



This update presents data for the 43 Texas professional nursing programs that indicated they had a post-licensure RN to BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing) program track during the 2021 reporting year. This report includes only students in Texas enrolled in Texas programs, not students in other states enrolled in Texas programs.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2021 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 4, 2021. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2020-2021 (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

RN to BSN Program Characteristics

In the 2021 NEPIS, RN to BSN programs were asked to report the number of semester credit hours for upper division nursing and the length of time for program completion in months.

- The median number of semester credit hours was 30.0, ranging from 21 to 120.
- The median length of time for program completion was 12 months (20 programs).
- 36 programs were offered for part-time completion.

Programs were asked to provide faculty-to-student ratios:

- 13 programs provided ratios for face-to-face didactic instruction. The median ratio was 1:20, ranging from 1:7 to 1:40.
- 42 programs provided ratios for online instruction. The median was 1:25, ranging from 1:1 to 1:100.
- 33 programs provided ratios for clinical supervision. The median was 1:10, ranging from 1:1 to 1:35.

40 (90.9%) responding programs had requirements for a clinical component. Table 1 shows the mean and median number of hours dedicated to clinical components.

Table 1. Mean and Median Number of Hours Dedicated to Clinical Components

Clinical Component	Mean Hours	Median Hours
Clinical clock hours	110.2	75.5
Clinical project hours	55.3	40.5
Lab clock hours	14.3	0.0
High-fidelity simulation clock hours	8.6	0.0
Virtual simulation clock hours	23.8	8.0

Programs were asked to report the percentage of their students who had less than 2 years of work experience. The median percentage was 20.0%, ranging from 0.0% (10 programs) to 90% (1 program). This remains unchanged from 2020.

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Of the 43 responding programs:

- 34 programs (79.1%) offered the entire didactic program curriculum online.
- 3 programs (7.0%) offered select courses online.
- 7 programs (16.3%) offered hybrid nursing courses.



Qualified Applications to Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

Table 2 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to post-licensure RN to BSN programs in AY 2020-2021. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.²

Table 2. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission, 2014-2021

	Seats for New Students ^{3,4}	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students
2014	11,620	4,934	4,858	76 (1.5%)	4,021
2015	12,247	5,198	4,752	446 (8.6%)	4,135
2016	12,900	5,204	5,122	82 (1.6%)	4,573
2017	14,547	7,004	6,932	72 (1.0%)	6,039
2018	14,484	7,426	7,287	138 (1.9%)	4,768
2019	18,642	8,628	8,512	116 (1.3%)	5,514
2020	17,085	8,530	8,357	173 (2.0%)	5,873
2021	11,027	8,350	8,349	1 (<0.1%)	5,476

- 4 programs did not admit new RN to BSN applicants in AY 2020-2021.
- Seats for new students decreased by 35.5% in 2020, while the number of responding programs decreased by 1.

- Seats for new students may include seats for out-of-state students, but qualified applications, applications offered admission, and newly enrolled students only include Texas residents.
- 1 qualified application was not admitted in 2021, down from 173 qualified applications in 2020.
- 42 of 43 programs offered admission to all students with qualified applications in 2021.
- Of the 8,349 applications offered admission, 5,476 (65.6%) registered and enrolled in a post-licensure RN to BSN program for AY 2020-2021, a decrease from the previous year (70.3%).

The program that did not accept all qualified applications ranked the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- Lack of qualified applicants for budgeted faculty positions was the most important reason why qualified applications were not accepted, followed by lack of budgeted faculty positions.

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

³ Seats for new students does not distinguish between non-Texas and Texas residents.

⁴ Per 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.).

Newly Enrolled Students in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

Table 3 shows the yearly change in newly enrolled, first year students from 2014 to 2021. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- There were a total of 5,476 newly enrolled post-licensure students in AY 2020-2021.
- From AY 2019-2020 to AY 2020-2021, the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 6.8%.

