



Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Professional Nursing Programs

2013

This update presents data for the 113 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2013 reporting year, including:

- 1 Diploma program,
- 68 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 58 ADN generic programs and 10 Licensed Vocational Nursing to Associate Degree in Nursing (LVN to ADN) programs,
- 43 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 2013 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2013. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2012-2013 (September 1, 2012 – August 31, 2013) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & Qualified Applications Not Admitted: 2003 - 2013

	Enrollment Cap	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
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	11,468	21,383	12,338	9,045 (42.3%)
2009	12,391	21,137	12,403	8,734 (41.3%)
2010	14,048	26,053	14,836	11,217 (43.1%)
2011	15,680	26,633	15,700	10,933 (41.1%)
2012	15,937	26,839	15,687	11,152 (41.6%)
2013	16,652	29,265	17,265	12,000 (41.0%)

Please note that the number of students offered admission may exceed enrollment capacity in order to account for students who apply to multiple programs. Data was not available for cells with dashes (-).

Qualified Applications for Professional Nursing Programs

Table 1 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to professional nursing programs from 2003 through 2013. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.

- The enrollment capacity, based on the standards set by individual programs, increased by 4.5% from AY 2011-2012 and AY 2012-2013.
- The number of qualified applications increased by 2,426 (9% increase), between AY 2011-2012 and AY 2012-2013.
- 17,265 qualified applications were accepted in AY 2012-2013. This was a 10.1% increase from the previous academic year.
- 27 programs offered admission to all students with qualified applications in 2013, up from 23 programs in 2012.

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 84 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted. Two programs were new and did not report admissions data for AY 2012-2013.

- Fifty-six programs (49.6% of all programs) reported that lack of clinical space was an important or very important reason why qualified applications were not accepted. Some of the specific problems cited regarding lack of clinical space included increased competition with other programs, BSN programs receiving priority for space over ADN programs, low hospital census, and limited speciality clinical spaces.
- Forty-one programs (36.3%) reported that a lack of budgeted faculty positions was an important or very important reason why qualified applications were not accepted, 38 programs (33.6%) reported that a lack of qualified faculty applicants for budgeted positions was an important or very important reason, and 28 (24.8%) reported that limited classroom space was important or very important.

Newly Enrolled Students in Professional Nursing Programs

Figure 1 illustrates the number of newly registered & enrolled students from 2003 to 2013.

- From AY 2011-2012 to AY 2012-2013, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 7.1%. This increase was an improvement over the previous year when the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 1% from AY 2010-2011 to AY 2011-2012.
- The number of newly enrolled students has nearly doubled from 2003 to 2013 (an 84.8% increase).
- However, the number of newly enrolled students was lower (by 1,843 enrollment spaces or 11.1% of enrollment capacity) than the total enrollment capacity of professional nursing programs.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students 2003 - 2013

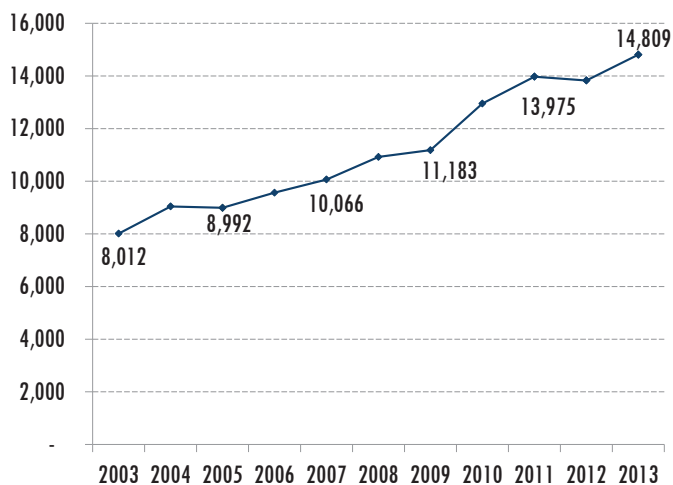


Table 2 shows the number of newly enrolled students by program type.

