



# NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION SURVEY

TEXAS CENTER FOR NURSING WORKFORCE STUDIES  
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING



**2012**

## Student Admission, Enrollment, & Graduation Trends in Professional Nursing Programs

This update presents data for the 106 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2012 reporting year, including:

- ◆ 1 Diploma program,
- ◆ 66 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 57 ADN generic programs and 9 Licensed Vocational Nursing to Associate Degree in Nursing (LVN to ADN) programs,
- ◆ 38 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, and
- ◆ 1 Master of Science in Nursing Alternate Entry (MSN AE) program.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2012 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 8, 2012. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2011-2012 (September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2012) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

### Qualified Applications for Pre-Licensure RN Programs

Table 1 at right presents data on qualified applications and admissions to pre-licensure RN programs from 2001 through 2012. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.

- ◆ The number of qualified applications increased slightly by 206 applicants (a 0.8% increase), between 2011 and 2012, compared to the 2.2% increase in the previous reporting period.
- ◆ 15,687 qualified applications were accepted in 2012.

#### Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission

- ◆ Although 23 programs offered admission to all students with qualified applications in 2012, overall 41.6% of qualified applications were not accepted to pre-licensure RN programs.
- ◆ The number of qualified applications not offered admission increased 2.0% from 2011 to 2012.

**Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & QANA: 2001 - 2012**

	# Qualified Applications	# Offered Admission	# Qualified Applications Not Offered	% Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
2001	11,646	8,672	2,974	25.5%
2002	12,253	9,457	2,796	22.8%
2003	15,166	9,147	6,019	39.7%
2004	22,325	10,802	11,523	51.6%
2005	22,843	10,593	12,250	53.6%
2006	22,885	10,766	12,119	53.0%
2007	19,035	11,270	7,765	40.8%
2008	21,383	12,338	9,045	42.3%
2009	21,137	12,403	8,734	41.3%
2010	26,053	14,836	11,217	43.1%
2011	26,633	15,700	10,933	41.1%
2012	26,839	15,687	11,152	41.6%

Note: Candidates for admission may apply and be accepted by more than one nursing program; therefore, these data may represent some duplicated counts of individuals. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimated that during the 2002-2003 academic year 9% of the qualified applicants who were denied admission submitted more than one application, based on data from 90% of the pre-licensure RN programs.

#### Reasons for Not Accepting Qualified Applications

Programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rank in order of importance the reasons why qualified applicants were not admitted.

- ◆ Lack of clinical space was most frequently ranked as the most important reason why qualified applications were not accepted (n=27).
- ◆ Lack of budgeted faculty positions was also frequently ranked as the most important reason for why qualified applications were not accepted (n=24).
- ◆ In 9 of the last 12 years, lack of budgeted faculty positions has been the most frequently cited reason for failing to accept all qualified applications.

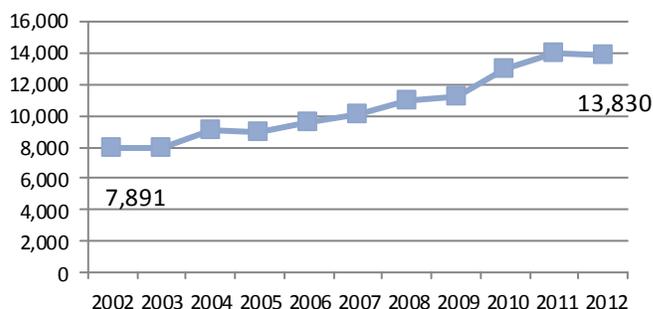
Note: For detailed enrollment, graduation, and admissions data by program, go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cnws/Npublica.shtm#NEdRpts>

### Newly Admitted Students in Pre-Licensure RN Programs

Figure 1 illustrates the annual number of newly admitted students from 2002 to 2012.

