

This update presents data for the 55 Texas professional nursing programs that indicated they had a post-licensure RN to BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing) program track during the 2025 reporting year. This includes 5 programs that had a stand alone post-licensure RN to BSN program. This report includes only students who are Texas residents.

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.

RN to BSN Program Characteristics

Geographic Location of Post-Licensure Programs

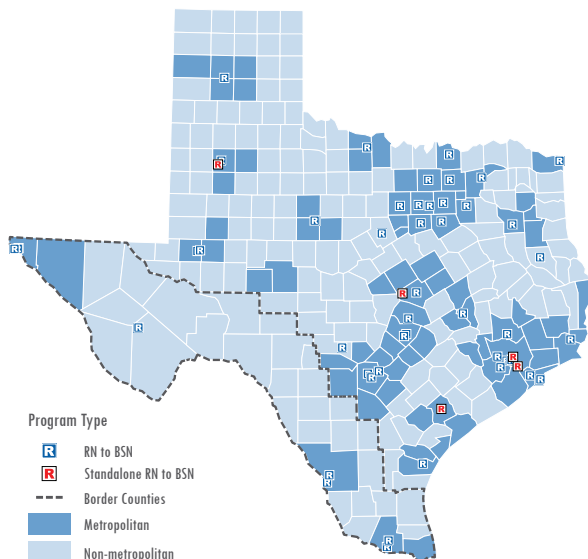
Table 1 shows the geographic designations of post-licensure programs.

- 43 (78.2%) post-licensure nursing programs were in metropolitan non-border counties.

Table 1. Geographic Designation of Main Campuses, 2025

| Geographic Designation | n | % |
|------------------------|----|-------|
| Metro Border | 7 | 12.7% |
| Metro Non-Border | 43 | 78.2% |
| Non-Metro Border | 1 | 1.8% |
| Non-Metro Non-Border | 4 | 7.3% |

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Post-Licensure Professional Nursing Programs, 2025



Institution Type¹

The 55 post-licensure professional nursing programs operating in Texas during AY 2024-2025 were classified as the following mutually exclusive categories:

Table 2. Changes in the Number of Professional Nursing Programs, 2016-2025

| Year | New Programs | Closed Programs | Total Programs |
|------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2016 | 1 | 0 | 41 |
| 2017 | 2 | 2 | 41 |
| 2018 | 3 | 1 | 43 |
| 2019 | 0 | 2 | 41 |
| 2020 | 4 | 1 | 44 |
| 2021 | 0 | 1 | 43 |
| 2022 | 7 | 2 | 48 |
| 2023 | 0 | 1 | 49 |
| 2024 | 6 | 1 | 54 |
| 2025 | 3 | 4 | 55 |

Institution Type¹

The 55 post-licensure professional nursing programs operating in Texas during AY 2024-2025 were classified as the following mutually exclusive categories:

- 33 (60.0%) universities
- 14 (25.5%) community colleges
- 5 (9.1%) health-related institution
- 2 (3.6%) for-profit
- 1 (1.8%) other types of institutions

Upper Division Semester Credit Hours

In the 2025 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 34.0, ranging from 21 to 102.
- The median length of time for program completion was 12 months (31 programs).
- 46 (83.6%) programs were offered on a part-time basis.

51 (92.7%) programs had requirements for a clinical component. Table 2 shows the mean and median number of hours dedicated to clinical components.

- Clinical clock hours had the highest average number of hours (73.9).
- A majority of programs did not dedicate hours to lab clock hours, high-fidelity simulation clock hours, or virtual simulation hours.

Table 2. Mean and Median Number of Hours Dedicated to Clinical Components, 2025

| Clinical Component | n | Mean Hours | Median Hours |
|---|----|------------|--------------|
| Clinical clock hours | 41 | 73.9 | 56.0 |
| Clinical project hours | 39 | 58.3 | 48.0 |
| Lab clock hours | 12 | 22.3 | 22.0 |
| Clock hours in high-fidelity simulation | 2 | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| Clock hours in virtual simulation | 23 | 47.2 | 40.0 |

n=number of programs that reported hours greater than 0.

Online Technology²

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Programs could choose multiple options. Only one RN to BSN program did not offer online options. Of the 54 programs that did:

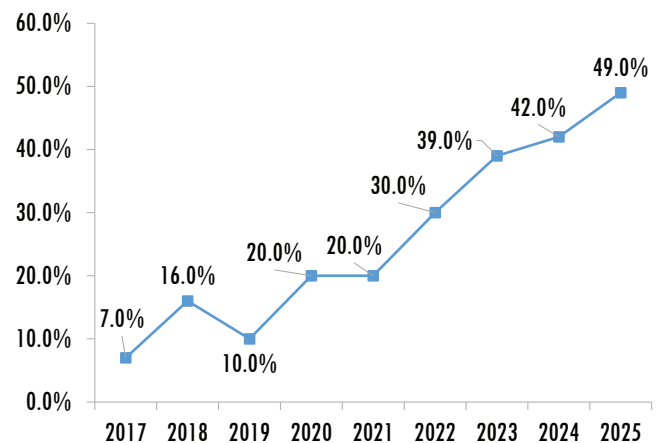
- 47 programs (87.0%) offered the entire didactic program curriculum online.
- 4 programs (7.4%) offered select courses entirely online.
- 5 programs (9.3%) offered hybrid nursing courses.

