This update presents information for the 129 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2024 reporting year, including:

- 1 diploma program;
- 67 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 55 generic ADN programs and 12 licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to ADN stand-alone programs;
- 59 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 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.

Professional Nursing Program Admissions

Table 1 presents data on seats for new students, qualified applications, and admissions to professional nursing programs from 2015 through 2024. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.[1]

- Seats for new students increased by 4.2% from AY 2022-2023 to AY 2023-2024.[2]
- The number of qualified applications decreased by 6,442 or 16.1% between AY 2022-2023 and AY 2023-2024

- The number of qualified applications decreased across all program types, but the greatest percent decrease was seen in LVN to ADN programs, 29.9%.
- The number of qualified applications offered admission decreased across all program types except for MSN AE. The program type that had the greatest percent decrease was LVN to ADN programs, 29.7%.
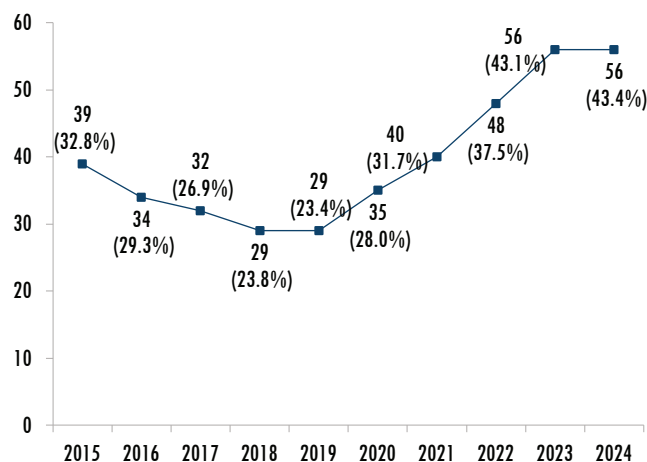
Offered Admission

24,352 qualified applications were offered admission in AY 2023-2024. This was a 7.1% decrease from the previous academic year. Figure 1 (page 2) shows the number and percent of programs that offered admission to all applicants from 2015 to 2024. In 2024, 56 (43.4%) programs offered admission to all qualified applications.

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA), 2015-2024

	Seats for New Students[2]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
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%)
2023 (n=130)	25,255	39,910	26,205	13,705 (34.3%)
2024 (n=129)	26,305	33,468	24,352	9,116 (27.2%)

Note: n = number of programs

This is the same number of programs that offered admission to all qualified applications in 2023.

Figure 1. Programs Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications, 2015-2024

Of the 56 programs that offered admission to all qualified applications:

- 34 (60.7%) were BSN programs. The remaining program types were 13 (23.2%) ADN programs, and 9 (16.1%) LVN to ADN programs.
- 43 (76.8%) were located in metropolitan areas.
- 23 (41.1%) were classified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "University".[3]

Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission

The 73 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted. Table 2 presents the mean rank and rank score of reasons why qualified applicants were not accepted. A lower rank score indicates a higher level of importance

Table 2. Rank Score for Reason Programs Did Not Accept Qualified Applications, 2024

Reason Qualified Applications Not Accepted	Rank	Mean Rank Score
Lack of clinical space	1	2.8
Lack of qualified faculty	2	3.2
Lack of budgeted faculty	3	3.3
Lack of class space	4	3.7
Hiring delays	5	4.4
Faculty turnover	6	4.6
Other	7	6.0

- The highest weighted reason why qualified applications were not accepted was a lack of clinical space. Some of the specific problems cited regarding lack of clinical space included increased competition with other programs (22 programs), BSN programs receiving priority for space over ADN programs (8 programs), and limited availability of preceptors (7 programs).
- The second, third, and fourth highest weighted reasons were a lack of qualified applicants to faculty positions, lack of budgeted faculty positions, and limited classroom space.
- Specific problems cited related to lack of qualified faculty applicants included non-competitive salary (12 programs), no applicants with sufficient experience (7 programs), and the campus being in a rural location (3 programs).

