



**ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT, AND GRADUATION TRENDS IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS**

This update presents information for the 128 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2022 reporting year, including:

- 1 diploma program;
- 68 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 57 generic ADN programs and 11 licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to ADN stand-alone programs;
- 57 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs; and
- 2 Master of Science in Nursing Alternate Entry (MSN AE) programs.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2022 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 3, 2022. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

**Qualified Applications to Professional Nursing Programs**

Table 1 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to professional nursing programs from 2013 through 2022. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.<sup>1</sup>

- Seats for new students increased by 7.2% from AY 2020-2021 to AY 2021-2022.<sup>2</sup>
- The number of qualified applications increased by 465 (1.2% increase) between AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022.

**Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA), 2013-2022**

	Seats for New Students <sup>2</sup>	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
2013 (n=113)	16,652	29,265	17,265	12,000 (41.0%)
2014 (n=114)	15,756	25,434	16,031	9,403 (37.0%)
2015 (n=119)	16,253	24,082	16,827	7,255 (30.1%)
2016 (n=116)	16,901	24,497	17,057	7,440 (30.4%)
2017 (n=119)	17,878	28,409	18,056	10,353 (36.4%)
2018 (n=122)	18,426	31,440	18,524	12,916 (41.4%)
2019 (n=124)	18,889	33,489	19,795	13,694 (40.9%)
2020 (n=125)	20,360	34,565	20,758	13,807 (39.9%)
2021 (n=126)	21,479	37,959	22,250	15,709 (41.4%)
2022 (n=128)	23,024	38,424	24,704	13,720 (35.7%)

Note: n = number of programs

- 24,704 qualified applications were offered admission in AY 2021-2022. This was an 11.0% increase from the previous academic year.
- 48 programs offered admission to all qualified applications. This number has been increasing from 35 in AY 2019-2020 and 40 in AY 2020-2021.

The 80 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- 56 (72.7%) reported that lack of clinical space was the most or second most 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 (27 programs), BSN programs receiving priority for space over ADN programs (11 programs), and facilities limiting the number of clinical groups or students in a cohort (7 programs).
- Other first or second most important reasons why qualified applications were not accepted were a lack of qualified applicants for budgeted faculty positions (32 programs or 57.1%), lack of budgeted faculty positions (31 programs or 55.4%), and limited classroom space (27 programs or 48.2%).



- Specific problems cited related to lack of qualified faculty applicants included non-competitive salary (14 programs) and no applicants with experience (9 programs).

<sup>1</sup> Qualified applications refers to applications submitted, not necessarily individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

<sup>2</sup> 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 Professional Nursing Programs

Figure 1 illustrates the number of newly enrolled, first year students from 2013 to 2022. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From AY 2020-2021 to AY 2021-2022, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 6.3%.
- The number of newly enrolled students has increased by 36.2% from 2013 to 2022.
- Despite increases in enrollment, 12.4% of seats for new students remained unfilled.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2013-2022

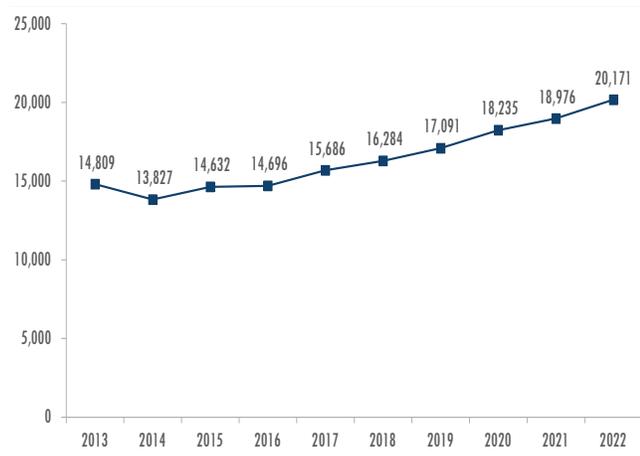


Table 2 shows the number of newly enrolled students by program type.

- Newly enrolled students increased in all program types except the diploma program.

Table 2. Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students by Program Type, AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022

Program Type	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2020-2021	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2021-2022	% Change from AY 2020-2021 to AY 2021-2022
ADN	6,541	6,879	5.2%
BSN	10,874	11,344	4.3%
Diploma	196	191	-2.6%
LVN to ADN <sup>3</sup>	1,307	1,680	28.5%
MSN AE	58	77	32.8%
Total	18,976	20,171	6.3%

<sup>3</sup> LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 11 stand-alone programs designated by the BON as LVN to ADN programs. These are separate from the ADN programs that have LVN to ADN tracks.

## Total Enrollment in Professional Nursing Programs

Total enrollment, including both newly enrolled and returning students, in professional nursing program by program type is shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.

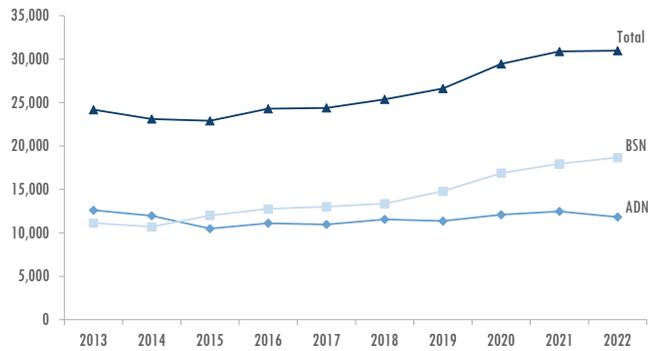
Table 3. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2013-2022

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Diploma	281	277	248	256	241	280	281	302	296	306
ADN + LVN to ADN <sup>4</sup>	12,610	11,970	10,488	11,108	10,968	11,558	11,364	12,096	12,471	11,830
BSN	11,130	10,701	12,001	12,769	13,018	13,370	14,803	16,885	17,958	18,672
MSN AE	157	161	163	158	159	167	176	170	165	172
Total	24,178	23,109	22,900	24,291	24,386	25,375	26,624	29,453	30,890	30,980

<sup>4</sup> ADN and LVN to ADN programs combined.



