second in importance for not offering admission to all qualified applications by 23 programs (50.0%).
- Lack of qualified faculty applicants was ranked first or second by 13 programs (28.3%) and lack of budgeted faculty positions was ranked first or second by 14 programs (30.4%).
 - Specific problems cited related to lack of clinical space, specifically in rural areas (5 programs).



²Qualified applications refer to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

³In previous reports seats for new students was reported as enrollment capacity.

⁴Per the survey operational definition, seats for new students refers to the maximum number of seats for new students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Seats for new students may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).

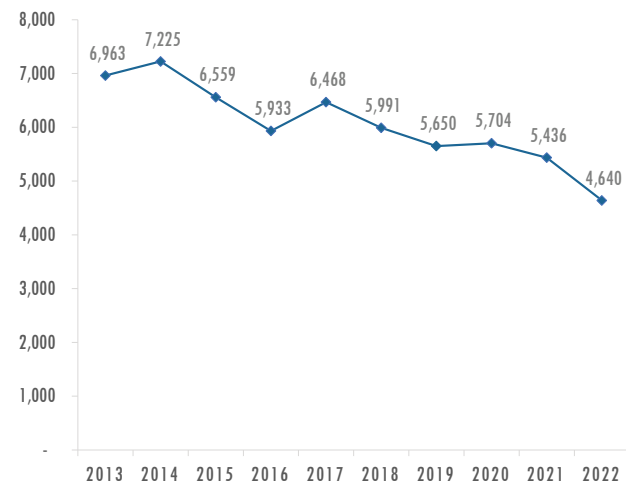
⁵Candidates for admission may apply and be accepted by more than one nursing program; therefore, these data may represent some duplicated counts of individuals.

Newly Enrolled Students in Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 1 and Table 2 show the yearly change in the number of newly enrolled students from 2013 to 2022. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From 2021 to 2022, the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 14.6%, from 5,436 to 4,640.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2013-2022



- 23.9% of seats for new students were unoccupied. 19.1% of applicants were turned away, and programs did not fill all available seats.
- Since 2013, there was an overall decrease of 33.4% in the number of newly enrolled VN students.

Table 2. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2013-2022

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	% Annual Enrollment Change
2013	6,963	-11.0%
2014	7,225	3.8%
2015	6,559	-9.2%
2016	5,933	-9.5%
2017	6,468	9.0%
2018	5,991	-7.4%
2019	5,650	-5.7%
2020	5,704	1.0%
2021	5,436	-4.7%
2022	4,640	-14.6%

Total Enrollment in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 3 presents the breakdown of total enrollment by program type¹⁰ and setting for AY 2021-2022.

- 98.6% of enrolled students were in generic programs. There were 99 students enrolled in MEEPs⁷ during AY 2021-2022.
- 63.7% of all enrolled students were enrolled in community, state, or technical colleges.
- 36.3% of students were enrolled in private/independent institutions for higher education, even though these represented only 18.4% of VN programs.⁸

⁷Multiple Entry-Exit Program is an approved exit option which is a part of a professional nursing education program designed for students to complete course work and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® examination after they have successfully met all requirements needed for the examination.

Table 3. VN Program Enrollment by Program Type¹⁰, AY 2021-2022

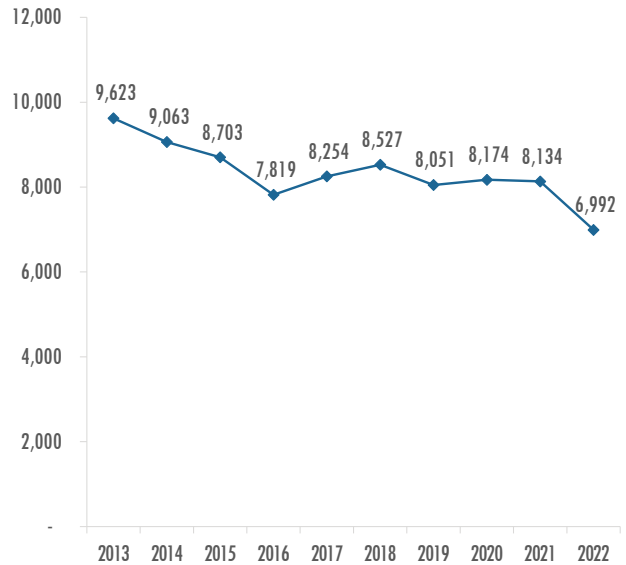
Program Type	Program Setting	Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
Generic	Community, State, or Technical College	4,357	62.3%
	Private/Independent Institutions for Higher Education	2,536	36.3%
MEEP	Community, State, or Technical College	99	1.4%
Total	All Settings	6,992	100.0%



Figure 2 shows the trend in total VN enrollment since 2013.

- Total VN student enrollment decreased by 14.0% since 2021.
- The total number of students enrolled in VN programs decreased by 27.3% between 2013 and 2022. Part of this decrease could be due to 3 programs, not including military programs and tracks, not admitting new students in 2022. Only 1 program did not admit new students in 2021.