Table 3. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2014-2021

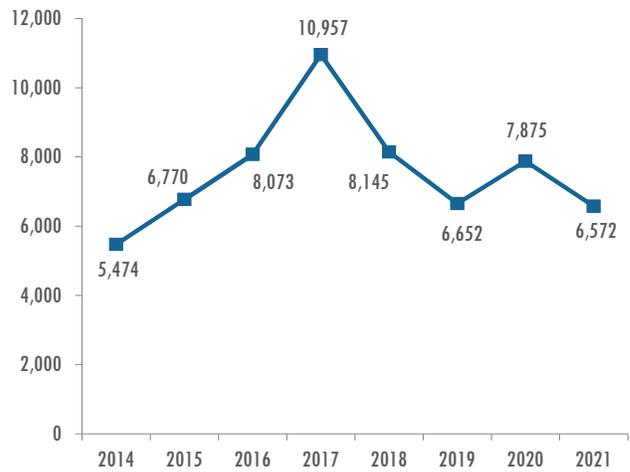
	Number of Responding Programs	Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students	% Annual Change
2014	28	4,021	-
2015	40	4,135	2.8%
2016	41	4,573	10.6%
2017	41	6,039	32.1%
2018	43	4,768	-21.0%
2019	41	5,514	15.6%
2020	44	5,873	6.5%
2021	43	5,476	-6.8%

Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

On September 30, 2021, as shown in Figure 1, there were 6,572 students enrolled in post-licensure RN to BSN programs.

- From 2020 to 2021, enrollment decreased by 1,303 students (16.5% decrease) while the number of responding RN to BSN programs decreased by 1.
- 42 programs responded to the NEPIS in both AY 2019-2020 and AY 2020-2021. 24 of these programs had a decrease in total enrollment, 15 reported increased total enrollment, and 3 did not have a change in enrollment.
- Between 2020 and 2021, 1 program opened and 2 did not respond to the survey. 3 programs reported enrollees for the first time in 2017, which could explain the large increase that year.

Figure 1. Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2014-2021

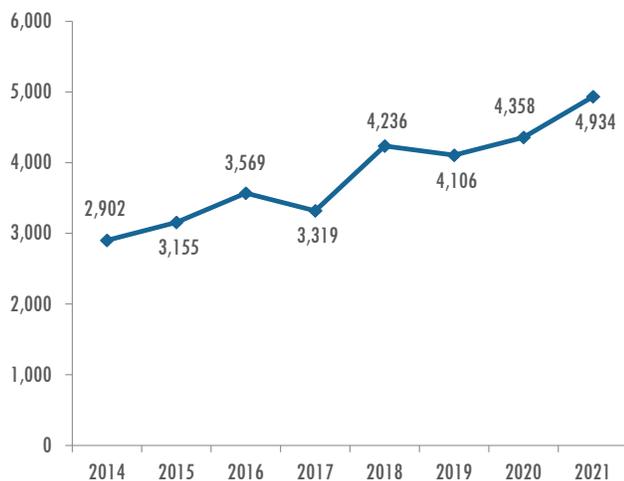


Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

As shown in Figure 2, there were 4,934 post-licensure RN to BSN graduates during AY 2020-2021.

- This represented a 13.2% increase from AY 2019-2020 (576 more graduates).

Figure 2. Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2014-2021



- 42 programs responded to the NEPIS in both AY 2019-2020 and AY 2020-2021. 19 of these programs reported a decrease in the number of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates during AY 2020-2021 while 18 increased the number of graduates. 5 programs reported the same number of graduates as AY 2019-2020.

The 43 post-licensure RN to BSN programs were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing post-licensure RN to BSN graduates.

- A variety of barriers were cited including the COVID-19 pandemic (16 programs or 27.2%), lack of clinical space/competition with other programs (3 programs or 7.0%), and cost of program or student financial difficulties (3 programs or 7.0%).

Demographics of Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure RN to BSN Students

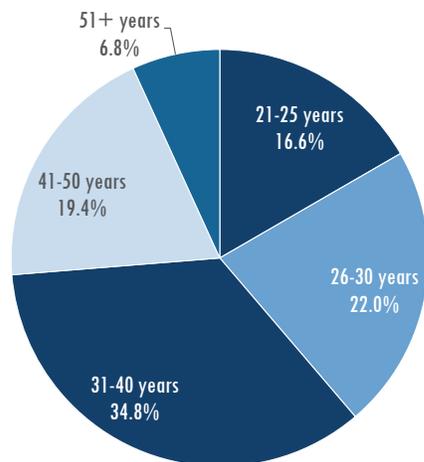
Sex

Females made up 86.7% of the 2021 newly enrolled post-licensure RN to BSN student population, an increase from the proportion who were female in 2020 (85.8%). Gender data were missing for 0.04% of newly enrolled RN to BSN students.

Age

Figure 3 displays the breakdown of age among newly enrolled post-licensure RN to BSN students in 2021. Age data were missing for 14.2% of newly enrolled RN to BSN students.