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

[2] 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.).

[3] Institution types come from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (https://apps.highered.texas.gov/program-inventory/).

Figure 2 illustrates the number of newly enrolled, first year students from 2015 to 2024. Newly enrolled students are those that registered and enrolled in the program during AY 2023-2024.

- From AY 2022-2023 to AY 2023-2024, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 2.9%.
- The number of newly enrolled students has increased by 42.3% from 2015 to 2024.

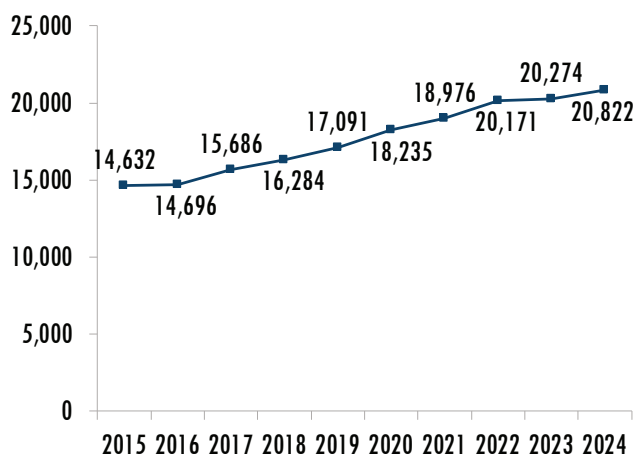**Figure 2. Newly Enrolled Students, 2015-2024**

Table 3 shows the number of newly enrolled students by program type.

- Newly enrolled students increased in BSN and ADN and LVN to ADN programs.

Table 3. Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students by Program Type, AY 2022-2023 and AY 2023-2024

Program Type	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2022-2023	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2023-2024	% Change from AY 2022-2023 to AY 2023-2024
ADN + LVN to ADN[4]	8,067	8,092	0.3%
BSN	11,924	12,460	4.5%
Diploma	196	184	-6.1%
MSN AE	87	86	-1.1%
Total	20,274	20,822	2.7%

[4] LVN to ADN numbers are based on the 12 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.

Seats Unfilled

Table 4 shows the number of seats for new students and the number of newly enrolled students from 2015 to 2024.

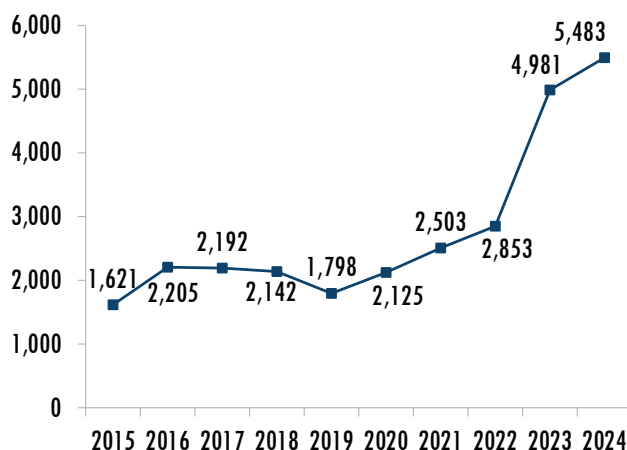- Despite increases in enrollment, 20.8% of seats for new students remained unfilled in 2024.

Table 4. Seats for New Students and Newly Enrolled Students, 2015-2024

	Seats for New Students	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students	Seats Unfilled (%)
2015	16,253	14,632	10.0%
2016	16,901	14,696	13.0%
2017	17,878	15,686	12.3%
2018	18,426	16,284	11.6%
2019	18,889	17,091	9.5%
2020	20,360	18,235	10.4%
2021	21,479	18,976	11.7%
2022	23,024	20,171	12.4%
2023	25,255	20,274	19.7%
2024	26,305	20,822	20.8%

Figure 3 shows the number of unfilled seats for new students from 2015 to 2024.

