

GRADUATE ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT, AND GRADUATION TRENDS

This update presents data for the 38 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 41 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 82 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2024

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=31)	27	25	8	5	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	1	1	1	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=6)	0	0	5	2	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	1	0
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=26)	22	8	3	9	0
Nursing Education (n=24)	23	12	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics (n=4)	3	2	0	1	0
Clinical Nurse Leader (n=2)	2	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research (n=7)	0	0	0	0	7
Public Health (n=1)	0	0	1	1	0
DNP-No Specialty (n=12)	0	0	1	11	0
Other (n=6)	6	3	0	0	0

Note: n=number of programs. Programs can have multiple models of education.

*The Post-Master's DNP models for APRN programs do not lead to APRN licensure. Those enrolled in these programs already hold an APRN license.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2024 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2024. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2023-2024 (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Qualified Applications for APRN and non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 2 displays data trends for qualified applications and admissions for APRN programs. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.¹ These numbers represent the total number of applications across all models of education.

- The number of qualified applications in 2024 increased by 732 applications, or 13.3%, since 2023.
- In 2024, 1,065 (17.1%) of 6,241 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), a greater proportion than in 2023 (16.6%).

Table 3 (page 2) lists data on qualified applications and admissions for non-APRN programs. These numbers represent the total number of applications across all models of education.

Table 2. Qualified applications, admissions, & QANA in APRN programs, 2017-2024

AY	n	Seats for New Students ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
2017	36	4,682	6,449	4,776	1,673 (25.9%)
2018	37	5,379	7,048	5,101	1,947 (27.6%)
2019	35	5,449	7,348	5,330	2,018 (27.5%)
2020	36	5,233	7,443	5,653	1,790 (24.0%)
2021	37	6,105	7,854	6,095	1,759 (22.4%)
2022	39	4,946	6,075	4,768	1,307 (21.5%)
2023	38	4,815	5,509	4,596	913 (16.6%)
2024	41	5,301	6,241	5,176	1,065 (17.1%)

Note: n=number of programs

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

²Per 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 are combined for master's and post-graduate certificate, and post-baccalaureate DNP and post-master's DNP.

Table 3. Qualified applications, admissions, & QANA in non-APRN programs, 2017-2024

AY	n	Seats for New Students	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
2017	73	2,498	2,142	2,060	82 (3.8%)
2018	71	2,783	2,049	1,929	120 (5.9%)
2019	75	2,752	2,318	2,144	174 (7.5%)
2020	73	2,932	2,511	2,360	151 (6.0%)
2021	75	3,108	2,537	2,411	126 (5.0%)
2022	75	2,275	1,855	1,740	115 (6.2%)
2023	76	2,432	1,799	1,668	131 (7.3%)
2024	82	2,636	1,960	1,894	66 (3.4%)

Note: n=number of programs

Table 4. Qualified Applications & Admissions by Program Type, 2024

Program Type	n	Seats for New Students	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
Nurse Practitioner	31	4,965	5,627	4,825	802 (14.3%)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	2	8	24	13	11 (45.8%)
Nurse Anesthetist	6	286	546	297	249 (45.6%)
Nurse-Midwife	2	42	44	41	3 (6.8%)
Total - APRN	41	5,301	6,241	5,176	1,065 (17.1%)
Nursing Leader/Admin	26	1,080	718	711	7 (1.0%)
Nursing Education	24	825	556	549	7 (1.3%)
Nursing Informatics	4	169	158	155	3 (1.9%)
Clinical Nurse Leader	2	7	11	11	0 (0.0%)
Nursing Research ³	7	76	64	53	11 (17.2%)
Public Health	1	0	0	0	0 (0.0%)
DNP-No Specialty ⁴	12	323	319	293	26 (8.2%)
All Other	6	156	134	122	12 (9.0%)
Total Non-APRN	82	2,636	1,960	1,894	66 (3.4%)
Total - ALL	123	7,937	8,201	7,070	1,131 (13.8%)

Note: n=number of programs

³Nursing research is a program track that prepares nurses, in clinical or academic settings, to garner quantitative/qualitative research findings to be applied to the betterment of healthcare.

