Admissions, Enrollment, and Graduation Trends in Advanced Practice Nursing Education Programs 2015

This update presents data for the 26 schools with advanced practice nursing education programs that participated in the 2015 NEPIS. These schools offer advanced practice nursing education programs leading to advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) licensure in Texas. These schools represent 32 programs:

- 4 Nurse Anesthetist programs,
- 2 Nurse Midwife programs,
- 23 Nurse Practitioner programs, and
- 3 Clinical Nurse Specialist programs.

The 26 schools that reported a total of 32 APRN programs offered up to 4 models of education for each of the 4 APRN program types:

- 32 Master's degrees offered by 25 schools
- 28 Post-master's certificates offered by 19 schools
- 29 Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP offered by 5 schools
- 23 Post-master's DNP/DNAP offered by 4 schools

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data in the 2015 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of October 1, 2015. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2014-2015 (September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015) unless otherwise noted. TCNWS collaborated with the BON in the design and dissemination of the survey.

Qualified Applications for APRN Programs

Table 1 lists data on qualified applications and admissions from 2011 through 2015. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The total enrollment capacity, based on the standards set by individual programs, increased by 474 enrollment spaces (18.3% increase) from AY 2013-2014 to AY 2014-2015.
- From 2014 to 2015, there was an 18.4% increase in the number of qualified applications and a 30.8% increase in applications offered admission.[1]
- In 2015, 2,590 qualified applications were not offered admission (QANA), representing 44.2% of applications submitted to APRN programs for AY 2014-2015.

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions & QANA, 2011-2015

	Enrollment Capacity[2]	Qualified Applications[1]	Offered Admission	QANA
2011	1,837	3,278	1,957	1,321 (40.3%)
2012	1,933	3,983	1,983	2,000 (50.2%)
2013	2,496	3,876	2,338	1,538 (39.7%)
2014	2,590	4,953	2,501	2,452 (49.5%)
2015	3,064	5,862	3,272	2,590 (44.2%)

Table 2 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to all 32 APRN programs.

- Nurse Anesthetist programs had the highest percentage of qualified applications not offered admission with 71.3% not admitted.
- 1 nurse midwife program, 5 nurse practitioner programs, and 2 clinical nurse specialist programs offered admission to all qualified applications.

Table 2. Qualified Applications & Admissions by Program Type, 2015

Program Type	Enrollment Capacity[2]	Qualified Applications[1]	Offered Admission	QANA
Nurse Anesthetist	239	790	227	563 (71.3%)
Nurse-Midwife	21	23	16	7 (30.4%)
Nurse Practitioner	2,729	4,988	2,985	2,003 (40.2%)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	75	61	44	17 (27.9%)
Total	3,064	5,862	3,272	2,590 (44.2%)

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

[2]Per the operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period.

The 24 programs that did not accept all qualified applications were asked to rate the most important reasons why qualified applications were not accepted.

- Lack of clinical placement was the reason most often chosen as "very important" (12 programs).
- The second most often rated as "very important" was "lack of budgeted faculty positions" (10 programs).
- "Lack of qualified faculty applicants for budgeted positions" was rated as "very important" by 5 programs and was rated as "important" by 12 programs.
- 17 programs rated limited classroom space as "not at all important", 11 rated as "of little importance" and only 3 programs rated this reason as "very important" or "important".

Newly Enrolled Students in APRN Programs

Table 3 shows the number of newly enrolled, first year students by program type and academic year. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.[3]

- Overall, there was a 15.0% increase in the number of newly enrolled students from AY 2013-2014 to AY 2014-2015.
- The number of newly enrolled students was lower than the total program enrollment capacity by 456 students, 14.9% of the enrollment capacity. This was much lower than reported the previous year (952, 29.6% of enrollment capacity).
- From AY 2013-2014 to AY 2014-2015, the number of newly enrolled students decreased in nurse anesthetists (14.0%) and clinical nurse specialist (19.4%) programs.
- Similar to last year, nurse practitioner programs have reported the highest number of newly enrolled students. The number of newly enrolled nurse practitioner students increased by 19.3% in 2015.

