



ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT, AND GRADUATION TRENDS IN PROFESSIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS

This update presents information for the 133 pre-licensure registered nursing (RN) programs in Texas during the 2025 reporting year, including:

- 1 diploma program;
- 68 Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, including 56 generic ADN programs and 12 licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to ADN stand-alone programs;
- 62 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 2025 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2025. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2024-2025 (September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025) 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 2016 through 2025. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.¹

- Seats for new students increased by 7.6% from AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025.²
- The number of qualified applications increased by 3,772 or 11.3% between AY 2023-2024 and AY 2024-2025.

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission (QANA), 2016-2025

	Seats for New Students ²	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission
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%)
2025 (n=133)	28,312	37,240	27,402	9,838 (26.4%)

Note: n = number of programs

Table 2 shows the number of qualified applications by program type in AY 2023-2024 and AY 2024-2025.

- The number of qualified applications increased across all program types except for the diploma program, where it decreased by 4.1%.
- The number of qualified applications increased the most among BSN programs.

Table 2. Number of Qualified Applications, AY 2023-2024 and AY 2024-2025

Program Type	Qualified Applications, AY 2023-2024	Qualified Applications, AY 2024-2025	% Change from AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025
Diploma	295	283	-4.1%
ADN + LVN to ADN	14,369	14,909	3.8%
BSN	18,635	21,865	17.3%
MSN AE	169	183	8.3%
Total	33,468	37,240	11.3%



Offered Admission

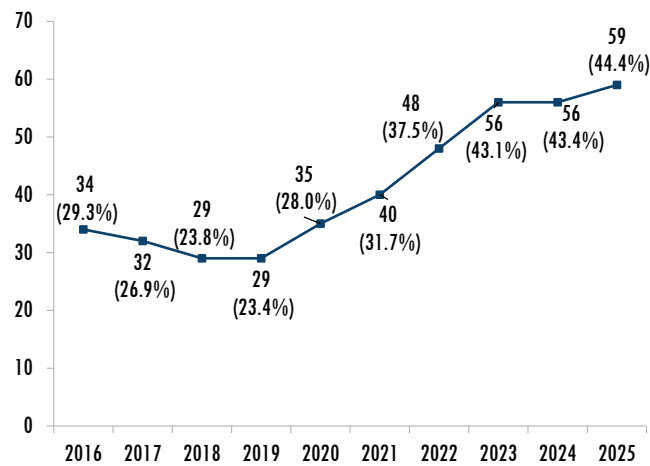
27,402 qualified applications were offered admission in AY 2024-2025. This was a 12.5% increase from the previous academic year. All program types increased the number of qualified applications offered admission.

Figure 1 shows the number and percent of programs that offered admission to all qualified applications from 2016 to 2025. In 2025, 59 (44.4%) programs offered admission to all qualified applications. This is 3 more programs than in 2024.

Of the 59 programs that offered admission to all qualified applications:

- 37 (62.7%) were BSN programs. The remaining program types were 15 (25.4%) ADN programs, 6 (10.2%) LVN to ADN programs, and 1 MSN AE program.
- 49 (83.1%) were located in metropolitan areas.
- 28 (47.5%) were classified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as “University”.³

Figure 1. Programs Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications, 2016-2025



Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission

The 74 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted. Table 3 presents the mean rank and rank score of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted. A lower rank score indicates a higher level of importance.

Table 3. Rank and Rank Score for Reason Programs Did Not Accept Qualified Applications, 2025

Reason Qualified Applications Not Accepted	Rank	Mean Rank Score
Lack of clinical space	1	2.7
Lack of qualified faculty	2	3.5
Lack of class space	3	3.6
Lack of budgeted faculty	4	3.8
Hiring delays	5	4.3
Faculty turnover	6	4.6
Other	7	5.4

- The highest weighted reason why qualified applications were not offered admission was a lack of clinical space. Some of the specific problems regarding lack of clinical space included increased competition with other programs (24 programs), limited capacity in clinical sites (7 programs), and BSN programs receiving priority for space over ADN programs (5 programs).
- The second highest ranked reason was lack of qualified faculty applicants. Issues related to lack of qualified faculty applicants included non-competitive salary (13 programs), no applicants with the required combination of experience and education (4 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/index.cfm?page=8303C0B742D6A6217C4E7EB75A775804AD92F671EEA28FA27DEB32DFB4609513>



Newly Enrolled Students in Professional Nursing Programs

Figure 2 illustrates the number of newly enrolled, first year students from 2016 to 2025. Newly enrolled students are those that registered and enrolled in the program during AY 2024-2025.

- From AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 9.0%.
- The number of newly enrolled students has increased by 54.4% from 2016 to 2025.

