

This update presents data for the 48 Texas professional nursing programs that indicated they had a post-licensure RN to BSN (Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing) program track during the 2022 reporting year. This includes 3 programs that had a stand alone post-licensure RN to BSN program. This report includes only students in Texas enrolled in Texas programs, not students in other states enrolled in Texas programs.

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2022 Board of Nursing’s (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 3, 2022. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2021-2022 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

RN to BSN Program Characteristics

In the 2022 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 30.0, ranging from 7 to 120.
- The median length of time for program completion was 12 months (24 programs).
- 38 programs were offered for part-time completion.

Programs were asked to provide faculty-to-student ratios.

- 15 programs provided ratios for face-to-face didactic instruction. The median ratio was 1:25, ranging from 1:2 to 1:40.
- 47 programs provided ratios for online instruction. The median was 1:25, ranging from 1:1 to 1:100.
- 36 programs provided ratios for clinical supervision. The median was 1:10, ranging from 1:5 to 1:35.

44 (91.7%) responding programs had requirements for a clinical component. Table 1 shows the mean and median number of hours dedicated to clinical components.

- Clinical clock hours had the highest average number of hours (82.5).
- A majority of programs did not dedicate hours to lab clock hours or high-fidelity simulation clock hours.

Table 1. Mean and Median Number of Hours Dedicated to Clinical Components

Clinical Component	Mean Hours	Median Hours
Clinical clock hours	82.5	69.0
Clinical project hours	58.6	48.0
Lab clock hours	15.0	0.0
High-fidelity simulation clock hours	4.9	0.0
Virtual simulation clock hours	21.0	5.0

Programs were asked to report the percentage of their students who had less than 2 years of work experience. The median percentage was 30%, ranging from 0% (8 programs) to 92% (1 program). This is a slight change from 2021 when the median was 20%, ranging from 0% (10 programs) to 90% (1 program).

Programs were asked whether they offered nursing courses via online technology. Programs could choose multiple options. Of the 47 responding programs:

- 35 programs (74.5%) offered the entire didactic program curriculum online.
- 6 programs (12.8%) offered select courses online.
- 10 programs (21.3%) offered hybrid nursing courses.

Qualified Applications to Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

Table 2 presents data on qualified applications and admissions to post-licensure RN to BSN programs in AY 2021-2022. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission.²

- 4 programs did not admit new RN to BSN applicants in AY 2021-2022.
- Seats for new students increased by 41.7% in 2022, while the number of qualified applicants decreased by 28.2%.

Table 2. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission, 2014-2022

Year	Seats for New Students ^{3,4}	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Qualified Applications Not Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students
2014	11,620	4,934	4,858	76 (1.5%)	4,021
2015	12,247	5,198	4,752	446 (8.6%)	4,135
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

- Seats for new students may include seats for out-of-state students, but qualified applications, applications offered admission, and newly enrolled students only include Texas residents.
- 95 qualified applications were not admitted in 2022, up from 1 qualified application in 2021.
- 42 of 48 programs (87.5%) offered admission to all students with qualified applications in 2022.
- Of the 5,904 applications offered admission, 4,273 (71.2%) registered and enrolled in a post-licensure RN to BSN program for AY 2021-2022. This represents an increase from the previous year when 65.6% of applicants offered admission actually registered and enrolled.

The 6 programs that did not accept all qualified applications ranked the importance of reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- Lack of budgeted faculty positions was the most important reason why qualified applications were not accepted, followed by lack of clinical space.

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

³ Seats for new students does not distinguish between non-Texas and Texas residents.

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

Newly Enrolled Students in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

Table 3 shows the yearly change in newly enrolled, first year students from 2014 to 2022. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- There were a total of 4,273 newly enrolled post-licensure students in AY 2021-2022.
- From AY 2020-2021 to AY 2021-2022, the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 22.0%.