Work Experience

Programs were asked to report the percentage of their students who had less than 2 years of work experience. Figure 1 charts the median percent of post-licensure students who have less than 2 years of work experience from 2017 to 2025.

- The median percentage of students with less than 2 years of work experience was 49.0%, ranging from 0% (10 programs) to 100% (2 programs).
- This is an increase from 2024 when the median was 42.0%, ranging from 0% (10 programs) to 100% (2 programs).
- The median percent of post-licensure program students with less than 2 years of work experience has increased by 600.0% since 2017.

Figure 2. Median percent of students who have less than 2 years of work experience, 2017-2025



¹Institution types come from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board <https://apps.highered.texas.gov/index.cfm?page=8303C0B742D6A6217C4E7EB75A775804AD92F671EEA28FA27DEB32DFB4609513>

²Please note that programs may offer select courses entirely online and select courses as hybrids. Also note that all programs, whether or not they offered any portion of their program online, offered hands-on, face-to-face clinical experiences. Didactic curriculum is defined as including actual hours of classroom instruction in nursing and non-nursing Board-required courses content.



Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs Admissions

Table 3 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to post-licensure RN to BSN programs in AY 2024-2025. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.¹

- From AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025 seats for new students increased by 33.8%.
 - It is important to note, programs are asked to only report on students that are Texas residents and some of the seats available may be offered to out of state students.
- Two programs reported having an unlimited capacity for new students.
- From AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025 the number of qualified applications increased by 9.1%.

Offered Admission

Of the 6,958 applications offered admission, 4,531 (65.1%) registered and enrolled in a post-licensure RN to BSN program for AY 2024-2025. This is an increase from the number of newly registered and enrolled students in AY 2023-2024.

- 49 of 55 programs (89.1%) offered admission to all qualified applications in 2025.
- 5 programs did not admit new RN to BSN applicants in AY 2024-2025. 4 of these 5 programs also did not admit new RN to BSN applicants in AY 2023-2024.
 - One program that had no new admissions is closing.
 - 4 out of the 5 programs received 0 applications. 1 program received an application and offered admission to the application.

Admission Criteria

Programs were asked their admission criteria. This was an open-ended question.

- All programs listed having a RN license as an admissions requirement.
 - 22 programs specified that it must be an unencumbered license.
 - 5 programs reported that they also grant conditional admission to applicants that are eligible for RN licensure. If admitted, the student must obtain their license by the end of the first semester or when they begin the first course.

- 32 programs reported taking applicants' GPA into account.
 - 15 programs specified that they take nursing course GPA into account.
 - 13 programs stated that they require a GPA of 2.5 or greater.
- 25 programs listed an Associate's Degree in Nursing as a requirement.
 - 9 programs also accepted a Diploma in nursing.

Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission

41 qualified applications were not admitted in 2025, which is an increase from 22 not admitted in 2024. The 6 programs that did not accept all qualified applications ranked the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- The most important reason was different for each program, but included: lack of qualified faculty applicants and delays in hiring new faculty.

Table 3. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission, 2016-2025

| Year | Seats for New Students ^{2,3} | Qualified Applications | Offered Admission | Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission | Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students |
|------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| 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 |
| 2022 | 15,622 | 5,999 | 5,904 | 95 (1.6%) | 4,273 |
| 2023 | 13,554 | 6,652 | 6,637 | 15 (0.2%) | 3,866 |
| 2024 | 14,955 | 6,414 | 6,392 | 22 (0.3%) | 4,172 |
| 2025 | 20,010 | 6,999 | 6,958 | 41 (0.6%) | 4,531 |



Table 4 shows the yearly change in newly enrolled students from 2016 to 2025. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- There were a total of 4,531 newly enrolled post-licensure students in AY 2024-2025.
- From AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025, the number of newly enrolled students increased by 8.6%.

Table 4. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2016-2025

| Year | n | Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students | % Annual Change |
|------|----|--|-----------------|
| 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% |
| 2022 | 48 | 4,273 | -22.0% |
| 2024 | 49 | 3,866 | -9.5% |
| 2024 | 53 | 4,172 | 7.9% |
| 2025 | 55 | 4,531 | 8.6% |

n= number of responding programs

³Qualified applications refers to applications submitted, not individual applicants, since candidates for admission may apply to more than one nursing program.