**Figure 2. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2013-2022<sup>5</sup>**



On September 30, 2022, as shown in Table 4, there were 30,980 students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

- Since 2013, professional nursing program enrollment has increased by 12.8% overall.
- BSN enrollment increased by 4.0% from 2021 to 2022, and ADN<sup>4</sup> enrollment decreased by 5.1%.
- From 2021 to 2022, total enrollment in professional nursing programs increased by 0.3%.
- Of the 30,980 professional nursing students enrolled, 407 were transfer students from other professional nursing programs, and 1,256 were re-entry students.

**Table 4. Professional Nursing Program Enrollment, 2013-2022**

Year	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Change
2013 (n=113)	24,178	-
2014 (n=114)	23,109	-4.4%
2015 (n=119)	22,900	-0.9%
2016 (n=116)	24,291	6.1%
2017 (n=119)	24,386	0.4%
2018 (n=122)	25,375	4.1%
2019 (n=124)	26,624	4.9%
2020 (n=125)	29,453	10.6%
2021 (n=126)	30,890	4.9%
2022 (n=128)	30,980	0.3%

Note: n = number of programs

<sup>4</sup>ADN and LVN to ADN programs combined.

<sup>5</sup>The “total” category in Figure 2 includes the diploma program, the MSN AE programs, 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 since 2013, except for a decrease in 2015, as shown in Figure 3.

A total of 14,674 students graduated from professional nursing programs during the reporting period,<sup>6</sup> a 4.0% increase since 2021 and a 31.6% increase since 2013. 4 newer programs (opened within the last two years) reported having zero graduates during AY 2021-2022.

- Among the 123 programs that reported graduates on both the 2021 NEPIS and 2022 NEPIS, 54 (43.9%) increased their number of professional nursing graduates during AY 2021-2022.
- Programs that increased their number of graduates included 1 diploma program, 17 ADN, 5 LVN to ADN programs, 30 BSN programs, and 1 MSN AE program.

**Figure 3. Professional Nursing Graduates, 2013-2022**

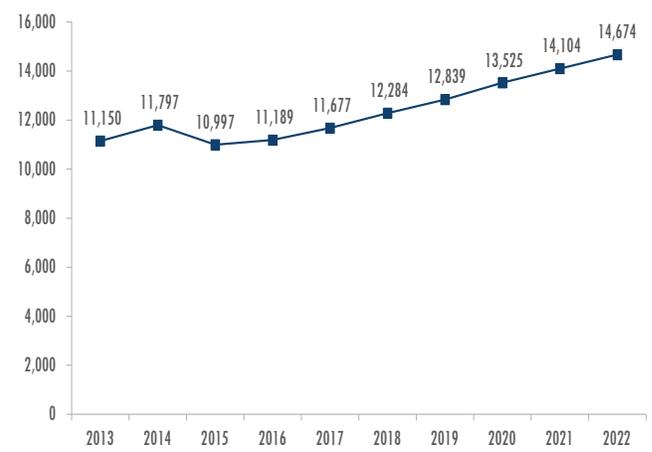


Table 5 displays the number of professional nursing graduates by student type for the past 2 academic years.

- The majority of professional nursing graduates in 2022 were unlicensed students (81.4% of all graduates).
- LVNs who graduated from a professional nursing program made up 16.1% of the professional nursing graduates in 2022.
- The number of allied health professionals who graduated from a professional nursing program increased by 16.0%. The number of paramedics/EMTs who graduated from a professional nursing program decreased by 61.8% between AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022.

**Table 5. Professional Nursing Graduates by Type**

	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2020-2021	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2021-2022	% Change in Graduates
Unlicensed Students	11,154	11,948	7.1%
Paramedics/EMTs	309	118	-61.8%
Allied Health	119	138	16.0%
Military	46	52	13.0%
LVNs	2,423	2,358	-2.7%
MSN AE	53	64	20.8%
Total	14,104	14,678	4.1%

### Barriers to Increasing Pre-Licensure RN Graduates

The 124 programs that reported graduates were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

- 34 programs (27.4%) mentioned the COVID-19 pandemic as a barrier to increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.
- Lack of faculty available was the number two cited reason programs were unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates (28 programs or 22.6%), followed by lack of available clinical sites (26 programs or 21.0%).
- 37 programs (29.8%) reported that they did not have any barriers to increasing the number of pre-licensure RN graduates.

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

The 124 programs that reported graduates were also asked about the perceived level of difficulty that their pre-licensure RN graduates experienced in finding a job in nursing.

- The majority of programs reported that it was very easy (71 programs or 57.3%) or easy (45 programs or 36.3%) for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 8 programs (6.5%) reported being neutral about the level of difficulty of their graduates in finding a job in nursing.
- None of the programs reported that it was difficult or very difficult for graduates to find a job in nursing.

<sup>6</sup> The number of graduates reported is for AY 2021-2022 academic year (September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022). 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 the graduates reported for AY 2021-2022 enrolled in the professional nursing programs during AY 2020-2021.