⁴DNP-no specialty refers to DNP programs that don't identify any of the other categories as the focus of their program.

- As seen in Table 3, from 2023 to 2024, there was a 8.9% increase in the number of qualified applications and a 13.5% increase in applications offered admission in non-APRN programs.
- In 2024, 66 (3.4%) of 1,960 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), which is a decrease from the proportion in 2023 (7.3%).

Table 4 lists data on qualified applications and admissions by program type reported by APRN and non-APRN programs.

- Clinical nurse specialist and nurse anesthetist programs had the highest percentage of qualified applications not offered admission (45.8% and 45.6%, respectively).
- The seats for clinical nurse specialist programs decreased from 26 to 8 since 2023.

Table 5. Programs Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications by Program Type, 2023 & 2024

Program Type	2023		2024	
	# Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications	% Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications	# Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications	% Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications
Nurse Practitioner	14/29	48.3%	19/31	61.3%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1/2	50.0%	1/2	50.0%
Nurse Anesthetist	1/5	20.0%	1/6	16.7%
Nurse-Midwife	0/2	0.0%	1/2	50.0%
Total - APRN	16/38	42.1%	22/41	53.7%
Nursing Leader/Admin	13/24	54.2%	21/26	80.8%
Nursing Education	16/22	72.7%	22/24	91.7%
Nursing Informatics	0/3	0.0%	2/4	50.0%
Clinical Nurse Leader	1/2	50.0%	2/2	100.0%
Nursing Research	3/7	42.9%	4/7	57.1%
Public Health	1/1	100.0%	1/1	100.0%
DNP-No Specialty	6/11	54.5%	7/12	58.3%
All Other	4/6	66.7%	4/6	66.7%
Total Non-APRN	44/76	57.9%	63/82	76.8%
Total - ALL	60/114	52.6%	85/123	69.1%

- The nursing research programs had the highest percentage of qualified applications not offered admission among non-APRN programs, offering admissions to 53 of 64 qualified applications (17.2%).
- Non-APRN programs offered admission to a larger proportion of qualified applications than APRN programs overall.

Table 5 (page 2) lists the proportion of APRN and non-APRN programs that offered admission to all qualified applications.

- Overall, the proportion of programs that offered admission to all qualified applications increased from 52.6% in 2023 to 69.1% in 2024.
- In 2024, 22 out of 41 APRN programs offered admission to all qualified applications (53.7%), increasing from 42.1% in 2023.
- For non-APRN programs, 63 out of 82 programs (76.8%) offered admission to all qualified applications, increasing from 57.9% in 2023.

The schools that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rank reasons why qualified applications were not accepted from most important (rank 1) to least important (rank 6).

- The highest ranked reason for not accepting all qualified applications was a lack of clinical placement/sites, followed closely by a lack of preceptors.

Programs that ranked “lack of clinical placement” as rank 1 or 2 were asked to specify the problems they encountered.

- Programs specified competition with other programs for placing students (2 programs), the expense of compensating preceptors and sites (2 programs), and lack of available preceptors and clinical sites (7 programs).

Newly Admitted Students in APRN and Non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 6 shows the number of newly admitted students in both APRN and non-APRN programs by program type and academic year. Newly admitted students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- Overall, there was a 9.6% increase in newly admitted students from 2023 to 2024.
- There was a 9.9% increase in the number of newly admitted APRN students and an 8.9% increase in the number of newly admitted non-APRN students from 2023 to 2024.
- The number of newly admitted nurse practitioner students increased by 12.0% in 2024.
- The number of newly admitted students to nurse-midwife programs decreased by 27.3% from 2023 to 2024.
- Newly admitted students to nursing informatics programs increased by 69.9% from 2023 to 2024.
- There was a 17.0% decrease of newly admitted students to “other” programs from 2023 to 2024.