- From AY 2022-2023 to AY 2023-2024, the number of unfilled seats for new students increased by 10.1%.
- The number of unfilled seats for new students has increased by 238.2% from 2015 to 2024.

Figure 3. Total Unfilled Seats for New Students, 2015-2024

Of the 129 RN programs, only 11 reported 0 seats unfilled.

- Seats unfilled ranged from 1 to 428.
- The median number of seats unfilled was 15.

62 programs reported having more than 15 seats unfilled or the median number of seats unfilled. Of these 62 programs:

- 35 (56.5%) reported fewer qualified applications than seats for new students.
- 23 (37.1%) reported more qualified applications than seats for new students.
- 4 (7.9%) programs reported that their number of qualified applications and seats for new students was the same.

Of the 23 programs that reported more than 15 seats unfilled and more qualified applications than seats for new students:

- 10 (43.5%) programs reported that their number of students offered admission was less than their number of seats for new students.
- 10 (43.5%) programs reported that their number of students offered admission was more than their number of seats for new students.

Total Enrollment in Professional Nursing Programs

Total enrollment, including both newly enrolled and returning students, in professional nursing programs by program type is shown in Table 5 and Figure 4.
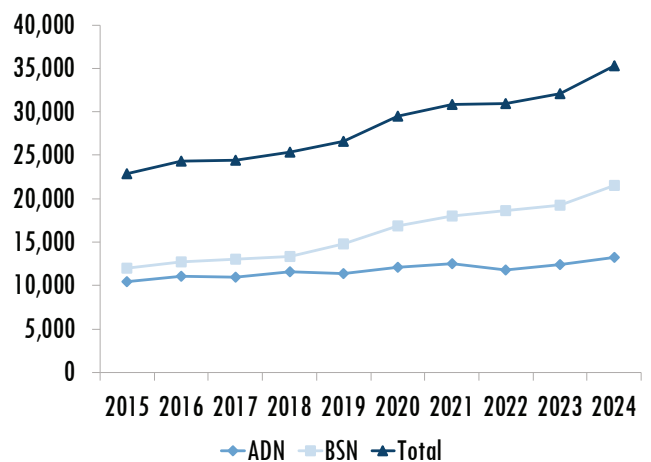
Table 5. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2015-2024

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ADN + LVN to ADN	10,488	11,108	10,968	11,558	11,364	12,096	12,471	11,830	12,443	13,245
BSN	12,001	12,769	13,018	13,370	14,803	16,885	17,958	18,672	19,228	21,544
Diploma	248	256	241	280	281	302	296	306	256	276
MSN AE	163	158	159	167	176	170	165	172	188	192
Total	22,900	24,291	24,386	25,375	26,624	29,453	30,890	30,980	32,115	35,257

On September 30, 2024, as shown in Table 6, there were 35,257 students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

- Since 2015, professional nursing program enrollment has increased by 54.0% overall.
- BSN enrollment increased by 12.0% from 2023 to 2024, and ADN[5] enrollment increased by 6.4%.
- From 2023 to 2024, total enrollment in professional nursing programs increased by 9.8%.
- Of the 35,257 professional nursing students enrolled, 383 were transfer students from other professional nursing programs, and 1,425 were re-entry students.

Figure 4. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2015-2024[6]

[5]ADN and stand-alone LVN to ADN programs combined.

[6]The "total" category in Figure 4 includes the diploma program, the MSN AE programs, and all ADN, LVN to ADN, and BSN programs.

Table 6. Professional Nursing Program Enrollment, 2015-2024

Year	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Change
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%
2023 (n=130)	32,115	3.7%
2024 (n=129)	35,257	9.8%

Note: n = number of programs

Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

The number of graduates from professional nursing programs has been increasing steadily since 2015, as shown in Figure 5. A total of 15,400 students graduated from professional nursing programs during the reporting period,[7] a 2.0% increase since 2023 and a 40.0% increase since 2015.