⁴Seats for new students does not distinguish between non-Texas and Texas residents.

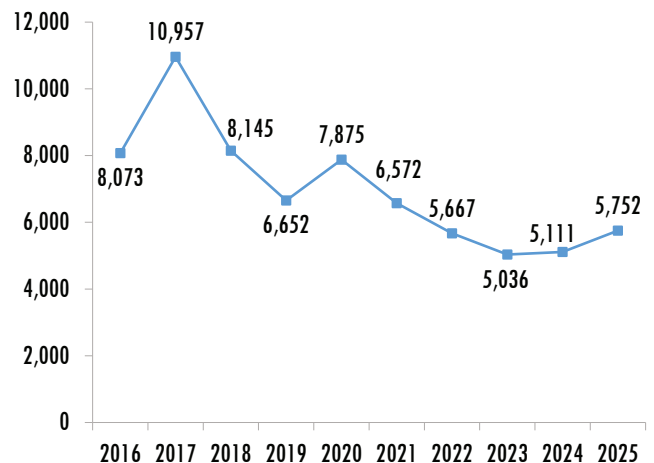
⁵Per the survey operational definition, seats for new students refers to the maximum number of seats for new students that a program can enroll in any given admission period. Seats for new students may be limited by Board of Nursing rules or logistical concerns (faculty size, classroom space, etc.).

Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

On September 30, 2025, as shown in Figure 3, there were 5,752 students enrolled in post-licensure RN to BSN programs.

- From 2024 to 2025, enrollment increased by 641 students (12.5%).
- Of the 50 programs that responded to the NEPIS in both 2024 and 2025.
 - 16 programs had a decrease in total enrollment.
 - 30 reported increased total enrollment.
 - 4 did not have a change in enrollment.

Figure 3. Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2016-2025



Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

As shown in Figure 4, there were 3,367 post-licensure RN to BSN graduates during AY 2024-2025.

- This represented a 10.0% increase from AY 2023-2024 (305 more graduates).

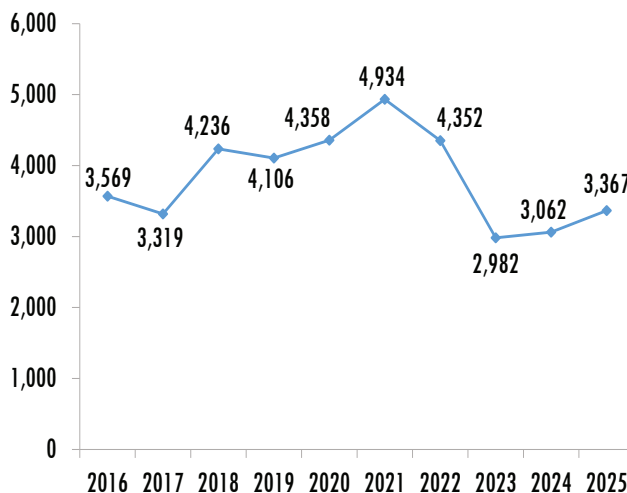
Of the 50 programs that responded to the NEPIS in both 2024 and 2025:

- 28 reported an increase in the number of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates.
- 18 reported a decrease in the number of graduates.
- 4 programs reported the same number of graduates.

Programs were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing post-licensure RN to BSN graduates. Programs could report more than one barrier. Of the 34 programs that responded:

- 7 programs cited an insufficient applicant pool.
- 7 programs reported having challenges with recruiting applicants for their program.
- 7 cited competition with other RN to BSN programs.
 - 5 out of the 7 programs specifically cited competition with community colleges.

Figure 4. Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2016-2025



- 4 programs cited the cost of tuition.
- 3 programs cited competing work or school commitments.

Demographics of Post-Licensure RN to BSN Graduates

Sex

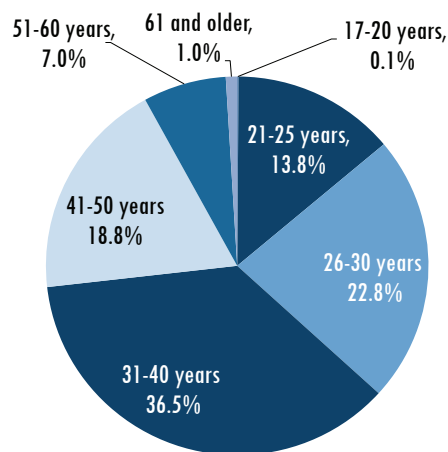
Female graduates made up 83.2% of the 2025 post-licensure RN to BSN graduate population, a decrease from the proportion of graduates who were female in 2024 (85.8%). Sex data were missing for 0.6% of RN to BSN graduates.

Age

Figure 5 displays the breakdown of age among post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in 2025. Age data were missing for 0.7% of RN to BSN graduates.