Table 6. Newly admitted Students by Program Type, 2023 & 2024

Program Type	Newly Admitted Students, 2023	Newly Admitted Students, 2024	% Change 2023-2024
Nurse Practitioner	3,176	3,558	12.0%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	9	12	33.3%
Nurse Anesthetist	270	244	-9.6%
Nurse-Midwife	44	32	-27.3%
Total - APRN	3,499	3,846	9.9%
Nursing Leader/Admin	534	549	2.8%
Nursing Education	327	370	13.1%
Nursing Informatics	73	124	69.9%
Clinical Nurse Leader	4	7	75.0%
Nursing Research	42	43	2.4%
Public Health	1	0	-100.0%
DNP-No Specialty	203	224	10.3%
All Other	106	88	-17.0%
Total Non-APRN	1,290	1,405	8.9%
Total - ALL	4,789	5,251	9.6%

Seats Unfilled

Tables 7 and 8 list the number of seats for new students and number of newly admitted students to APRN and non-APRN programs from 2017 to 2024, respectively.

- The proportion of seats unfilled in APRN programs increased from 16.4% in 2017 to 27.4% in 2024.
- The proportion of seats unfilled in non-APRN programs increased from 35.5% in 2017 to 46.7% in 2024.

Table 7. Seats for New Students and Newly Admitted Students, APRN programs, 2017-2024

AY	Seats for New Students	Newly Admitted APRN students	Seats Unfilled (%)
2017	4,682	3,913	16.4%
2018	5,379	4,246	21.1%
2019	5,449	4,310	20.9%
2020	5,233	4,472	14.5%
2021	6,105	4,816	21.1%
2022	4,946	3,574	27.7%
2023	4,815	3,499	27.3%
2024	5,301	3,846	27.4%

Table 8. Seats for New Students and Newly Admitted Students in non-APRN programs, 2017-2024

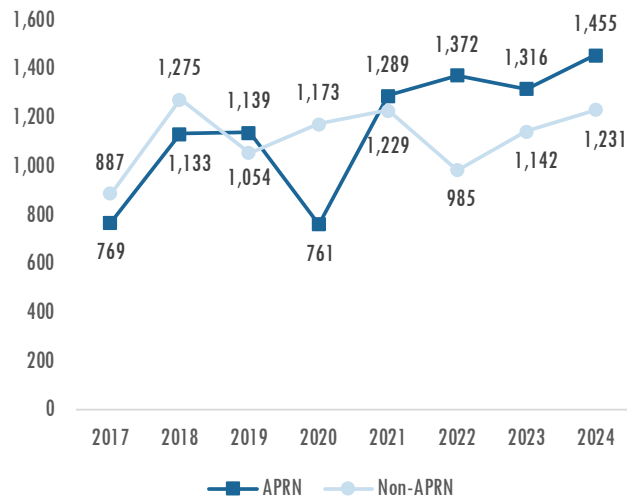
AY	Seats for New Students	Newly Admitted Non-APRN students	Seats Unfilled (%)
2017	2,498	1,611	35.5%
2018	2,783	1,508	45.8%
2019	2,752	1,698	38.3%
2020	2,932	1,759	40.0%
2021	3,108	1,879	39.5%
2022	2,275	1,290	43.3%
2023	2,432	1,290	47.0%
2024	2,636	1,405	46.7%

It is important to note that there were more seats available than qualified applications to non-APRN programs. Even if all programs accepted all applications, seats would still be unfilled.

Figure 1 shows the number of unfilled seats for new students from 2017 to 2024 for APRN and non-APRN program types.

- Over the past 8 years, the percentage of unfilled seats has ranged from 35.5% to 47.0% for non-APRN programs.

