This update presents data for the 89[1] vocational nursing (VN) programs and the military-based VN program[1] in Texas during the 2018 reporting year, including:

- 83 generic programs
  - 64 in public colleges/universities
  - 12 in career schools/colleges
  - 4 in private colleges/universities
  - 3 in private/public hospitals
- 6 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEPs)
  - All in public colleges/universities

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2018 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2018. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2017-2018 (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

[1]Data collected from the military-based VN program were analyzed separately and can be found on page 5.

Qualified Applications to Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 1 lists data on qualified applications[2] and admissions to VN programs from 2006 through 2018.

- Seats for new students[3,4] decreased 9.8% between 2017 and 2018.
- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
  - There were 8,433 qualified applications in 2018, a decrease of 4.6% from 2017.[5]
  - Of the number of qualified applications, admission was offered to 7,174, or 85.1%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission (QANA) increased from 2017 to 2018 by 8.7%.
- 47 programs accepted all qualified applications, 3 more than in 2017.

The 42 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rank the reasons why qualified applications were not offered admission in order of importance (42 programs responded to this question).

- Lack of clinical space was ranked as the first or second most important reason for not offering admission to all qualified applications by 27 programs (64.3% of 42 responding programs).

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and QANA, 2006 - 2018

Year	Seats for New Students[3,4,6]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2006	-	13,397	6,900	6,497 (48.5%)
2007	-	13,355	7,598	5,757 (43.1%)
2008	7,952	12,522	7,944	4,528 (36.2%)
2009	8,468	11,644	8,552	3,112 (26.7%)
2010	8,685	13,681	8,654	5,027 (36.7%)
2011	9,776	15,648	9,480	6,168 (39.4%)
2012	8,989	13,839	8,929	4,910 (35.5%)
2013	8,947	11,061	8,114	2,947 (26.6%)
2014	8,743	10,529	8,238	2,291 (21.8%)
2015	8,719	9,305	7,698	1,607 (17.3%)
2016	7,770	7,964	6,956	1,008 (12.7%)
2017	8,220	8,843	7,693	1,150 (13.0%)
2018	7,483	8,433	7,174	1,259 (14.9%)

- Programs that ranked lack of clinical space first or second cited reasons such as lack of clinical availability in certain locations or settings (17 programs) and preference given to professional nursing students (4 programs).

- Limited classroom space was ranked first or second in importance for not offering admission to all qualified applications by 23 programs (54.8%).

- Lack of budgeted faculty positions was ranked first or second by 13 programs (31.0%) and lack of qualified faculty applicants was ranked first or second by 10 programs (15.6%).

- Other reasons programs cited for not offering qualified applications admission included students failing to meet requirements to enroll (8 programs).

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

[3]In previous reports seats for new students was reported as enrollment capacity.

[4]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.)

[5]Candidates for admission may apply and be accepted by more than one nursing program; therefore, these data may represent some duplicated counts of individuals.
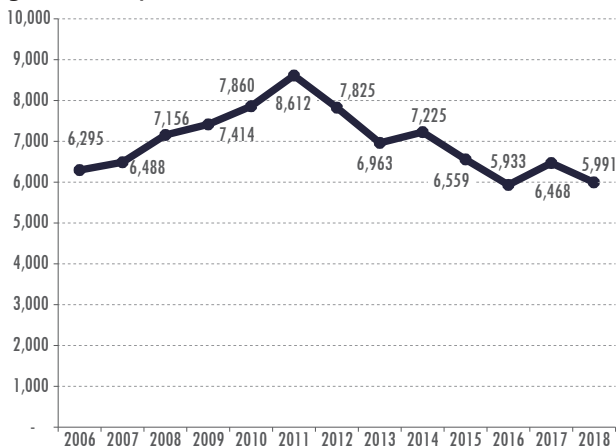
[6]The number of students offered admission may exceed seats for new students in order to account for students who apply to multiple programs. Data were not available for cells with dashes (-).

Newly Enrolled Students in Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 1 and Table 2 show the yearly change in the number of newly enrolled students from 2006 to 2018. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From 2017 to 2018, the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 7.4%, from 6,468 to 5,991.

