



Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Vocational Nursing Programs

2013

This update presents data for the 98 vocational nursing (VN) programs in Texas during the 2013 reporting year, including:

- 93 generic programs
 - 67 in public colleges and universities
 - 20 in career schools/colleges
 - 3 in private colleges/universities
 - 3 in private/public hospitals
- 5 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEP)
 - All in public colleges and universities

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.

Qualified Applications for Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 1 at right lists data on qualified applications and admissions to VN programs from 2006 through 2013 (n=98).

- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.
 - There were 11,061 qualified applications in 2013, a decrease of 20.1% from 2012.
 - Of the number of qualified applications, admission was offered to 8,114, or 73.4%.
- Table 1 demonstrates that the percentage of qualified applications not offered admission decreased from 2006 to 2009 but increased by 10 percentage points from 2009 to 2010 and by 2.7 percentage points from 2010 to 2011. The percentage of qualified applications not offered admission decreased from 2011 to 2013 by 12.8 percentage points.
- 38 programs accepted all qualified applications, 13 more than in 2012.

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 applications were not admitted.

- Lack of clinical space was ranked as the most important reason for not admitting all qualified applications by 31 programs.
 - Programs that reported a lack of clinical space cited reasons such as competition with other nursing programs, reduced clinical opportunities for VN students or preference given to professional nursing students, and lack of clinical availability in certain geographic areas.
- Limited classroom space was ranked as the most important reason for not admitting all qualified applications by 13 programs.
- Other reasons for not accepting all qualified applications included lack of funding and lack of faculty.

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & QANA, 2006 - 2013

	Enrollment Capacity	# Qualified Applicants	# Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
2006	-	13,397	6,900	6,497 (48.5%)
2007	-	13,355	7,598	5,757 (43.1%)
2008	7,952	12,522	7,944	4,528 (36.2%)
2009	8,468	11,644	8,552	3,112 (26.7%)
2010	8,685	13,681	8,654	5,027 (36.7%)
2011	9,776	15,648	9,480	6,168 (39.4%)
2012	8,989	13,839	8,929	4,910 (35.5%)
2013	8,947	11,061	8,114	2,947 (26.6%)

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 (-).

Newly Enrolled Students in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 2 below shows the yearly change in newly enrolled students from 2006 to 2013.

- A total of 9,623 students attended classes in vocational nursing programs during the reporting period. Of those, 6,963 were newly enrolled VN students.
- There was positive growth in the number of newly enrolled students in each year from 2006 through 2011, but the number of newly enrolled students decreased from 2011 to 2012 by 9.1% and from 2012 to 2013 by 11.0%.
- Since 2006, there has been an overall increase of 10.6% among newly enrolled VN students.

Table 2. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2006 - 2013

	Newly Enrolled Students	% Annual First Time Enrollment Change
2006	6,295	-
2007	6,488	3.1%
2008	7,156	10.3%
2009	7,414	3.6%
2010	7,860	6.0%
2011	8,612	9.6%
2012	7,825	-9.1%
2013	6,963	-11.0%

Total Enrollment in Vocational Nursing Programs

- Table 3 presents the breakdown of total enrollment by program and institution type for the academic year 2012-2013.
- 98.4% of enrolled students were in generic programs. There were 156 enrollments in MEEP programs during academic year 2012-2013.
- Over half (55.2%) of all enrolled students were enrolled in public colleges or universities.
- 37.5% of students were enrolled in career schools or colleges, even though career schools and colleges represented only 21.5% of all VN programs.
- In 2013, hospitals enrolled the smallest percentage of students (2.8%).
- Enrollment in Multiple Entry Exit Programs (MEEP) has decreased since 2010, from 283 to 156.

Table 3. VN Program Enrollment by Program Type, 2012 - 2013

		Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
Generic	Public College/ University	5,160	56.3%
	Career Schools/ Colleges	3,607	37.5%
	Private College/ University	431	4.5%
	Hospitals	269	2.8%
MEEP	Public College/ University	156	1.6%
Total		9,623	100%

Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 1. Vocational Nursing Graduates, 2001 - 2013