Figure 1. Total Unfilled Seats for Newly Admitted Students, 2017-2024



- Since 2021, APRN programs have had a higher number of unfilled seats for new students than non-APRN programs.

Table 9 shows the number of seats for new students and the number of newly admitted students by program type in 2024.

- Nursing education programs had the highest proportion of seats unfilled (55.2%).

Table 9. Seats for New Students and Newly Admitted Students by Program Type, 2024

Program Type	Seats for New Students	Newly Admitted Students	Seats Unfilled (%)
Nurse Practitioner	4,965	3,558	28.3%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	8	12	-50.0%
Nurse Anesthetist	286	244	14.7%
Nurse-Midwife	42	32	23.8%
Total - APRN	5,301	3,846	27.4%
Nursing Leader/Admin	1,080	549	49.2%
Nursing Education	825	370	55.2%
Nursing Informatics	169	124	26.6%
Clinical Nurse Leader	7	7	0.0%
Nursing Research	76	43	43.4%
Public Health	0	0	-
DNP-No Specialty	323	224	30.7%
All Other	156	88	43.6%
Total Non-APRN	2,636	1,405	46.7%
Total - ALL	7,937	5,251	33.8%

Total Enrollment in APRN and Non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 10 and Figure 2 show the total number of students enrolled on September 30th of the respective year by program type over time.

- Student enrollment in APRN programs increased from 2023 to 2024. Enrollment in non-APRN programs decreased.
- The number of students enrolled in 2023 decreased in 50.0% (4 out of 8) of non-APRN programs.

Figure 2. Total Enrollment in APRN and Non-APRN Programs, 2015-2024

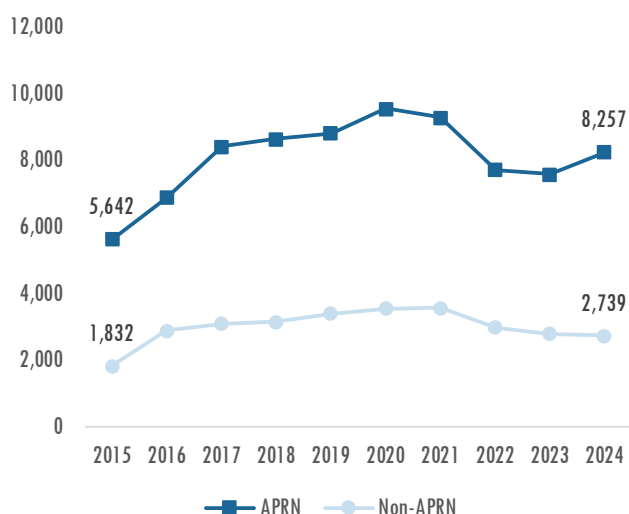


Table 10. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2020-2024

Program Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nurse Practitioner	8,666	8,356	6,895	6,742	7,417
Clinical Nurse Specialist	127	133	121	118	27
Nurse Anesthetist	728	767	671	698	735
Nurse-Midwife	31	34	28	29	78
Total - APRN	9,552	9,290	7,715	7,587	8,257
Nursing Leader/Admin	1,372	1,379	1,105	1,080	959
Nursing Education	975	956	743	645	664
Nursing Informatics	76	105	132	145	191
Clinical Nurse Leader	25	20	22	22	8
Nursing Research	341	342	324	279	274
Public Health	10	8	5	2	1
DNP-No Specialty	606	604	476	452	482
All Other	139	150	178	160	160
Total - Non-APRN	3,544	3,564	2,985	2,785	2,739
Total - ALL	13,096	12,854	10,700	10,372	10,996

Table 11 shows enrollment for APRN and non-APRN graduate level programs by education model.

- The majority of students were enrolled in master's degree programs for APRN and non-APRN programs.