- ◆ The number of newly admitted students in 2012 decreased by 1.0% from 2011. This could be due to the slight decrease in the overall enrollment capacity compared to the number of qualified applications from 2011 to 2012.
- ◆ Since 2011, the number of newly admitted students increased by 2.5% in BSN programs and decreased by 3.5% in ADN programs.

Figure 1. Newly Admitted Students: 2002 - 2012



### Total Enrollment in Pre-Licensure RN Programs

On September 30, 2012, as shown in Table 2, there were 23,515 students enrolled in pre-licensure RN programs.

- ◆ Since 2002, pre-licensure RN enrollment has increased 73.7% overall.
- ◆ From 2011 to 2012, total enrollment in pre-licensure RN programs increased 2.8%.
- ◆ Of the 23,515 pre-licensure RN students enrolled, 218 were transfer students and 775 were re-entry students.

Enrollment in pre-licensure RN programs by program type is shown in Table 3 below.

- ◆ BSN enrollment increased by 8.9% from 2011 to 2012.
- ◆ In 2012, ADN enrollment decreased by 1.5% from 2011.

Table 2. Pre-Licensure RN Program Enrollment: 2002 - 2012

Year	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Increase	Enrollment Increase from 2002
2002	13,540	-	-
2003	14,845	9.6%	9.7%
2004	15,318	3.2%	13.1%
2005	16,350	6.7%	20.8%
2006	16,711	2.2%	23.4%
2007	17,841	6.8%	31.8%
2008	18,732	5.0%	38.3%
2009	19,721	5.3%	45.6%
2010	22,181	12.5%	63.8%
2011	22,866	3.1%	68.9%
2012	23,515	2.8%	73.7%

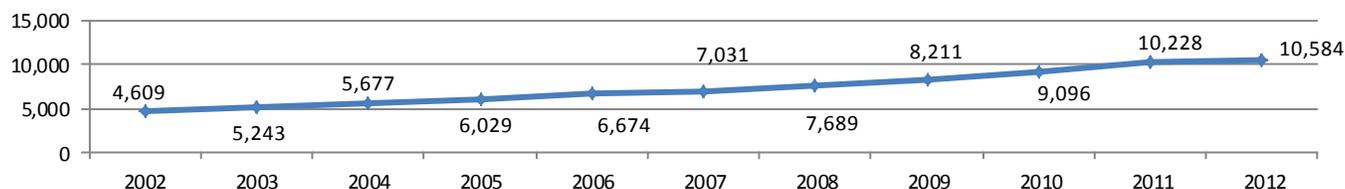
Table 3: Enrollment by Program Type: 2002 - 2012

Program Type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Diploma	343	374	396	354	407	505	536	261	280	270	281
ADN	7,790	8,247	8,534	8,934	9,387	10,043	10,449	11,371	12,867	12,850	12,651
BSN	5,342	6,126	6,268	6,930	6,773	7,148	7,626	7,957	8,874	9,571	10,422
MSN AE	65	98	120	132	144	145	121	132	160	175	161
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,540</b>	<b>14,845</b>	<b>15,318</b>	<b>16,350</b>	<b>16,711</b>	<b>17,841</b>	<b>18,732</b>	<b>19,721</b>	<b>22,095</b>	<b>22,866</b>	<b>23,515</b>

Note: The number of ADN program enrollees includes LVN to ADN stand-alone program data (8.9% of ADN enrollees) as well as data from programs with an LVN to ADN track (9.9% of ADN program enrollees).

### Graduates from Pre-Licensure RN Programs

Figure 2. Graduates: 2002 - 2012



Note: The number of graduates reported is for the 2011–2012 academic year (September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012). Most nursing curricula can be completed in 2 years following pre-requisite liberal arts and science courses; therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of these graduates enrolled in the professional nursing programs during the 2010-2011 academic year.

## 2012 Update on Professional Nursing Student Admission, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends

Figure 2 on the previous page shows the number of pre-licensure RN program graduates from 2002 to 2012. Table 4 at right shows the number of 2012 graduates by program type.