Table 3. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2014-2022

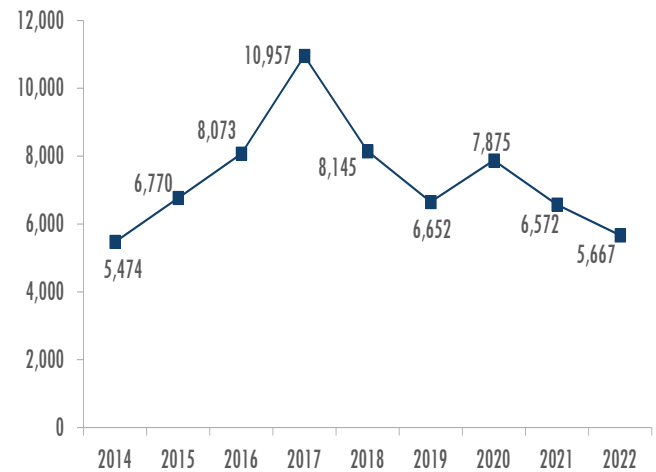
	Number of Responding Programs	Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure Students	% Annual Change
2014	28	4,021	-
2015	40	4,135	2.8%
2016	41	4,573	10.6%
2017	41	6,039	32.1%
2018	43	4,768	-21.0%
2019	41	5,514	15.6%
2020	44	5,873	6.5%
2021	43	5,476	-6.8%
2022	48	4,273	-22.0%

Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

On September 30, 2022, as shown in Figure 1, there were 5,667 students enrolled in post-licensure RN to BSN programs.

- From 2021 to 2022, enrollment decreased by 905 students (13.8%), while the number of responding RN to BSN programs increased by 5.
- 41 programs responded to the NEPIS in both AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022. 23 of these programs had a decrease in total enrollment, 15 reported increased total enrollment, and 3 did not have a change in enrollment.
- 3 programs reported enrollees for the first time in 2017, which could explain the large increase that year.

Figure 1. Total Enrollment in Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2014-2022



Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs

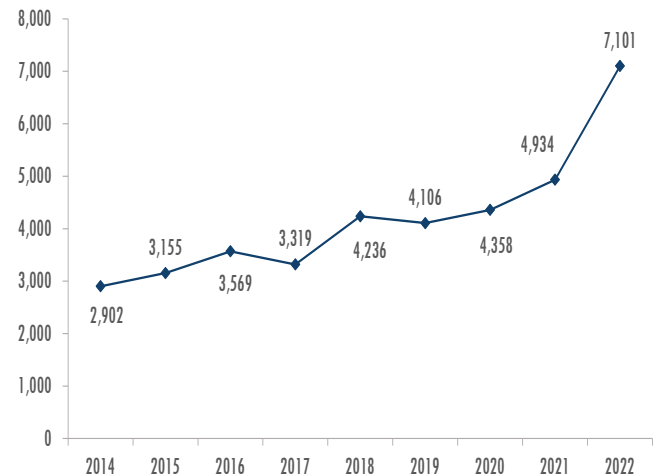
As shown in Figure 2, there were 7,101 post-licensure RN to BSN graduates during AY 2021-2022.

- This represented a 43.9% increase from AY 2020-2021 (2,167 more graduates).
- 41 programs responded to the NEPIS in both AY 2020-2021 and AY 2021-2022. 20 of these programs reported a decrease in the number of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates during AY 2021-2022, while 18 reported an increase in the number of graduates. 3 programs reported the same number of graduates as AY 2020-2021.

The 48 post-licensure RN to BSN programs were asked to describe any barriers they faced in increasing post-licensure RN to BSN graduates.

- A variety of barriers were cited including students having a heavy work load (11 programs or 22.9%) and students choosing to attend community colleges (6 programs or 12.5%).

Figure 2. Graduates from Post-Licensure RN to BSN Programs, 2014-2022



Demographics of Newly Enrolled Post-Licensure RN to BSN Students

Gender

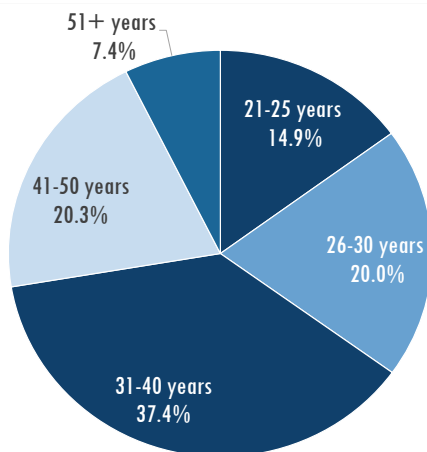
Female students made up 86.0% of the 2022 newly enrolled post-licensure RN to BSN student population, a decrease from the proportion who were female in 2021 (86.7%).

Age

Figure 3 displays the breakdown of age among newly enrolled post-licensure RN to BSN students in 2022.

