



## Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Vocational Nursing Programs

# 2014

This update presents data for the 92<sup>1</sup> vocational nursing (VN) programs in Texas during the 2014 reporting year, including:

- 87 generic programs
  - 65 in public colleges and universities
  - 17 in career schools/colleges
  - 2 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 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.

<sup>1</sup>Excluded from these analyses are data collected from one military-based VN program.

### Qualified Applications to Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 1 at right lists data on qualified applications<sup>2</sup> and admissions to VN programs from 2006 through 2014.

- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
  - There were 10,529 qualified applications in 2014, a decrease of 4.8% from 2013.<sup>3</sup>
  - Of the number of qualified applications, admission was offered to 8,238, or 78.2%.
- The proportion of qualified applications not offered admission (QANA) decreased from 2013 to 2014 by 25.1%.
- Forty-one programs accepted all qualified applications, two more than in 2013.

The 51 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 rated as an important or very important reason for not admitting all qualified applications by 37 programs (72.5% of programs that did not accept all qualified applications).
  - 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.

**Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & QANA, 2006 - 2014**

	Enrollment Capacity <sup>4,5</sup>	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%)
2014	8,743	10,529	8,238	2,291 (21.8%)

- Limited classroom space was rated as an important or very important reason for not admitting all qualified applications by 23 programs.

<sup>2</sup>Qualified applications refers to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

<sup>3</sup>Candidates for admission may apply and be accepted by more than one nursing program; therefore, these data may represent some duplicated counts of individuals.

<sup>4</sup>The number of students offered admission may exceed enrollment capacity in order to account for students who apply to multiple programs. Data were not available for cells with dashes (-).

<sup>5</sup>Per 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.).



## Newly Enrolled Students in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 2 and Figure 1 show the yearly change in newly enrolled, first year students from 2006 to 2014. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From 2013 to 2014, the number of newly enrolled students has increased by almost 4%, from 6,963 to 7,225.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2006 - 2014

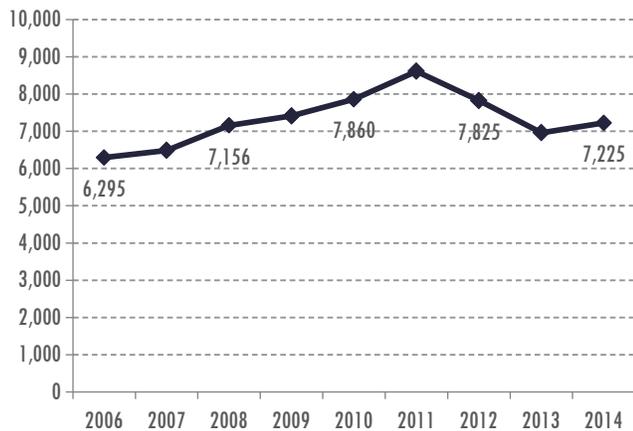


Table 2. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2006 - 2014

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	% Annual 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%
2014	7,225	3.8%

- There was an increase 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 and again from 2012 to 2013.
- Since 2006, there has been an overall increase of 14.8% among newly enrolled VN students.

## Total Enrollment in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 3 presents the breakdown of total enrollment by program and institution type for the academic year 2013-2014.

- 98.5% of enrolled students were in generic programs. There were 139 students enrolled in MEEPs during academic year 2013-2014.

Table 3. VN Program Enrollment by Program Type, AY 2013 - 2014

Program Type	Institution Type	Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
Generic	Public College/ University	4,883	53.9%
	Career Schools/ Colleges	3,638	40.1%
	Private College/ University	191	2.1%
	Hospitals	212	2.3%
MEEP	Public College/ University	139	1.5%
Total		9,063	100%

- 53.9% of all enrolled students were enrolled in public colleges or universities.
- 40.1% of students were enrolled in career schools or colleges, even though career schools and colleges represented only 18.5% of all VN programs.

Figure 2 shows the fluctuating trend in total VN enrollment since 2006.