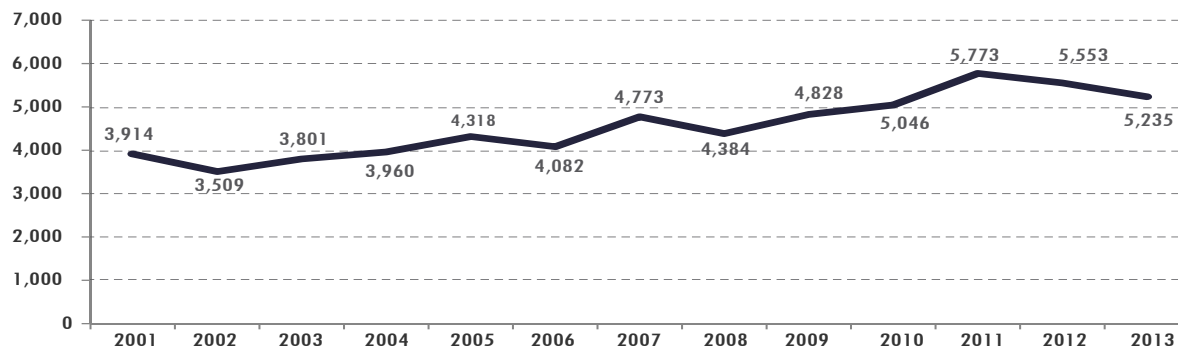


Figure 1 shows the change in the number of VN graduates over the last decade. The number of graduates has decreased since 2011, but there has been an overall increase in the number since 2001.



Table 4. Change in Vocational Graduates, 2001 - 2013

	Graduates	Annual Increase/ Decrease in Graduates	Change in Graduates from 2001
2001	3,914	-	-
2002	3,509	-10.3%	-10.3%
2003	3,801	8.3%	-2.9%
2004	3,960	4.2%	1.2%
2005	4,318	9.0%	10.3%
2006	4,082	-5.5%	4.3%
2007	4,773	16.9%	21.9%
2008	4,384	-8.2%	12.0%
2009	4,828	10.1%	23.4%
2010	5,046	4.5%	28.9%
2011	5,773	14.4%	47.5%
2012	5,553	-3.8%	41.9%
2013	5,235	-5.7%	33.8%

VN program graduates from 2001 to 2013 are shown in Table 4.

- In 2013, there was a decrease of 5.7% from the number of graduates in 2012.
- The number of VN graduates in 2013 represent a 33.8% increase from the number of VN graduates in 2001. A total of 5,235 students graduated in 2013.

Table 5. Vocational Graduates by Program Type, 2013

		Graduates	% of Total Graduates
Generic	Public College/ University	3,105	57.6%
	Career Schools/ Colleges	1,837	35.1%
	Private College/ University	131	2.5%
	Hospitals	122	2.3%
MEEP	Public College/ University	130	2.5%
Total		5,235	100%

Graduates by program and institution type are shown in Table 5.

- 97.5% of students graduated from generic programs. 130 students (2.5%) graduated from MEEPs.
- 60.1% of total graduates were from public colleges/universities.
- Career schools/colleges graduated the second largest proportion (35.1%) of vocational nursing students during the reporting period.
- Hospital graduates comprised only 2.3% of the total number of graduates during the reporting period.

Barriers to Increasing Graduates

Programs were asked to list barriers that they faced in increasing vocational nursing graduates in AY 2012-2013. Most commonly listed barriers included:

- Lack of clinical sites
- Lack of qualified applicants
- Faculty shortage
- Poor academic preparedness of students

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

Figure 2. Difficulty of VN Graduates in Finding a Job

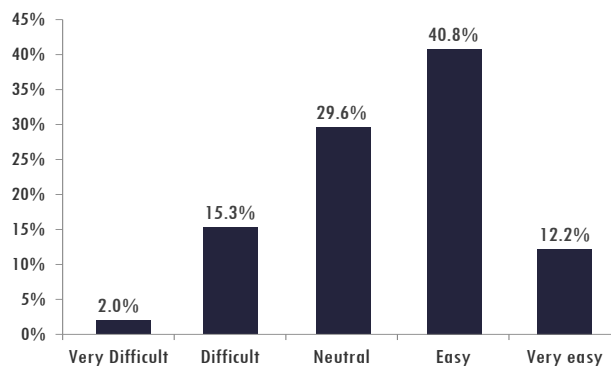


Figure 2 shows how difficult programs perceived it was for their graduates to find jobs.

- Over half of VN programs perceived that it was easy or very easy for their graduates to find jobs (53.0%).
- Only 17.3% perceived that it was difficult or very difficult for their graduates to find jobs.
- Programs whose students had difficulty finding jobs listed reasons such as lack of experience, employers not hiring as many LVNs, and employers preferring to hire RNs over LVNs.