- A majority of newly enrolled RN to BSN students were ages 31-40. Newly enrolled RN to BSN students remained fairly evenly distributed among age groups 26-30 and 41-50 years.
- There were considerably more post-licensure RN to BSN students aged 51 and older (7.4%) compared to pre-licensure RN students (1.5%).⁶

Figure 3. Age of Newly Enrolled Students

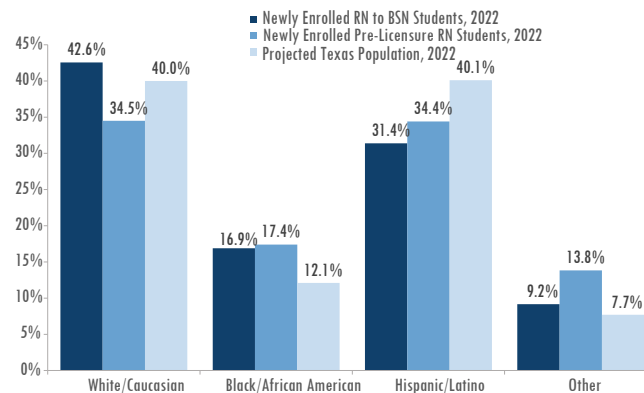


Race/Ethnicity

Figure 4 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of newly enrolled post-licensure RN to BSN students in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of newly enrolled pre-licensure RN students and the projected Texas population. Race/ethnicity data were missing for 1.9% of newly enrolled RN to BSN students.

- White/Caucasian students made up a greater proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN newly enrolled students (42.6%) compared to pre-licensure RN students (34.5%) and compared to the Texas population (40.0%).

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN to BSN Students, Pre-Licensure RN Students,⁶ and Texas Population,⁷ 2022



- Hispanic/Latino students continue to be underrepresented among post-licensure RN to BSN students. While the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos was 40.1% in Texas, Hispanics/Latinos made up only 31.4% of the post-licensure RN to BSN student population, compared to 34.4% of the pre-licensure RN student population.
- There were more Black/African American RN to BSN students (16.9%) and pre-licensure RN students (17.4%) compared to the Texas population (12.1%).
- Other students, which include Asian, Native Hawaiian, Alaskan, and other races/ethnicities, also represented a greater proportion of the post- and pre-licensure student population than the Texas population.

- Since 2014 the race/ethnicity distribution of newly enrolled RN to BSN students has fluctuated but remained mostly unchanged (Figure 5).

International Students

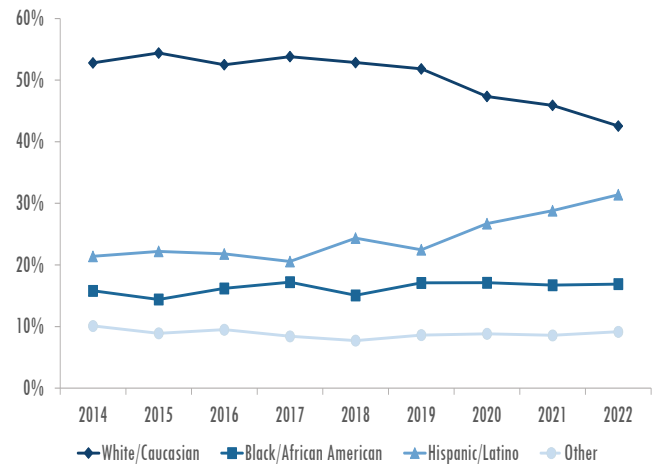
Programs reported a total of 34 newly enrolled students who were international (0.8% of all RN to BSN newly enrolled students).⁸

⁶ Pre-licensure RN data come from the 2022 RN NEPIS fact sheets located at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/Nursing-Education-Reports.aspx>

⁷ Texas population data come from the 2022 Texas Demographic Center population projections (<https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>).

⁸ International 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.

Figure 5. Race/Ethnicity of Newly Enrolled RN to BSN Students, 2014-2022



Demographics of Post-Licensure RN to BSN Graduates

Gender

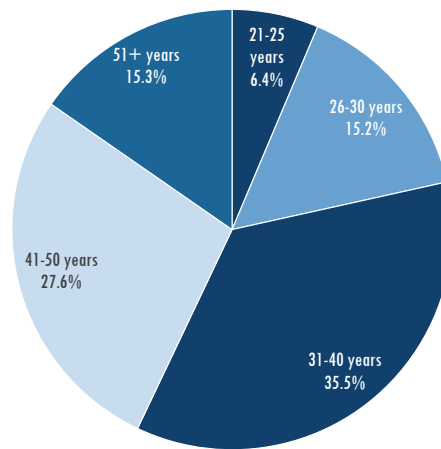
Female graduates made up 87.8% of the 2022 post-licensure RN to BSN graduate population, an increase from the proportion who were female in 2021 (86.8%). Gender data was missing for 0.1% of RN to BSN graduates.