- With the exception of 2014 and 2017 VN enrollment has decreased since 2011.

- Since 2006, there was an overall decrease of 4.8% in the number of newly enrolled VN students.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2006 - 2018

Table 2. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2006 - 2018

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	% Annual Enrollment Change
2006	6,295	-
2007	6,488	3.1%
2008	7,156	10.3%
2009	7,414	3.6%
2010	7,860	6.0%
2011	8,612	9.6%
2012	7,825	-9.1%
2013	6,963	-11.0%
2014	7,225	3.8%
2015	6,559	-9.2%
2016	5,933	-9.5%
2017	6,468	9.0%
2018	5,991	-7.4%

Data were not available for cells with dashes (-).

Total Enrollment in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 3 (page 3) presents the breakdown of total enrollment by program type and setting for AY 2017-2018.

- 97.5% of enrolled students were in generic programs. There were 214 students enrolled in MEEPs[7] during AY 2017-2018.

- 60.4% of all enrolled students were enrolled in public colleges or universities.

- 21.0% of students were enrolled in career schools/colleges, even though career schools/colleges represented only 13.5% of VN programs.[8]

[7]Multiple Entry-Exit Program is an approved exit option which is a part of a professional nursing education program designed for students to complete course work and apply to take the NCLEX-PN® examination after they have successfully met all requirements needed for the examination.

[8]The military-based program was not included in this analysis.

Table 3. VN Program Enrollment by Program Type, AY 2017 - 2018

Program Type	Program Setting	Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
Generic	Public Colleges/ Universities	4,939	57.9%
	Career Schools/ Colleges	1,793	21.0%
	Private Colleges/ Universities	1,360	15.9%
	Hospitals	221	2.6%
MEEP	Public Colleges/ Universities	214	2.5%
Total		8,527	100.0%

Figure 2 shows the fluctuating trend in total VN enrollment since 2006.

- Total VN student enrollment increased by 3.3% since 2017.

Figure 2. Total VN Enrollment, 2006 - 2018

- The total number of students enrolled in VN programs increased by 53.2% between 2006 and 2018.

Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 3 and Table 4 show the change in the number of VN graduates since 2006.

- VN graduates continue to increase the number of graduates since 2017.
- A total of 4,184 students graduated in 2018, a increase of 2.0% from 2017.
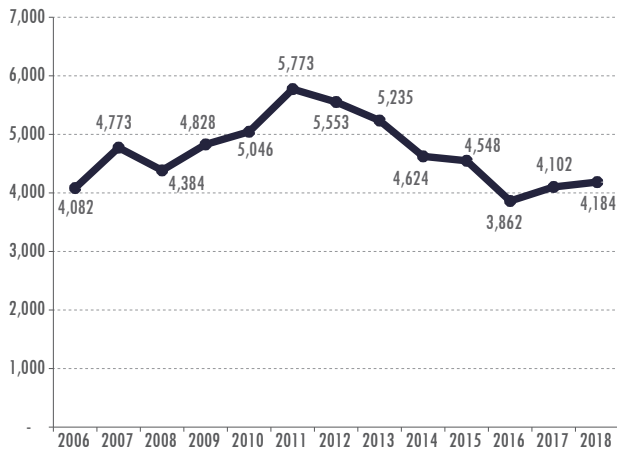
Figure 3. VN Graduates, 2006 - 2018

Table 4. Change in VN Graduates, 2006 - 2018

Year	Graduates	% Annual Change in Graduates
2006	4,082	-5.5%
2007	4,773	16.9%
2008	4,384	-8.2%
2009	4,828	10.1%
2010	5,046	4.5%
2011	5,773	14.4%
2012	5,553	-3.8%
2013	5,235	-5.7%
2014	4,624	-11.7%
2015	4,548	-1.6%
2016	3,862	-15.1%
2017	4,102	6.2%
2018	4,184	2.0%

VN graduates by program and institution type are shown in Table 5.

- 96.4% of students graduated from generic programs. 151 students (3.6%) graduated from MEEPs.
- 59.0% of total graduates were from public colleges/ universities.
- Career schools/colleges graduated the second largest proportion (21.1%) of VN students during the reporting period.
- Private college/university graduates comprised 13.6% of the total number of graduates.