Table 11. Enrollees by Program Type and Education Model, 2024

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner	5,918	419	1,025	55	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist	16	3	8	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist	0	0	563	172	0
Nurse-Midwife	43	1	34	0	0
Total APRN	5,977	423	1,630	227	0
Nursing Leader/Admin	788	12	8	151	0
Nursing Education	623	38	0	3	0
Nursing Informatics	176	11	0	4	0
Clinical Nurse Leader	8	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research	0	0	0	0	274
Public Health	0	0	0	1	0
DNP-No Specialty	0	0	0	482	0
All Other	132	28	0	0	0
Total Non-APRN	1,727	89	8	641	274
Total - ALL	7,704	512	1,638	868	274

Graduates from APRN and Non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 12 shows the APRN and non-APRN graduates by program type over the past 5 academic years. Table 13 shows graduate totals for APRN and non-APRN programs by education model.

- The number of graduates showed an overall increase in APRN and a decrease in non-APRN programs from 2023 to 2024.
- The majority of graduates from APRN programs in 2024 were in nurse practitioner programs.
- The largest number of graduates from non-APRN programs in 2024 were in nursing leadership/administration programs.
- The majority of 2024 graduates in both APRN and non-APRN programs received a master's degree.

APRN Graduates Planning to Work in Texas

APRN programs reported the number of APRN graduates who plan to work in Texas.

- There were 2,164 reported APRN graduates, 1,221 (56.4%) of whom plan to work in Texas.

Schools were also asked to rank reasons why APRN graduates planned to work in states other than Texas from most important (rank 1) to least important (rank 4).

Table 12. Graduates by Program Type, 2020-2024

Program Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nurse Practitioner	2,552	2,629	2,359	1,986	1,899
Clinical Nurse Specialist	12	20	49	24	12
Nurse Anesthetist	200	267	256	111	228
Nurse-Midwife	20	11	15	11	25
Total APRN	2,784	2,927	2,679	2,132	2,164
Nursing Leader/Admin	602	584	539	467	428
Nursing Education	351	351	340	320	266
Nursing Informatics	18	25	25	57	56
Clinical Nurse Leader	13	8	5	6	9
Nursing Research	66	43	51	54	51
Public Health	0	1	3	2	2
DNP-No Specialty	137	181	204	168	133
All Other	60	66	78	67	70
Total Non-APRN	1,247	1,259	1,245	1,141	1,015
Total - ALL	4,031	4,186	3,924	3,273	3,179

- The highest ranked reason that APRN graduates did not plan to work in Texas was “full practice authority” followed by “other state is state of residence/family in other state.”
- Other reasons schools listed included military service obligations (3 programs).

Table 13. Graduates by Program Type and Education Model, 2024

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner	1,471	192	202	34	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist	9	0	3	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist	0	0	225	3	0
Nurse-Midwife	20	1	4	0	0
Total APRN	1,500	193	434	37	0
Nursing Leader/Admin	358	4	0	66	0
Nursing Education	247	19	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics	44	4	0	8	0
Clinical Nurse Leader	9	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research	0	0	0	0	51
Public Health	0	0	0	2	0
DNP-No Specialty	0	0	0	133	0
All Other	57	13	0	0	0
Total Non-APRN	715	40	0	209	51
Total - ALL	2,215	233	434	246	51

Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation by Program Type

Figure 3. Nurse Practitioner Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