Table 4 shows the number of newly enrolled students by program type.

- Newly enrolled students increased from AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025 for all program types.
- BSN programs had the greatest percent increase in newly enrolled students.

Figure 2. Newly Enrolled Students, 2016-2025

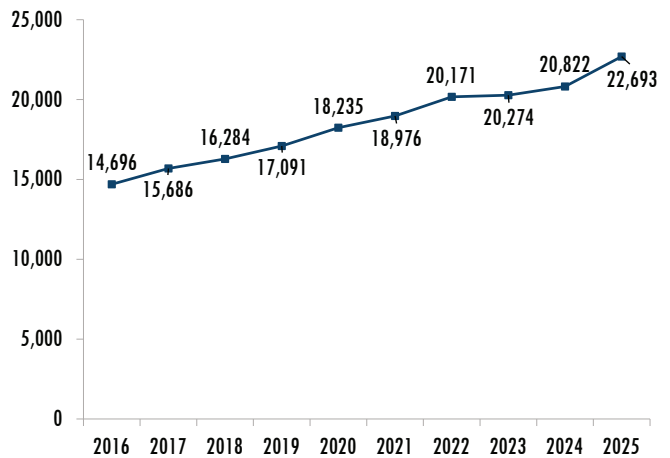


Table 4. Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students by Program Type, AY 2023-2024, and AY 2024-2025

Program Type	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2023-2024	Newly Enrolled Professional Nursing Students, AY 2024-2025	% Change from AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025
Diploma	184	194	5.4%
ADN + LVN to ADN ⁴	8,092	8,651	6.9%
BSN	12,460	13,744	10.3%
MSN AE	86	104	20.9%
Total	20,822	22,693	9.0%

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.

Total Enrollment in Professional Nursing Programs

Total enrollment, including both newly enrolled and returning students, in professional nursing programs is shown in Table 5.

On September 30, 2025 there were 38,064 students enrolled in professional nursing programs.

- Since 2016:
 - professional nursing program enrollment has increased by 56.7%.
 - there has been a net increase of 17 programs and the capacity for newly enrolled students, or the number of seats for new students, has increased by 67.5%, see Table 1 (page 1).

Table 5. Professional Nursing Program Enrollment, 2016-2025

Year	Enrollment	Annual Enrollment Change
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%
2025 (n=133)	38,064	8.0%

Note: n = number of programs

Total enrollment by program type is shown in Table 6 (page 5) and Figure 3.

- From 2024 to 2025:
 - BSN enrollment increased by 13.6%.
 - ADN⁵ enrollment decreased by 1.1%.
 - total enrollment in professional nursing programs increased by 8.0%.
- Of the 38,064 professional nursing students enrolled:
 - 498 were transfer students from other professional nursing programs.
 - 1,702 were re-entry students.⁶

Figure 3. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2016-2025

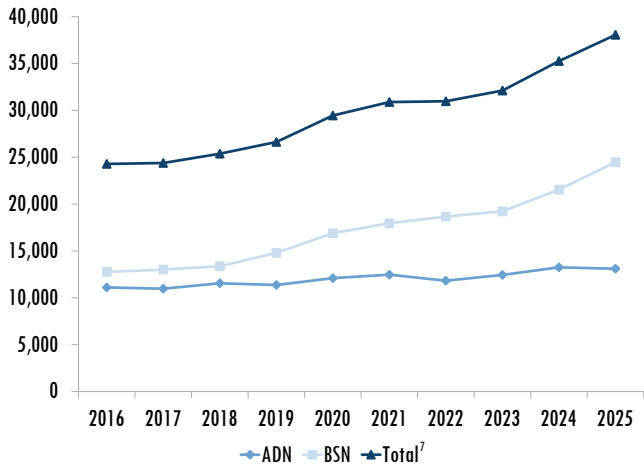


Table 6. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2016-2025

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Diploma	256	241	280	281	302	296	306	256	276	274
ADN + LVN to ADN	11,108	10,968	11,558	11,364	12,096	12,471	11,830	12,443	13,245	13,095
BSN	12,769	13,018	13,370	14,803	16,885	17,958	18,672	19,228	21,544	24,477
MSN AE	158	159	167	176	170	165	172	188	192	218
Total	24,291	24,386	25,375	26,624	29,453	30,890	30,980	32,115	35,257	38,064

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

⁶Re-Entry student refers to a currently enrolled student who had been previously enrolled in a professional nursing education program but left for one or more academic semesters.

⁷The “total” category in Figure 4 includes the diploma program, the MSN AE programs, and all ADN, LVN to ADN, and BSN programs.