Barriers to Increasing Graduates

Programs were asked to list barriers that they faced in increasing VN graduates in AY 2017-2018. 62 programs identified having barriers to increasing the number of graduates.[9] Some of these barriers included:

- Academic failure or challenges (21 programs)
- Lack of qualified applicants (9 programs)
- Lack of clinical sites (9 programs)
- Financial difficulties/lack of financial aid (6 programs)

Level of Difficulty for Graduates to Find a Job in Nursing

Figure 4 shows the difficulty programs perceived with respect to their graduates finding a job in nursing.
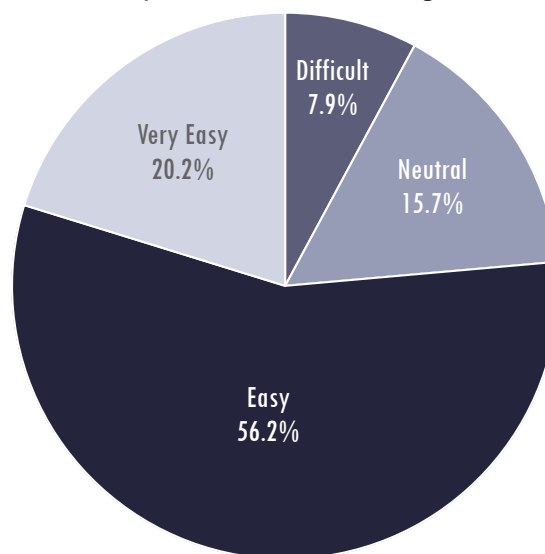
- Over two-thirds of VN programs perceived that it was easy or very easy for their graduates to find jobs (76.4%).
- Only 7.9% perceived that it was difficult for their graduates to find jobs. None of the VN programs selected that it was very difficult for their graduates to find jobs.
- Programs whose graduates had difficulty finding jobs listed reasons such as employers preferring experienced nurses or registered nurses (3 programs) and limited opportunities for VNs in acute care or hospital settings (6 programs).

[9]Programs could list more than one barrier to increasing the number of graduates.

Table 5. VN Graduates by Program Type, 2018

Program Type	Program Setting	Graduates	% of Total Graduates
Generic	Public Colleges/ Universities	2,468	59.0%
	Career Schools/ Colleges	884	21.1%
	Private Colleges/ Universities	567	13.6%
	Hospitals	114	2.7%
MEEP	Public Colleges/ Universities	151	3.6%
Total		4,184	100%

Figure 4. Difficulty of VN Graduates in Finding a Job, 2018

- Difficult 7.9%
- Neutral 15.7%
- Easy 56.2%
- Very Easy 20.2%

Table 6 lists data on qualified applications[2] and admissions to the military-based VN program from 2009 to 2018.

- There were 558 qualified applications in 2018, a decrease of 1.4% from 2017.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in 2018.

Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollment, and Graduates

Table 7 reports the total number of newly enrolled students, total enrollment, and graduates for the military-based VN program from 2009 to 2018.

- There were 558 newly enrolled students, which was also the number of total enrolled students for the military-based VN program.
- In 2018, there were 355 graduates. This represented a 5.3% decrease in graduates from 2017.

Table 6. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and QANA for Military-Based Program, 2009 - 2018

Year	Seats for New Students[4,5]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
2009	750	666	666	0 (0%)
2010	569	-	569	0 (0%)
2011	375	307	307	0 (0%)
2012	465	307	307	0 (0%)
2013	465	193	193	0 (0%)
2014	600	391	391	0 (0%)
2015	610	457	457	0 (0%)
2016	561	560	560	0 (0%)
2017	631	566	566	0 (0%)
2018	620	558	558	0 (0%)

Data were not available for cells with dashes (-).

Table 7. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollment, and Graduates for Military-Based Program, 2009 - 2018

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	Total Enrollment	Graduates
2009	666	1,333	433
2010	569	1,209	400
2011	307	601	422
2012	307	983	423
2013	191	338	277
2014	391	391	332
2015	457	457	352
2016	560	560	469
2017	566	566	375
2018	558	558	355