

GRADUATE ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT, AND GRADUATION TRENDS

This update presents data for the 40 universities/colleges that offer one or more graduate nursing education programs. There were 45 programs that prepared graduates for licensure as advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and 85 other programs. Table 1 breaks down these programs by education model:

Table 1. Program Type by Education Model, 2025

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP*	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner (n=33)	29	25	9	4	0
Acute Care Adult/Gerontology	5	7	5	1	0
Acute Care Pediatric	4	4	1	1	0
Family	27	19	8	3	0
Neonatal	3	1	1	1	0
Pediatric	6	5	2	1	0
Primary Care Adult/Gerontology	3	2	1	0	0
Psychiatric/Mental Health	12	17	7	2	0
Women's Health	1	1	0	0	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist (n=2)	1	1	1	0	0
Adult/Gerontology	1	1	1	0	0
Neonatal	0	0	0	0	0
Pediatric	0	0	1	0	0
Psychiatric	0	0	0	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist (n=8)	0	0	7	3	0
Nurse-Midwife (n=2)	1	1	1	1	0
Nurse Leadership/Admin (n=25)	21	6	2	10	0
Nursing Education (n=25)	24	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=14)	0	0	0	14	0
Other (n=7)	5	2	1	0	0

Note: n=number of programs. Programs can have multiple models of education. Programs were also asked if they offered any other doctoral degrees, but none were reported.

*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 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.

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 2025 increased by 840 applications, or 13.5%, since 2024.
- In 2025, 883 (12.5%) of 7,081 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), less than in 2024 (17.1%).

Table 2. Qualified applications, admissions, & QANA, APRN programs, 2017-2025

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%)
2025	45	6,646	7,081	6,198	883 (12.5%)

Note: n=number of programs

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

- As seen in Table 3, from 2024 to 2025, there was a 2.5% decrease in the number of qualified applications and a 2.2% decrease in applications offered admission.
- In 2025, 58 (3.0%) of 1,911 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), which is a decrease from the proportion in 2024 (3.4%).

Table 3. Qualified applications, admissions, & QANA, non-APRN programs, 2017-2025

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%)
2025	85	2,549	1,911	1,853	58 (3.0%)

Note: n=number of programs

Table 4 (page 3) lists data on qualified applications and admissions by program type reported by APRN and non-APRN programs.

- Nurse anesthetist programs had the highest percentage of qualified applications not offered admission across all program types (51.6%).
- Clinical nurse leader and DNP-no specialty programs offered admission to all qualified applications.
- Non-APRN programs offered admission to a larger proportion of qualified applications than APRN programs overall.

Table 5 (page 3) 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 stayed consistent from 69.1% in 2024 to 70.0% in 2025.
- In 2025, 28 out of 45 APRN programs offered admission to all qualified applications (62.2%), an increase from 53.7% in 2024.
- For non-APRN programs, 63 out of 85 programs (74.1%) offered admission to all qualified applications, a decrease from 76.8% in 2024.

Table 4. Qualified Applications & Admissions by Program Type, 2025

Program Type	n	Seats for New Students	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA
Nurse Practitioner	33	6,234	6,206	5,747	459 (7.4%)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	2	16	23	16	7 (30.4%)
Nurse Anesthetist	8	334	770	373	397 (51.6%)
Nurse-Midwife	2	62	82	62	20 (24.4%)
Total - APRN	45	6,646	7,081	6,198	883 (12.5%)
Nursing Leader/Admin	25	1,072	665	657	8 (1.2%)
Nursing Education	25	752	503	500	3 (0.6%)
Nursing Informatics	4	137	140	138	2 (1.4%)
Clinical Nurse Leader	2	0	3	3	0 (0.0%)
Nursing Research ³	7	84	93	77	16 (17.2%)
Public Health	1	0	0	0	0 (0.0%)
DNP-No Specialty ⁴	14	350	342	342	0 (0.0%)
All Other	7	154	165	136	29 (17.6%)
Total Non-APRN	85	2,549	1,911	1,853	58 (3.0%)
Total - ALL	130	9,195	8,992	8,051	941 (10.5%)

Note: n=number of programs

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 most heavily ranked reason a program did not accept all qualified applications was a lack of preceptors, followed closely by a lack of clinical placement/sites.

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.

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 14 DNP programs that don't identify any of the other categories as the focus of their program.