Figure 3. Age of Newly Enrolled Students



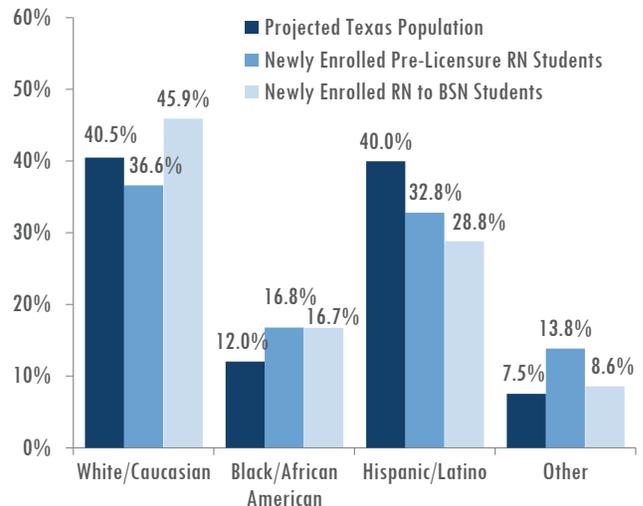
- Newly enrolled RN to BSN students remained fairly evenly distributed among age groups 21-30, 31-40, and 41 or more years.
- There were considerably more post-licensure RN to BSN students aged 51 and older (6.8%) compared to pre-licensure RN students (1.6%).⁶

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of post-licensure RN to BSN students in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of pre-licensure RN students and the projected Texas population. Race/ethnicity data were missing for 2.8% of newly enrolled RN to BSN students.

- White/Caucasian students made up a greater proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN newly enrolled students (45.9%) compared to pre-licensure RN students (36.6%) and compared to the Texas population (40.5%).

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN to BSN Students, Pre-Licensure RN Students,⁶ and Texas Population,⁷ 2021

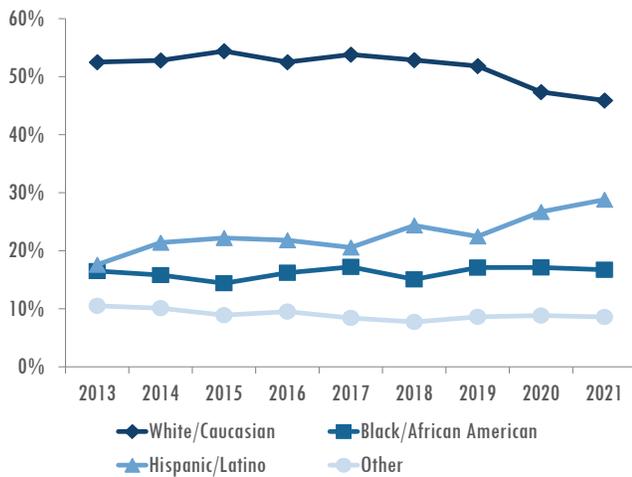


- Hispanics/Latinos continued to be underrepresented among post-licensure RN to BSN students. While the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos was 40.0% in Texas, Hispanics/Latinos made up only 28.8% of the post-licensure RN to BSN student population, compared to 32.8% of the pre-licensure RN student population.
- There were more Black/African American RN to BSN students (16.7%) and pre-licensure RN students (16.8%) compared to the Texas population (12.0%).
- Other students, which include Asian, Native Hawaiian, Alaskan, and other races/ethnicities, also represented a greater proportion of the post- and pre-licensure student population than the Texas population.
- Since 2014 the race/ethnicity distribution of newly enrolled RN to BSN students has fluctuated but remained mostly unchanged (Figure 5, page 5).

International Students

Programs reported a total of 56 newly enrolled students who were international (1.0% of all RN to BSN newly enrolled students).⁸

Figure 5. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN to BSN Students, 2014-2021



⁶ Pre-licensure RN data come from the 2021 RN NEPIS fact sheets located at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/Nursing-Education-Reports.aspx>

⁷ Texas population data come from the 2021 Texas Demographic Center population projections (<https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>).

⁸ International was defined as a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and who is in this country on a temporary basis and does not have the right to remain indefinitely.