- ◆ A total of 10,584 students graduated from pre-licensure RN programs during the reporting period. This number represents a 3.5% increase from 2011 and a 129.7% increase over the past decade.
- ◆ 54 of 106 programs (50.9%) increased their number of pre-licensure RN graduates during academic year 2011-2012.
  - ◆ This included 25 ADN programs, 4 LVN to ADN programs, 24 BSN programs, and the 1 MSN AE program.

*Note: LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 9 programs designated by the BON as LVN to ADN programs. 49 ADN programs have LVN to ADN tracks, but these data are included in the ADN numbers. 1,086 ADN program graduates (20%) were in the LVN to ADN track.*

**Table 4. Pre-Licensure RN Graduates by Program Type: 2012**

	Pre-Licensure RN Graduates, 2011	Pre-Licensure RN Graduates, 2012	% Increase in Graduates from 2011
Diploma	131	126	-5.3%
ADN	5,723	5,421	16.2%
LVN to ADN	534	559	-3.8%
BSN	3,808	4,426	4.7%
MSN AE	32	52	62.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,228</b>	<b>10,584</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

### Barriers to Increasing Professional Nursing Graduates

Program directors were asked to report any barriers that their programs faced in increasing professional nursing graduates during academic year 2011-2012; 87 programs responded to the question.

- ◆ 43 programs reported a lack of budgeted faculty positions or a lack of qualified faculty applicants as barriers to increasing pre-licensure RN graduates. Among these were:
  - ◆ 1 Diploma program
  - ◆ 30 ADN programs
  - ◆ 3 LVN to ADN programs
  - ◆ 8 BSN programs
  - ◆ 1 MSN AE program
- ◆ 46 programs reported a lack of clinical space as a barrier to increasing pre-licensure RN graduates. Among these were:
  - ◆ 1 Diploma program
  - ◆ 31 ADN programs
  - ◆ 4 LVN to ADN programs
  - ◆ 9 BSN programs
  - ◆ 1 MSN AE program
- ◆ 10 programs reported a lack of classroom and/or lab space in their institutions. Among these were:
  - ◆ 1 Diploma program
  - ◆ 7 ADN programs
  - ◆ 2 BSN programs

Program directors were asked to identify the level of difficulty pre-licensure RN graduates experienced in finding a job in nursing. 7 out of 106 programs (6.6%) did not respond; 4 of these did not yet have graduates to report.

- ◆ In 2012, 22 program directors (22.2%) reported that their pre-licensure RN graduates experienced difficulty finding jobs. This was a decrease from the number of program directors that reported difficulty for their RN graduates to find jobs in 2011 (54.5%).
- ◆ 41 program directors (41.4%) reported that it was neither easy nor difficult (neutral level of difficulty) and 36 (36.3%) reported that it was easy or very easy for their pre-licensure RN graduates to find jobs.

**Table 5. Level of Difficulty Pre-Licensure RN Graduates Experienced Finding a Job as Perceived by the Program Director**

	Very Difficult	Difficult	Neutral	Easy	Very Easy
Diploma	0	0	0	0	1
ADN	3	15	25	9	2
LVN to ADN	0	2	2	4	1
BSN	0	1	14	17	2
MSN Alt. Entry	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>