Graduates from Professional Nursing Programs

The number of graduates from professional nursing programs has been increasing steadily since 2016, as shown in Figure 4. 127 programs reported graduates; 6 programs opened within the last two years and reported having zero graduates during AY 2024-2025.

- A total of 16,221 students graduated from professional nursing programs during the reporting period,⁸ a 5.3% increase since 2024 and a 45.0% increase since 2016.
- Among the 127 programs that reported graduates on both the 2024 NEPIS and 2025 NEPIS, 65 (51.2%) increased their number of professional nursing graduates during AY 2024-2025.
- The diploma program, 29 ADN programs, 5 LVN to ADN programs, 29 BSN programs, and 1 MSN AE program increased their number of graduates from AY 2024-2025.

Table 7 displays the number of professional nursing graduates by student type for the past 2 academic years.

- The majority of professional nursing graduates in 2025 were unlicensed students (76.8% of all graduates).
- LVNs who graduated from a professional nursing program made up 18.1% of the professional nursing graduates in 2025.
- The number of allied health professionals who graduated from a professional nursing program increased by 179.6%.
- The number of paramedics/EMTs who graduated from a professional nursing program increased by 10.2% between AY 2023-2024 and AY 2024-2025.

Figure 4. Professional Nursing Graduates, 2016-2025

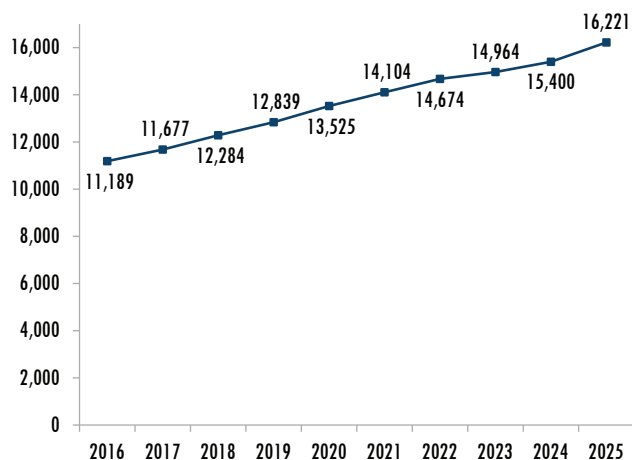


Table 7. Professional Nursing Graduates by Type, AY 2023-2024 and AY 2024-2025

	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2023-2024	Professional Nursing Graduates, AY 2024-2025	% Change in Graduates
Unlicensed Students	12,354	12,450	0.8%
Paramedics/EMTs	167	184	10.2%
Allied Health	196	548	179.6%
Military	47	34	-27.7%
LVNs	2,585	2,933	13.5%
MSN AE	51	72	41.2%
Total	15,400	16,221	5.3%



Barriers to Increasing Pre-Licensure Professional Nursing Graduates

The 127 programs that reported graduates were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing pre-licensure RN graduates. 73 programs stated at least one barrier.

- 28 (38.4%) programs stated issues with recruiting or retaining faculty as a barrier to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates.
- 23 (31.5%) programs cited a lack of clinical space as a reason they were unable to increase the number of pre-licensure graduates.

54 programs (42.5%) reported that they did not have any barriers to increasing the number of pre-licensure professional nursing graduates. Of these 54 programs:

- 27 (50.0%) were BSN programs, 21 (38.9%) were ADN programs, and 6 (11.1%) were LVN to ADN programs.
- 25 (46.3%) programs admitted all qualified applications.
- 43 (79.6%) were located in metropolitan areas.

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

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

- 112 (88.1%) programs reported that it was “very easy” or “easy” for graduates to find a job in nursing.

Programs were asked about the reasons their graduates have had difficulties finding a job. 117 programs responded. Table 8 displays the frequency each reason was selected.

- 83 (70.9%) said none of their graduates had difficulty finding a job.
- 24 (20.5%) programs stated that graduates had difficulties finding a job because they wanted to work at a specific location or a specific schedule.
- 3 programs reported reasons other than those listed. These included: no positions for new graduates, international students having a harder time finding a job compared to local students, and students not being able to obtain their first choice of jobs.

Table 8. Reasons One or More Graduates had Difficulty Finding a Job AY 2024-2025

Reason	N	%
Graduates did not have difficulty finding a job	83	70.9%
Graduates wanted to work at a specific location or a specific schedule	24	20.5%
Competition with BSN graduates	14	11.1%
Lack of open positions in the area	12	10.3%
Lack of experience	6	5.1%
Other	3	2.6%

Note: Programs could select more than one option.

⁸The number of graduates reported is for AY 2024-2025 academic year (September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2025). 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 2024-2025 enrolled in the professional nursing programs during AY 2023-2024.