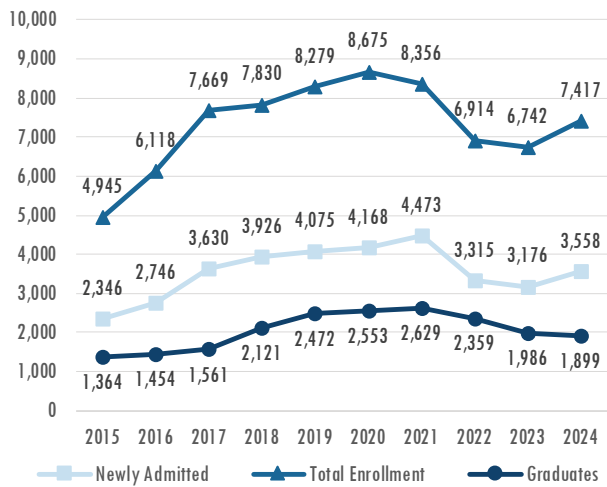


Figure 5. Nurse Anesthetist Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

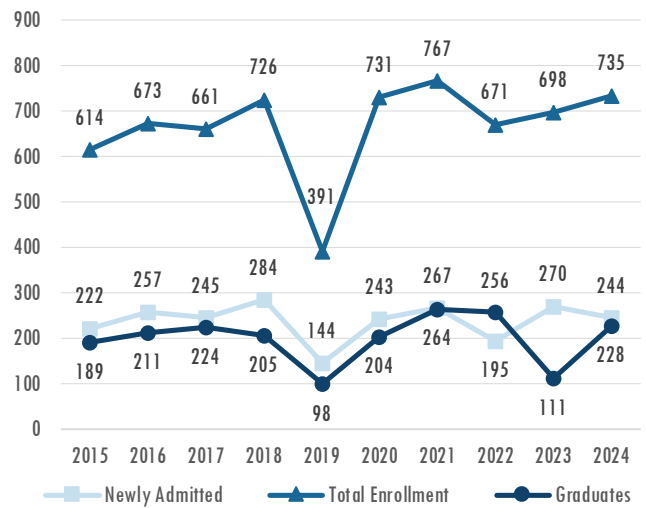


Figure 4. Clinical Nurse Specialist Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

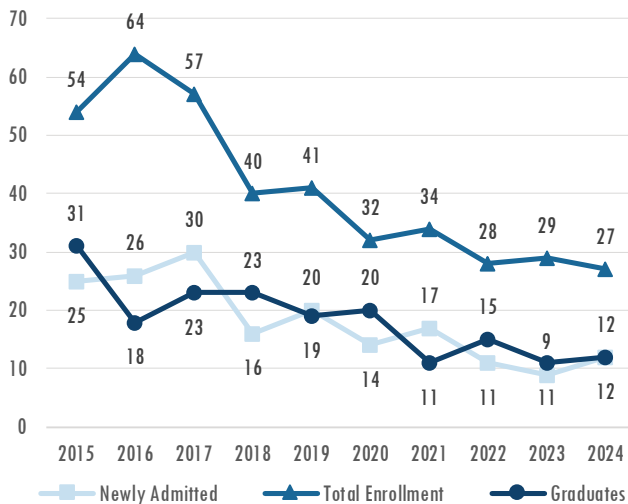


Figure 6. Nurse Midwife Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

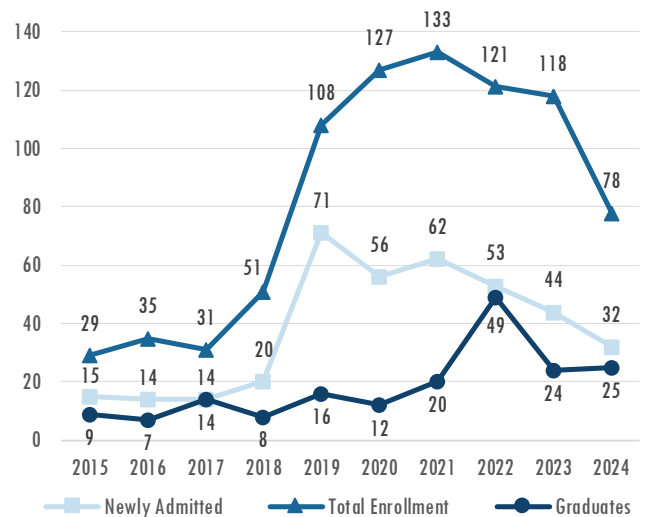


Figure 7. Nursing Leadership/Administration Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