- Newly enrolled students to ADN programs increased only slightly (by 55 students) over the past year.
- LVN to ADN programs experienced the greatest percentage increase in newly enrolled students from AY 2011-2012 to AY 2012-2013 (17.6%).
- There was also a considerable increase (13%) in newly enrolled students to BSN programs from AY 2011-2012 to AY 2012-2013.

Table 2. Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students by Program Type, AY 2011-2012 & AY 2012-2013

	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2011-2012	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2012-2013	% Change from AY 2011-2012 to AY 2012-2013
ADN	6,900	6,955	0.8%
BSN	5,592	6,321	13.0%
Diploma	152	159	4.6%
LVN to ADN	1,128	1,326	17.6%
MSN Alt. Entry	58	48	-17.2%

Total Enrollment in Professional Nursing Programs

On September 30, 2013, as shown in Table 3, there were 24,178 students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

- Since 2003, professional nursing program enrollment has increased 62.9% overall.
- From 2012 to 2013, total enrollment in professional nursing programs increased 2.8%, which was the same percent increase as 2011 to 2012.
- Of the 24,178 professional nursing students enrolled, 174 were transfer students and 786 were re-entry students.

Table 3. Professional Nursing Program Enrollment: 2003-2013

	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Increase	Enrollment Increase from 2003
2003	14,845	-	-
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%
2013	24,178	2.8%	62.9%



Enrollment in professional nursing programs by program type is shown in Table 4 and Figure 2.

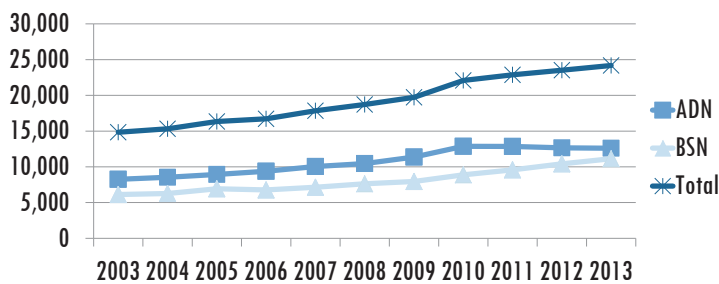
- BSN enrollment increased by 6.8% from 2012 to 2013.
- Since 2010, enrollment in ADN programs has been decreasing slowly. From 2012 to 2013, ADN enrollment decreased slightly by 0.3%.
- Diploma and MSN alternate entry each represent one program and therefore made up a small percentage of enrolled students.



Table 4. Enrollment by Program Type: 2003 - 2013

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Diploma	374	396	354	407	505	536	261	280	270	281	281
ADN	8,247	8,534	8,934	9,387	10,043	10,449	11,371	12,867	12,850	12,651	12,610
BSN	6,126	6,268	6,930	6,773	7,148	7,626	7,957	8,874	9,571	10,422	11,130
MSN Alt. Entry	98	120	132	144	145	121	132	160	175	161	157
Total	14,845	15,318	16,350	16,711	17,841	18,732	19,721	22,095	22,866	23,515	24,178

Figure 2. Enrollment by Program Type: 2003 - 2013



The total enrollment in Figure 2 above includes the one diploma program, the one MSN Alternate Entry program, and all ADN, LVN to ADN, and BSN programs. The ADN enrollment includes LVN to ADN stand-alone program enrollment.

Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

The number of graduates from professional nursing programs has been increasing steadily over the past ten years, as shown in Figure 3.

- A total of 11,150 students graduated from professional nursing programs during the reporting period. This number represents a 5.3% increase from AY 2011-2012 and a 112.7% increase over the past decade.
- 59 of 113 programs (52.2%) increased their number of professional nursing graduates during academic year 2012-2013.
- Programs that increased their number of graduates

included 31 ADN programs, 3 LVN to ADN programs, 23 BSN programs, 1 Diploma program, and 1 alternate entry MSN program.