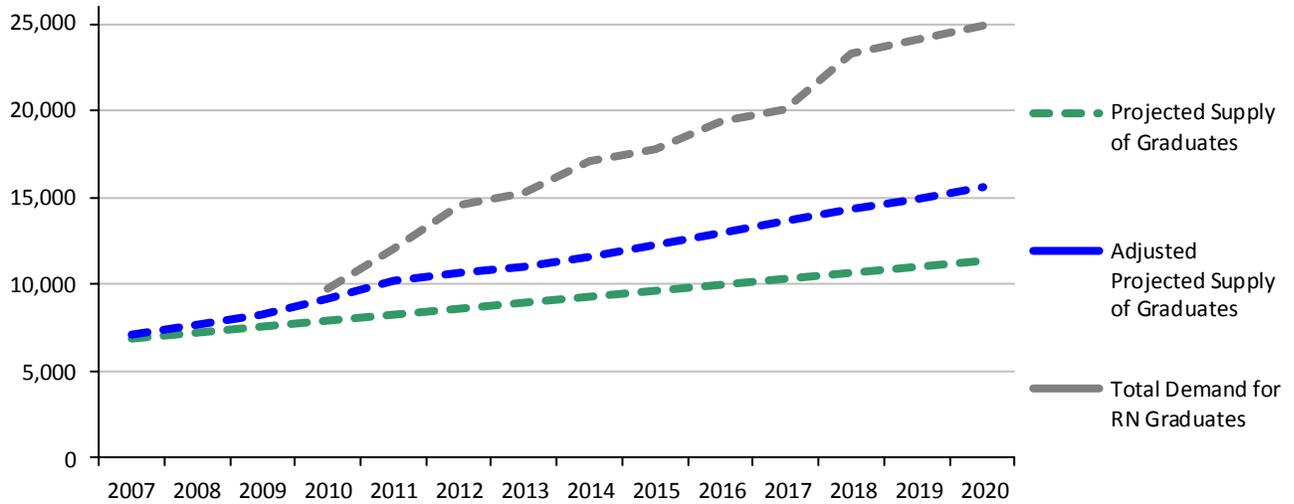
*Note: LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 9 programs designated by the BON as LVN to ADN programs. 49 ADN programs have LVN to ADN tracks, but these data are included in the ADN numbers.*

**Target Number of Graduates from Pre-Licensure RN Programs**

Figure 3 below is based on RN graduate supply and demand originally generated and reported by CNWS in 2006<sup>1</sup>. The graph includes 3 lines:

- ◆ The **Projected Supply of Graduates** shows the projected number of pre-licensure RN graduates through 2020 based on actual graduate statistics from 2000-2005.
- ◆ The **Adjusted Projected Supply of Graduates** is an update of the projected supply of graduates based on actual graduate statistics from 2002—2012.
- ◆ The **Total Demand for RN Graduates** projects the targeted goals of pre-licensure RN graduates needed from 2010 through 2020 to meet the demand for RNs in the workplace as calculated in 2006.

**Figure 3. Projected Supply of RN Graduates versus Demand: 2007—2020**



- ◆ Based upon the 10,584 students who graduated from pre-licensure RN programs during AY 2011-2012:
  - ◆ The number of graduates produced in 2012 will need to increase by 68.0% by 2015 in order to meet the target goal of 17,777 new graduates.
  - ◆ In order for supply of graduates to meet the demand for RNs by 2020 which includes 24,870 new graduates, the number of graduates in 2012 will need to increase by 135.0%, which means more than doubling the number of 2012 graduates.
- ◆ Multiple types and significant levels of interventions will be required to achieve the target for 2020. Such interventions include<sup>2</sup>:
  - ◆ Acquiring the financial resources to recruit and retain additional qualified faculty and students
  - ◆ Acquiring additional clinical instruction sites
  - ◆ Fostering innovative public-private partnerships
  - ◆ Developing other education modalities

<sup>1</sup> Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. *The Supply and Demand for Registered Nurses and Nurse Graduates in Texas: Report to the 80th Texas Legislature*. (Austin, Texas: November 2006).

<sup>2</sup> Texas Team Addressing Nursing Education Capacity, *Texas Nursing: Our Future Depends On It, A Strategic Plan for the State of Texas To Meet Nursing Workforce Needs of 2013*, December 2008, accessed on January 9, 2009 at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/cnws/TexasTeam/TexasStrategy.pdf>.