Table 5. Programs Offering Admission to All Qualified Applications by Program Type, 2024 & 2025

Program Type	2024		2025	
	# 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	19/31	61.3%	23/33	69.7%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	1/2	50.0%	1/2	50.0%
Nurse Anesthetist	1/6	16.7%	3/8	37.5%
Nurse-Midwife	1/2	50.0%	1/2	50.0%
Total - APRN	22/41	53.7%	28/45	62.2%
Nursing Leader/Admin	21/26	80.8%	21/25	84.0%
Nursing Education	22/24	91.7%	23/25	92.0%
Nursing Informatics	2/4	50.0%	3/4	75.0%
Clinical Nurse Leader	2/2	100.0%	2/2	100.0%
Nursing Research	4/7	57.1%	3/7	42.9%
Public Health	1/1	100.0%	1/1	100.0%
DNP-No Specialty	7/12	58.3%	7/14	50.0%
All Other	4/6	66.7%	3/7	42.9%
Total Non-APRN	63/82	76.8%	63/85	74.1%
Total - ALL	85/123	69.1%	91/130	70.0%

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), difficulty finding needed specialties (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 19.7% increase in newly admitted students from 2024 to 2025.
- There was a 25.7% increase in the number of newly admitted APRN students and a 3.2% increase in the number of newly admitted non-APRN students from 2024 to 2025.
- The number of newly admitted students to nurse practitioner programs increased by 25.9% from 2024 to 2025.
- The number of newly admitted students to clinical nurse specialist programs decreased by 5 students (41.7%) from 2024 to 2025.
- Newly admitted students to nursing research programs increased by 27.9% from 2024 to 2025.
- There were no new students admitted to clinical nurse leader programs in 2025, although there were 3 qualified applications (see page 3).

Table 6. Newly admitted Students by Program Type, 2024 & 2025

Program Type	Newly Admitted Students, 2024	Newly Admitted Students, 2025	% Change 2024-2025
Nurse Practitioner	3,558	4,478	25.9%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	12	7	-41.7%
Nurse Anesthetist	244	307	25.8%
Nurse-Midwife	32	44	37.5%
Total - APRN	3,846	4,836	25.7%
Nursing Leader/Admin	549	531	-3.3%
Nursing Education	370	390	5.4%
Nursing Informatics	124	104	-16.1%
Clinical Nurse Leader	7	0	-100.0%
Nursing Research	43	55	27.9%
Public Health	0	0	-
DNP-No Specialty	224	255	13.8%
All Other	88	115	30.7%
Total Non-APRN	1,405	1,450	3.2%
Total - ALL	5,251	6,286	19.7%

Admission Requirements

Starting in 2025, programs were asked if they require a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), minimum number of years of experience in nursing, and other requirements they had for admissions. Table 7 lists these program requirements.

- All 31 Nurse Practitioner- family track programs required newly admitted students to have a BSN.
- The majority of non-APRN programs (78.8%) did not require a minimum number of years of nursing experience for their newly admitted students.
- On average, Nurse Practitioner- acute care pediatric track programs required the most number of minimum years of nursing experience.
- Other requirements that programs listed were a minimum 3.0 GPA, an unencumbered license, and recent nursing experience in the particular specialty of the program.

Table 7. Admission Requirements by Program Type, 2025

Program Type	Requires BSN	Requires minimum years nursing experience	Mean number of years required	Other requirements
Nurse Practitioner				
Acute Care Adult/ Gerontology	10	8	1.3	2
Acute Care Pediatric	5	4	1.8	1
Family	31	21	1.2	11
Neonatal	4	3	1.7	1
Pediatric	8	6	1.3	1
Primary Care Adult/ Gerontology	2	1	1.0	1
Psychiatric/Mental Health	20	12	1.2	5
Women's Health	1	1	1.0	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist				
Adult/Gerontology	1	0	-	0
Pediatric	0	0	-	0
Nurse Anesthetist	6	7	1.0	3
Nurse-Midwife	2	1	1.0	1
Nurse Leadership/Admin	21	6	1.0	9
Nursing Education	23	6	1.2	8
Nursing Informatics	3	1	2.0	1
Clinical Nurse Leader	2	1	1.0	0
Nursing Research	6	1	1.0	1
Public Health	1	0	-	0
DNP-No Specialty	11	2	1.3	9
Other	4	1	1.0	2

Total Enrollment in APRN and Non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 8 and Figure 1 show the total number of students enrolled on September 30th, 2025 of the respective year by program type over time.

- Student enrollment in APRN and non-APRN programs increased from 2024 to 2025.
- The number of students enrolled in 2025 decreased in 50.0% (4 out of 8) of non-APRN programs.