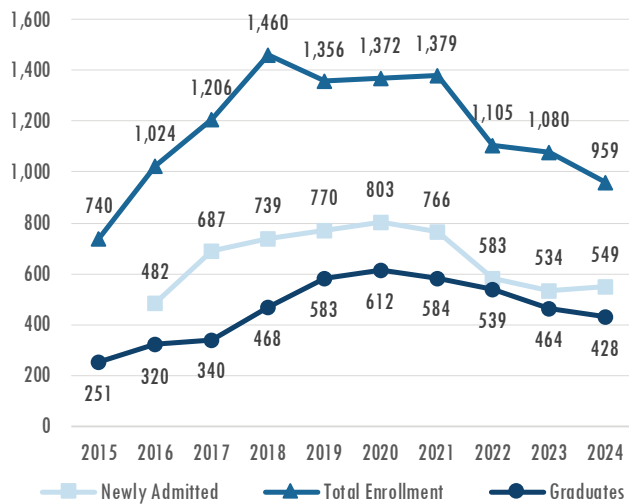


Figure 9. Nursing Informatics Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

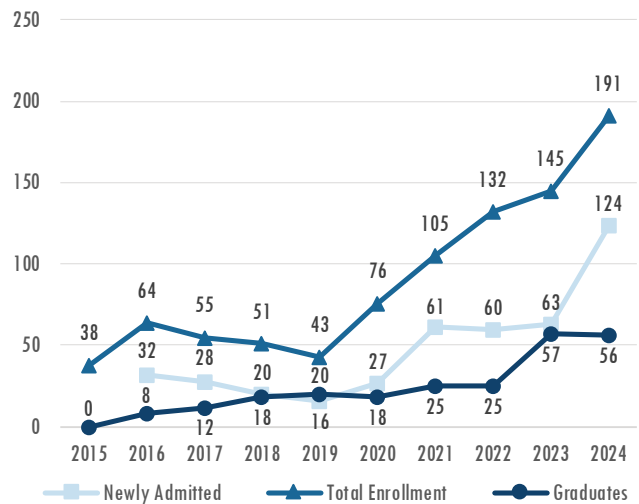


Figure 8. Nursing Education Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

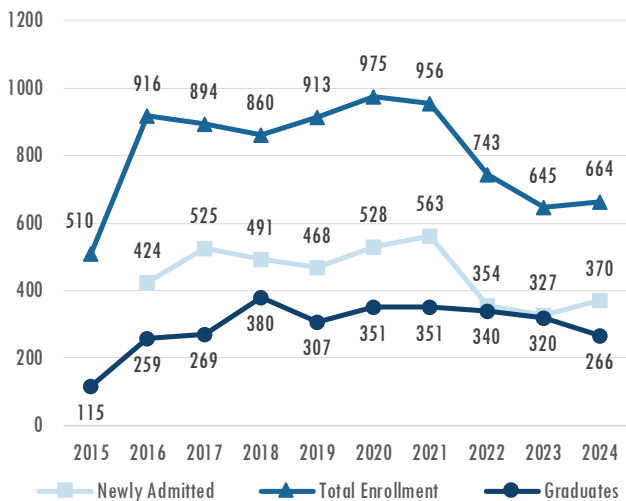


Figure 10. Clinical Nurse Leader Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