Note: The number of graduates reported is for the 2012—2013 academic year (September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013). Most nursing curricula can be completed in two years following pre-requisite liberal arts and science courses; therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the graduates reported for the 2012-2013 academic year enrolled in the professional nursing programs during the 2011-2012 academic year.



Figure 3. Graduates 2003 - 2013

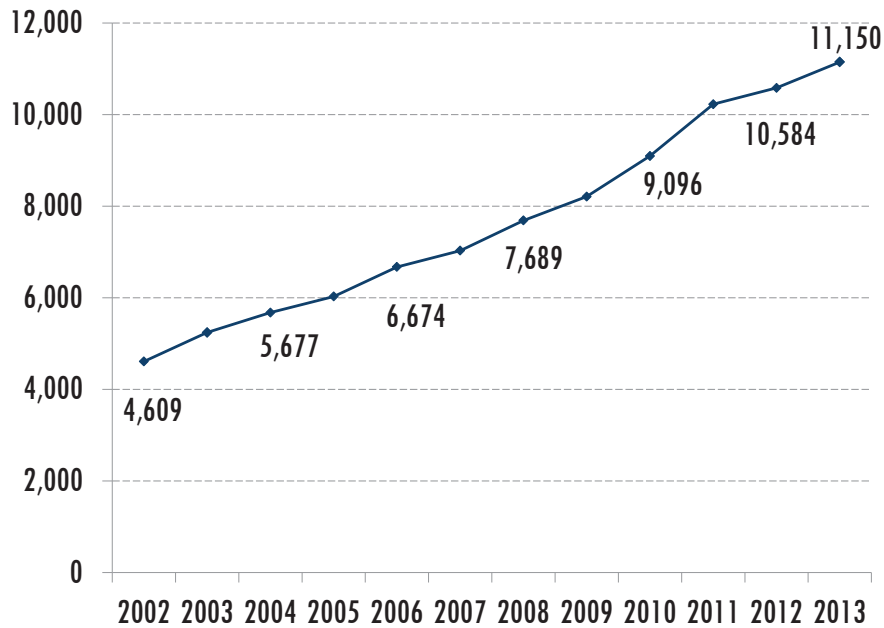


Table 5 displays the number of professional nursing graduates by student type for the past two academic years.

- The majority of professional nursing graduates in 2013 were unlicensed students (83% of all graduates).
- Vocational nurses who graduated from a professional nursing program made up 15.1% of the professional nursing graduates in 2013.
- The number of paramedics who graduated from a professional nursing program increased by 48 students, while the number of allied health professionals who graduated from a professional nursing program decreased by 65 students from AY 2011-2012 to AY 2012-2013.

Note: LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 10 stand-alone programs designated by the BON as LVN to ADN programs. These are separate from the 49 ADN programs that have LVN to ADN tracks.

Table 5. Professional Nursing Graduates by Type

	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2011-2012	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2012-2013	% Change in Graduates
Unlicensed Students	8,643	9,249	7.0%
Paramedics	61	109	78.7%
Allied Health	122	57	-53.3%
LVNs	1,706	1,680	-1.5%
MSN Alt. Entry	52	55	3.8%

Barriers to Increasing Pre-Licensure RN Graduates

Programs were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

- Lack of available clinical sites was the number one cited reason programs were unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates (n=51 programs).
- Lack of qualified faculty was the second most often cited reasons (n=46 programs).
- 18 programs reported a lack of classroom or lab space as a barrier to increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

Programs reported the perceived level of difficulty that their pre-licensure RN graduates experience in finding a job in nursing.

- The majority of programs reported that it was easy (45 programs) or very easy (11 programs) for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 21 programs reported that it was difficult (n=19) or very difficult (n=2) for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 36 programs reported being neutral about the level of difficulty of their graduates in finding a job in nursing.