- 3 programs opened within the last two years and reported having zero graduates during AY 2023-2024.
- Among the 125 programs that reported graduates on both the 2023 NEPIS and 2024 NEPIS, 65 (50.4%) increased their number of professional nursing graduates during AY 2023-2024.
- Programs that increased their number of graduates included 28 ADN, 6 LVN to ADN programs, 30 BSN programs, and 1 MSN AE programs.

Figure 5. Professional Nursing Graduates, 2015-2024

Data points: 2015: 10,997; 2016: 11,189; 2017: 11,677; 2018: 12,284; 2019: 12,839; 2020: 13,525; 2021: 14,104; 2022: 14,674; 2023: 14,964; 2024: 15,400
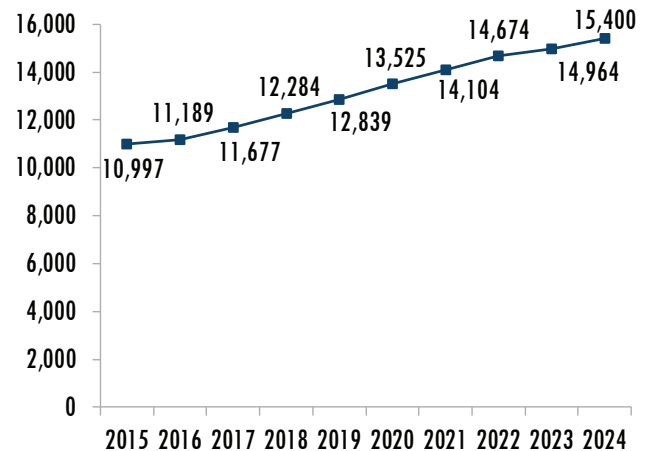
Table 7 displays the number of professional nursing graduates by student type for the past 2 academic years.

Table 7. Professional Nursing Graduates by Type, AY 2022-2023 and AY 2023-2024

	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2022-2023	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2023-2024	% Change in Graduates
Unlicensed Students	12,034	12,354	2.7%
Paramedics/EMTs	169	167	-1.2%
Allied Health	185	196	5.9%
Military	33	47	42.4%
LVNs	2,472	2,585	4.6%
MSN AE	71	51	-28.2%
Total	14,964	15,400	3.1%

- The majority of professional nursing graduates in 2024 were unlicensed students (80.1% of all graduates).
- LVNs who graduated from a professional nursing program made up 16.8% of the professional nursing graduates in 2024.
- The number of allied health professionals who graduated from a professional nursing program increased by 5.9%.
- The number of paramedics/EMTs who graduated from a professional nursing program decreased by 1.2% between AY 2022-2023 and AY 2023-2024.

Barriers to Increasing Pre-Licensure RN Graduates

The 126 programs that reported graduates were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing pre-licensure RN graduates.

- 27 (21.4%) programs stated lack of faculty as a reason for being unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates. 23 (18.3%) programs cited a lack of clinical space as a reason they were unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates.

52 programs (41.3%) reported that they did not have any barriers to increasing the number of pre-licensure RN graduates. Of these 52 programs:

- 27 (51.9%) were BSN programs, 18 (34.6%) were ADN programs, and 7 (13.5%) were LVN to ADN programs.
- 31 (59.6%) programs admitted all qualified applicants.
- 43 (82.7%) were located in metropolitan areas.

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

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

- 72 (55.8%) programs reported that it was very easy and 49 (38.0%) programs reported that it was easy for graduates to find a job in nursing.
- 4 (3.1%) programs reported that it was difficult for graduates to find a job in nursing, citing competition with BSN graduates as the reason. All programs that reported their graduates compete with BSN graduates were ADN programs.

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[7] The number of graduates reported is for AY 2023-2024 academic year (September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024). 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 2023-2024 enrolled in the professional nursing programs during AY 2022-2023.