Figure 1. Total Enrollment in APRN and Non-APRN Programs Type, 2016-2025

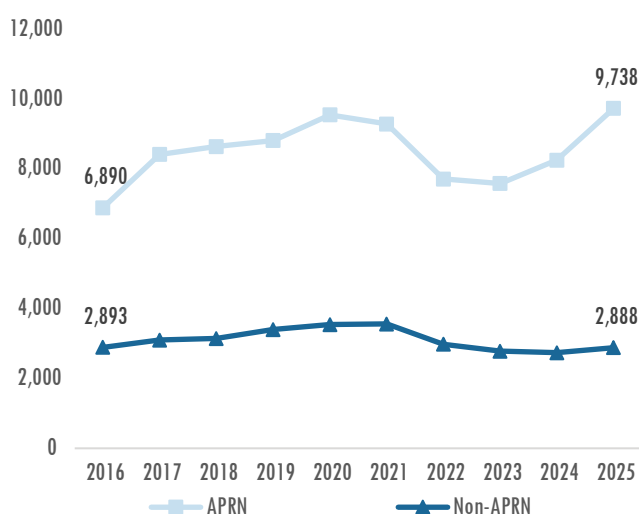


Table 8. Total Enrollment by Program Type, 2021-2025

Program Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nurse Practitioner	8,356	6,895	6,742	7,417	8,880
Clinical Nurse Specialist	133	121	118	27	26
Nurse Anesthetist	767	671	698	735	740
Nurse-Midwife	34	28	29	78	92
Total - APRN	9,290	7,715	7,587	8,257	9,738
Nursing Leader/Admin	1,379	1,105	1,080	959	922
Nursing Education	956	743	645	664	645
Nursing Informatics	105	132	145	191	216
Clinical Nurse Leader	20	22	22	8	12
Nursing Research	342	324	279	274	256
Public Health	8	5	2	1	0
DNP-No Specialty	604	476	452	482	579
All Other	150	178	160	160	258
Total - Non-APRN	3,564	2,985	2,785	2,739	2,888
Total - ALL	12,854	10,700	10,372	10,996	12,626

Table 9 shows enrollment for APRN and non-APRN graduate level programs by education model.

- Consistent with previous years, the majority of students were enrolled in master's degree programs for APRN and non-APRN programs.

Table 9. Enrollees by Program Type and Education Model, 2025

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner	7,318	517	1,013	32	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist	19	3	4	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist	0	0	567	173	0
Nurse-Midwife	52	3	37	0	0
Total APRN	7,389	523	1,621	205	0
Nursing Leader/Admin	772	7	8	135	0
Nursing Education	622	23	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics	204	9	0	3	0
Clinical Nurse Leader	12	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research	0	0	0	0	256
Public Health	0	0	0	0	0
DNP-No Specialty	0	0	0	579	0
All Other	159	17	82	0	0
Total Non-APRN	1,769	56	90	717	256
Total - ALL	9,158	579	1,711	922	256

Graduates from APRN and Non-APRN Graduate Programs

Table 10 shows the APRN and non-APRN graduates by program type over the past 5 academic years. Table 11 shows graduate totals for APRN and non-APRN programs by education model.

- Overall, the number of graduates remained consistent from 3,179 graduates in 2024 to 3,254 graduates in 2025.
- The majority of graduates (88.3%) from 2025 APRN programs were in nurse practitioner programs.
- The largest number of graduates from non-APRN programs in 2025 were in nursing leadership/administration programs (439 or 41.0% of non-APRN graduates).
- The majority of graduates (72.3%) in both 2025 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 2,183 reported APRN graduates, 1,093 (50.1%) of whom plan to work in Texas.

Schools were 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 10. Graduates by Program Type, 2021-2025

Program Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Nurse Practitioner	2,629	2,359	1,986	1,899	1,927
Clinical Nurse Specialist	20	49	24	12	10
Nurse Anesthetist	267	256	111	228	220
Nurse-Midwife	11	15	11	25	26
Total APRN	2,927	2,679	2,132	2,164	2,183
Nursing Leader/Admin	584	539	467	428	439
Nursing Education	351	340	320	266	280
Nursing Informatics	25	25	57	56	73
Clinical Nurse Leader	8	5	6	9	1
Nursing Research	43	51	54	51	60
Public Health	1	3	2	2	1
DNP-No Specialty	181	204	168	133	158
All Other	66	78	67	70	59
Total Non-APRN	1,259	1,245	1,141	1,015	1,071
Total - ALL	4,186	3,924	3,273	3,179	3,254

- The most frequently selected as "most important" or "important" reasons were "full practice authority" (17 programs) and "other state is state of residence/family in other state" (18 programs).
- Other reasons schools listed included military service obligations (3 programs).

Table 11. Graduates by Program Type and Education Model, 2025

Program Type	Master's Degree	Post-Graduate Certificate	Post-Baccalaureate DNP	Post-Master's DNP	PhD in Nursing
Nurse Practitioner	1,585	181	156	5	0
Clinical Nurse Specialist	6	0	4	0	0
Nurse Anesthetist	0	0	165	55	0
Nurse-Midwife	19	2	5	0	0
Total APRN	1,610	183	330	60	0
Nursing Leader/Admin	371	2	0	66	0
Nursing Education	261	19	0	0	0
Nursing Informatics	66	7	0	0	0
Clinical Nurse Leader	1	0	0	0	0
Nursing Research	0	0	0	0	60
Public Health	0	0	0	1	0
DNP-No Specialty	0	0	0	158	0
All Other	45	14	0	0	0
Total Non-APRN	744	42	0	225	60
Total - ALL	2,354	225	330	285	60