Figure 2. Total Enrollment, 2006 - 2014



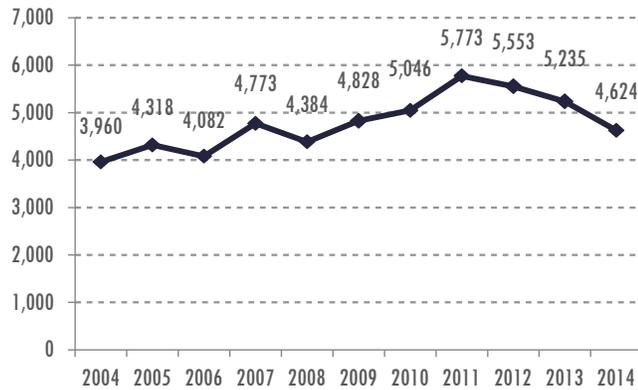
- Total VN student enrollment has declined by 5.8% since 2013, continuing in a downward trend.

- However, overall, the total number of students enrolled in VN programs has increased by 62.8% between 2006 and 2014.

## Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 3 shows the change in the number of VN graduates over the last decade. The number of graduates has decreased since 2012, but there has been an overall increase in the number since 2004.

**Figure 3. Vocational Nursing Graduates, 2004 - 2014**



VN program graduates from 2001 to 2014 are shown in Table 4.

- A total of 4,624 students graduated in 2014, a decrease of 11.7% from the number of graduates in 2013.
- The number of VN graduates has increased by 18.1% since 2001.

**Table 4. Change in Vocational Graduates, 2001 - 2014**

Year	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%
2014	4,624	-11.7%	18.1%

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

- 97.2% of students graduated from generic programs. 131 students (2.8%) graduated from MEEPs.
- 65.4% of total graduates were from public colleges/universities.
- Career schools/colleges graduated the second largest proportion (31.4%) of vocational nursing students during the reporting period.
- Private college/university graduates comprised only 1% of the total number of graduates during the reporting period.

**Table 5. Vocational Graduates by Program Type, 2014**

		Graduates	% of Total Graduates
Generic	Public College/University	2,893	62.6%
	Career Schools/Colleges	1,450	31.4%
	Private College/University	46	1.0%
	Hospitals	104	2.2%
MEEP	Public College/University	131	2.8%
Total		4,624	100%

## Barriers to Increasing Graduates

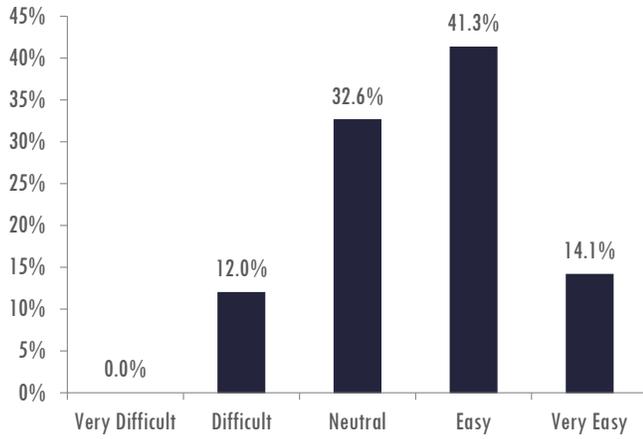
Programs were asked to list barriers that they faced in increasing vocational nursing graduates in AY 2013-2014. 57 programs identified the following barriers: Poor academic preparedness of students (17 programs), lack of clinical sites (13 programs), lack of qualified applicants (13 programs), financial difficulties/lack of financial aid (9 programs), competition from other programs (8 programs), shortage of qualified faculty (7 programs), and limited classroom space (4 programs).

## Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

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



**Figure 4. Difficulty of VN Graduates in Finding a Job**



- Over half of VN programs perceived that it was easy or very easy for their graduates to find jobs (55.4%).
- Only 12% 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 VNs, and employers preferring to hire RNs over VNs.