- 36.5% of RN to BSN graduates were 31-40 years old.
- There were more post-licensure RN to BSN graduates aged 51 and older (8.0%) compared to pre-licensure RN graduates (2.0%).⁷

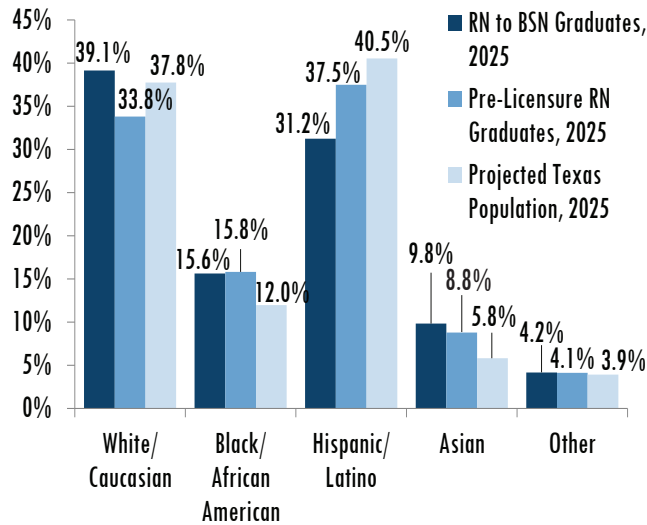
Figure 5. Age of Post-Licensure RN to BSN Graduates, 2025



Race/Ethnicity

Figure 6 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of pre-licensure RN graduates⁶ and the projected Texas population.⁷ Race/ethnicity data were missing for 2.2% of RN to BSN graduates.

Figure 6. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, Pre-Licensure RN Graduates,⁶ and Texas Population⁷

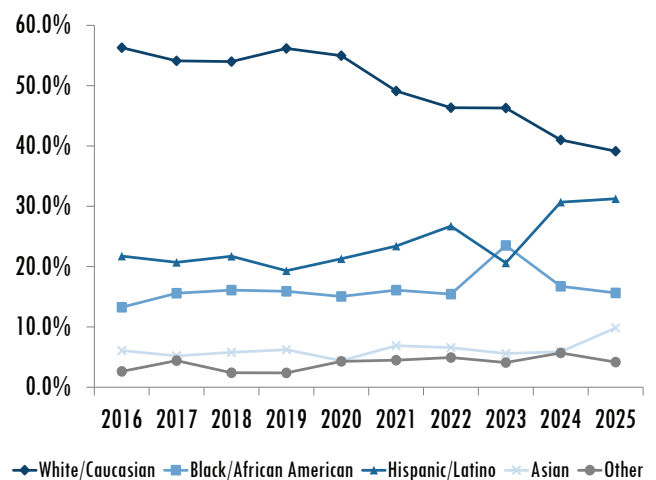


- White/Caucasian graduates made up a higher proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (39.1%) than pre-licensure RN graduates (33.8%), and the Texas population (37.8%).
- The proportion of Black/African American post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (15.6%) was similar to the proportion of pre-licensure RN graduates (15.8%) and greater than the Texas population (12.0%).
- Hispanic/Latino graduates made up a lower proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (31.2%), compared to 37.5% of pre-licensure RN graduates and 40.5% of the Texas population.
- The proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates that are Asian (9.8%) is greater than the proportion of the Texas population that is Asian (5.8%) and greater than the proportion of pre-licensure graduates that are Asian (8.8%).
- Other races/ethnicities represented a greater proportion (4.2%) of the post-licensure graduate population than the Texas population (3.9%) and pre-licensure graduate population (4.1%).

Figure 7 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates from 2016 to 2025. Since 2016, the proportion of White/Caucasian RN to BSN graduates has decreased and the proportions of graduates of all other race/ethnicities have had a net increase. Post-licensure RN to BSN graduates are increasingly reflecting the race/ethnicity distribution of the Texas population.

- The proportion of Black/African American RN to BSN graduates has decreased since 2024, from 16.7% to 15.6%.
- The proportion of Hispanic/Latino RN to BSN graduates has increased since 2024, from 30.7% to 31.2%.
- The proportion of Asian RN to BSN graduates increased since 2024 from 5.9% to 9.8%.
- The proportion of students of other races/ethnicities decreased from 5.7% in 2024 to 4.2% in 2025.

Figure 7. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, 2016-2025



International Students

Programs reported a total of 27 graduates who were international students (0.5% of all post-licensure RN to BSN graduates).⁸

⁶Pre-licensure RN data come from the 2025 RN NEPIS fact sheets located at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/Nursing-Education-Reports.aspx>

⁷Texas population data come from the 2025 Texas Demographic Center population projections (<https://demographics.texas.gov/Projections/>).

⁸International 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.