Demographics of Post-Licensure RN to BSN Graduates

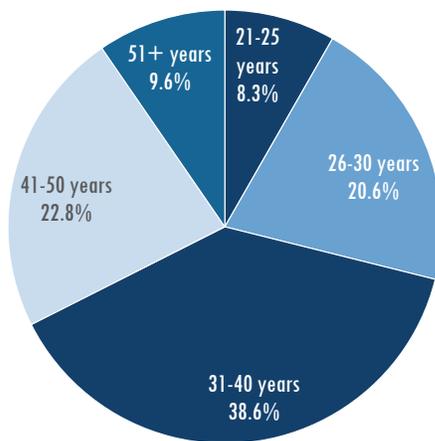
Sex

Females made up 86.8% of the 2021 post-licensure RN to BSN graduate population, unchanged from the proportion who were female in 2020. Gender data were available for all graduates.

Age

Figure 6 displays the breakdown of age among post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in 2021. Age data were missing for 0.1% of RN to BSN graduates.

Figure 6. Age of Graduates

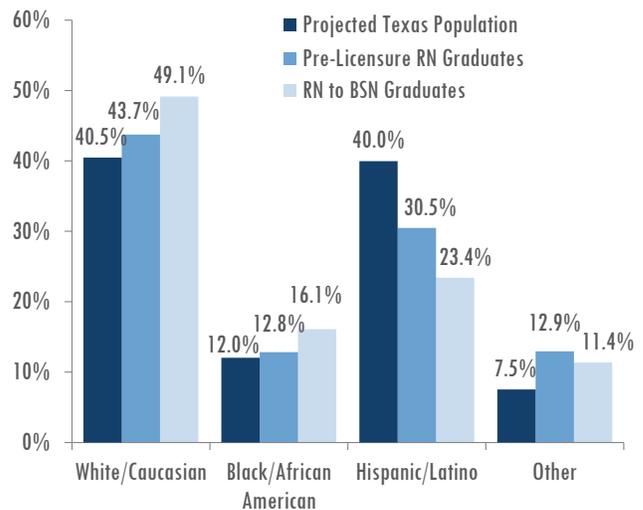


- RN to BSN graduates were fairly evenly distributed among age groups 21-30, 31-40, and 41 or more years.
- There were considerably more post-licensure RN to BSN graduates aged 51 and older (9.6%) compared to pre-licensure RN graduates (1.8%).⁶

Race/Ethnicity

Figure 7 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of pre-licensure RN graduates and the Texas population. Race/ethnicity data were missing for 3.1% of RN to BSN graduates.

Figure 7. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, Pre-Licensure RN Graduates,⁶ and Texas Population,⁷ 2021



- White/Caucasian graduates made up a higher proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (49.1%) than pre-licensure RN graduates (43.7%), and the Texas population (40.5%). The post-licensure RN to BSN White/Caucasian graduate proportion decreased from 2020 (55.0%).

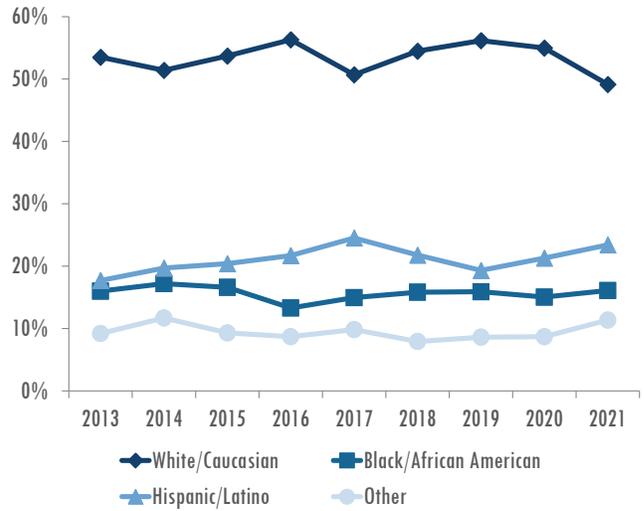


- While the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos was 40.0% in Texas, Hispanics/Latinos made up only 23.4% of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates, compared with 30.5% of pre-licensure RN graduates.
- There were more Black/African American post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (16.1%) compared to pre-licensure RN graduates (12.8%) and the Texas population (12.0%).
- Other races/ethnicities also represented a greater proportion of the post- and pre-licensure graduate population than the Texas population.
- Since 2014 the race/ethnicity distribution of RN to BSN graduates has fluctuated but remained mostly unchanged (Figure 8).

International Students

Programs reported a total of 42 graduates who were international students (0.9% of all post-licensure RN to BSN graduates).⁸

Figure 8. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, 2014-2021



⁶Pre-licensure RN data come from the 2021 RN NEPIS fact sheets located at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/Nursing-Education-Reports.aspx>

⁷Texas population data come from the 2021 Texas Demographic Center population projections (<https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>).

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