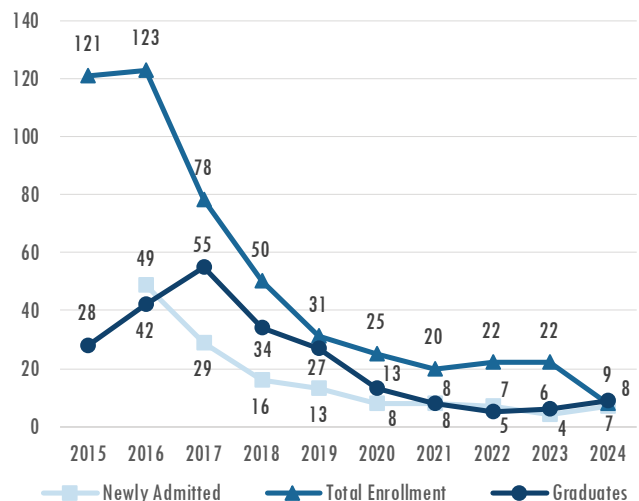


Figure 11. Nursing Research Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

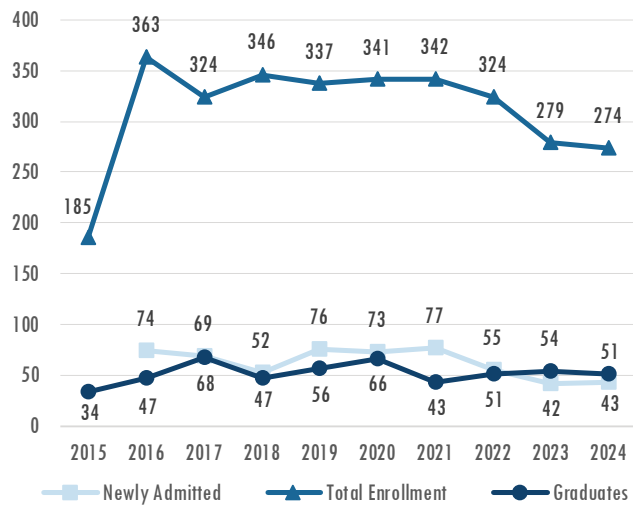


Figure 13. DNP-No Specialty Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2017-2024

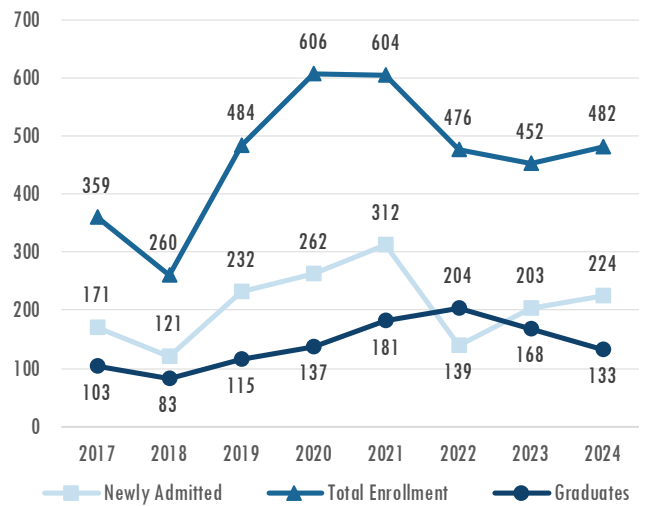


Figure 12. Public Health Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2016-2024

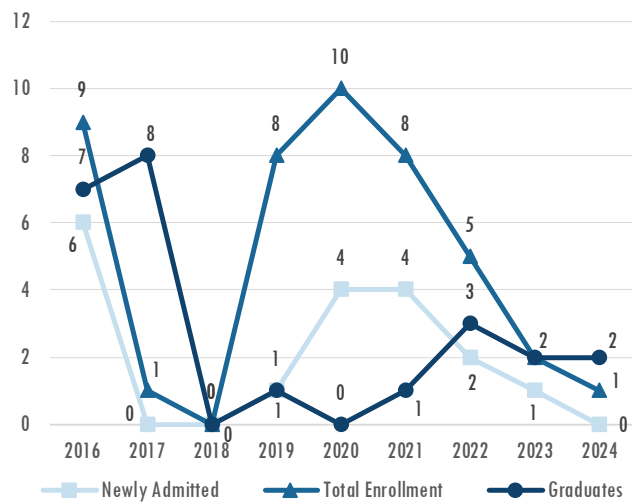


Figure 14. All Other Total Enrollment, Graduates, & Newly Admitted, 2015-2024