Figure 2. Total VN Enrollment, 2013-2022



Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

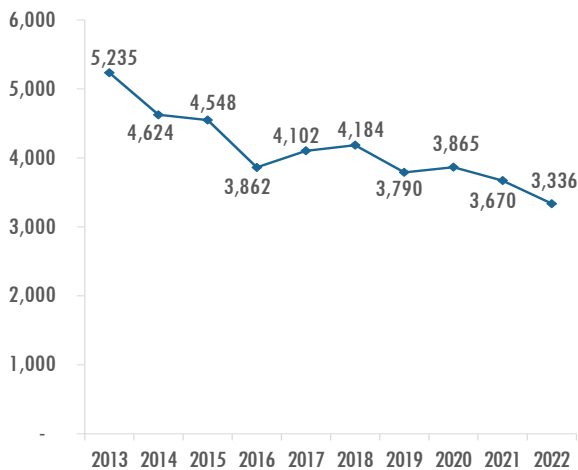
Figure 3 and Table 4 show the change in the number of VN graduates since 2013.

- A total of 3,336 students graduated in 2022, a decrease of 9.1% from 2021.
- The total number of VN graduates decreased by 36.3% between 2013 and 2022.

Table 4. Change in VN Graduates, 2013-2022

Year	Graduates	% Annual Change in Graduates
2013	5,235	-5.7%
2014	4,624	-11.7%
2015	4,548	-1.6%
2016	3,862	-15.1%
2017	4,102	6.2%
2018	4,184	2.0%
2019	3,790	-9.4%
2020	3,865	2.0%
2021	3,670	-5.0%
2022	3,336	-9.1%

Figure 3. VN Graduates, 2013-2022



VN graduates by program and institution type¹⁰ are shown in Table 5.

- 97.6% of students graduated from generic programs. 79 students (2.4%) graduated from MEEPs.
- 70.0% of total graduates were from community, state, or technical colleges.
- Private/Independent Institutions for higher education graduated the second largest proportion (30.0%) of VN students during the reporting period.

Barriers to Increasing Graduates

Programs were asked to list barriers that they faced in increasing VN graduates in AY 2021-2022. 61 programs identified having barriers to increasing the number of graduates.⁹ Some of these barriers included:

- COVID-19 pandemic (20 programs)
- Lack of qualified applicants (14 programs)
- Students exiting programs due to financial or personal extenuating circumstances (13 programs)
- Shortage of faculty (13 programs)
- Lack of clinical sites (9 programs)

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

Figure 4 shows the difficulty programs perceived with respect to their graduates finding a job in nursing.

- Most VN programs perceived that it was easy or very easy for their graduates to find jobs (95.4%).
- 4.6% perceived that it was neither difficult, nor easy for their graduates to find jobs. No programs selected that it was difficult or very difficult for their graduates to find jobs, a decrease from 2021 when programs cited 4.7% of graduates finding it difficult to find a job.
- Programs whose graduates had difficulty finding jobs listed reasons such as employers preferring registered nurses (2 programs) and limited opportunities for VNs in acute care or hospital settings (3 programs).

Table 5. VN Graduates by Program Type¹⁰, 2022

Program Type	Program Setting	Graduates	% of Total Graduates
Generic	Community, State, or Technical College	2,256	67.6%
	Private/Independent Institutions for Higher Education	1001	30.0%
MEEP	Community, State, or Technical College	79	2.4%
Total		3,336	100.0%

⁹Programs could list more than one barrier to increasing the number of graduates.

¹⁰Institution types are classified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in their program inventories list.



Military-Based Vocational Nursing Program

Table 6 lists data on qualified applications¹¹ and admissions to the military-based VN program from 2013 to 2022.

- There were 259 qualified applications in 2022, a decrease of 60.1% from 2021.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in 2022.

Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollment, and Graduates

Table 7 reports the total number of newly enrolled students, total enrollment, and graduates for the military-based VN program from 2013 to 2022.

- There were 259 newly enrolled students, which was also the number of total enrolled students for the military-based VN program.
- In 2022, there were 402 graduates. This represented an 8.1% increase in graduates from 2021.

¹¹ Qualified applications refer to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

Table 6. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and QANA for Military-Based Program, 2013-2022

Year	Seats for New Students ^{4,5}	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2013	465	193	193	0 (0%)
2014	600	391	391	0 (0%)
2015	610	457	457	0 (0%)
2016	561	560	560	0 (0%)
2017	631	566	566	0 (0%)
2018	620	558	558	0 (0%)
2019	640	590	590	0 (0%)
2020	650	458	458	0 (0%)
2021	707	662	662	0 (0%)
2022	668	259	259	0 (0%)

Table 7. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollment, and Graduates for Military-Based Program, 2013-2022

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	Total Enrollment	Graduates
2013	191	338	277
2014	391	391	332
2015	457	457	352
2016	560	560	469
2017	566	566	375
2018	558	558	355
2019	590	590	333
2020	458	458	364
2021	662	662	372
2022	259	259	402