Age

Figure 6 displays the breakdown of age among post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in 2022. Age data were missing for 0.1% of RN to BSN graduates.

- The majority of RN to BSN graduates were ages 31-40 (35.5%). RN to BSN graduates were fairly evenly distributed among age groups 26-30 and 51 or more years.
- There were considerably more post-licensure RN to BSN graduates aged 51 and older (15.3%) compared to pre-licensure RN graduates (1.7%).⁶

Figure 6. Age of Graduates

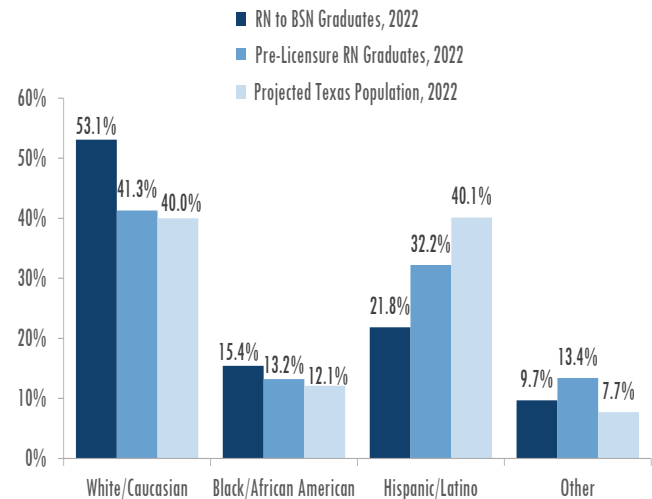


Race/Ethnicity

Figure 7 displays the race/ethnicity distribution of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates in comparison to the race/ethnicity distribution of pre-licensure RN graduates and the Texas population. Race/ethnicity data were missing for 4.0% of RN to BSN graduates.

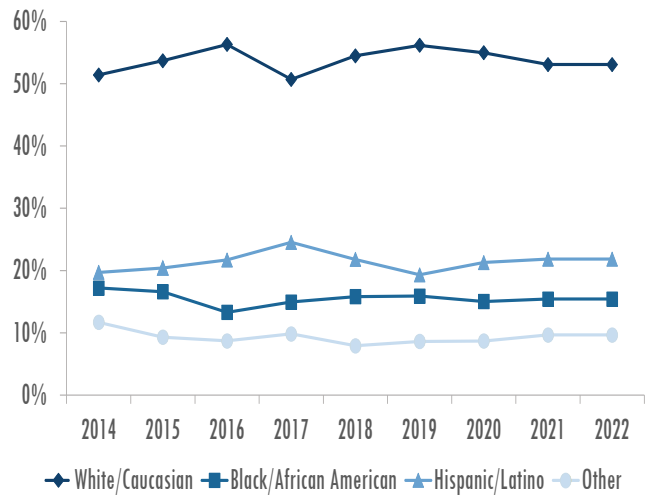
- White/Caucasian graduates made up a higher proportion of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (53.1%) than pre-licensure RN graduates (41.3%), and the Texas population (40.0%). The post-licensure RN to BSN White/Caucasian graduate proportion decreased from 2021 (49.1%).

Figure 7. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, Pre-Licensure RN Graduates,⁶ and Texas Population,⁷ 2022



- While the proportion of Hispanics/Latinos was 40.1% in Texas, Hispanics/Latinos graduates made up only 21.8% of post-licensure RN to BSN graduates, compared with 32.2% of pre-licensure RN graduates.
- The proportion of Black/African American post-licensure RN to BSN graduates (15.4%) was greater than the proportion of pre-licensure RN graduates (13.2%) and the Texas population (12.1%).
- Other races/ethnicities also represented a greater proportion of the pre-licensure graduate population than the Texas population and post-licensure graduate population.
- Since 2014 the race/ethnicity distribution of RN to BSN graduates has fluctuated but remained mostly unchanged (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Race/Ethnicity of RN to BSN Graduates, 2014-2022



International Students

Programs reported a total of 22 graduates who were international students (0.3% of all post-licensure RN to BSN graduates).⁸

⁶ Pre-licensure RN data come from the 2022 RN NEPIS fact sheets located at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/chs/cnws/Nursing-Education-Reports.aspx>

⁷ Texas population data come from the 2022 Texas Demographic Center population projections (<https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/>).

⁸ International 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.