Table 3. Newly Enrolled Students by Program Type, AY 2013-2014 & AY 2014-2015

Program Type	Newly Enrolled APRN Students, AY 2013 -2014	Newly Enrolled APRN Students, AY 2014 -2015	% Change from AY 2013 -2014 to AY 2014-2015
Nurse Anesthetist	258	222	-14.0%
Nurse-Midwife	13	15	15.4%
Nurse Practitioner	1,966	2,346	19.3%
Clinical Nurse Specialist	31	25	-19.4%
Total	2,268	2,608	15.0%

[3]All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master's students as well as post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

Total Enrollment in APRN Programs

Figure 1 and table 4 displays enrollment numbers by program type over the past 5 academic years.[3]

- Overall, student enrollment has steadily increased since 2011, the most recent increase was from 5,301 in AY 2013-2014 to 5,642 in AY 2014-2015.
- From 2014 to 2015, the number of students enrolled in nurse anesthetist programs decreased by 10.6%.
- The number of students enrolled in nurse-midwife programs has remained steady over the past 5 years. There was a total of 29 enrolled students in 2015.
- The number of students enrolled in nurse practitioner programs has steadily increased since 2011. From 2014 to 2015, there was a 9.5% increase in enrolled students.

Figure 1. Enrollment by Program Type, 2011-2015

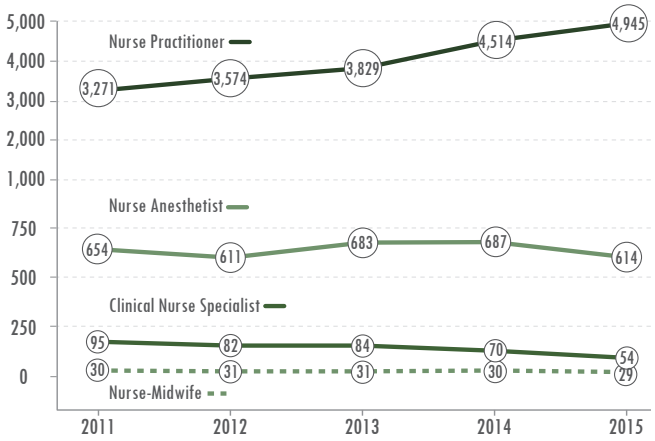

Table 4. Enrollment by Program Type, 2011-2015

Program Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nurse Anesthetist	654	611	683	687	614
Nurse-Midwife	30	31	31	30	29
Nurse Practitioner	3,271	3,574	3,829	4,514	4,945
Clinical Nurse Specialist	95	82	84	70	54
Total	4,050	4,298	4,627	5,301	5,642

- Nurse practitioner enrollees accounted for 87.6% of all enrolled APRN students in 2015, slightly more than the previous year (85.2%).
- Clinical nurse specialist enrollees increased slightly from 2012 to 2013, but dropped considerably in 2014 (16.7% decrease) and again in 2015 (22.9% decrease from previous year).

[3]All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master's students as well as post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

Graduates from APRN Programs

Table 5 shows the APRN graduates by program type for the past 5 academic years.[3]

- A total of 1,593 students graduated from APRN programs in AY 2014-2015. This is an increase of 9.5% from the number of graduates in AY 2013-2014.
- All schools reported the number of graduates who will work in Texas. Of the 1,593 total graduates, 1,429 (89.7%) will work in Texas.
- In AY 2014-2015, state of residence and family in other states were the reasons schools most frequently cited as to why graduates planned to work in states other than Texas (14 schools).
- Independent practice (9 schools) and higher pay in other states (4 schools) were also cited by schools as reasons why graduates will work in states other than Texas.[4]
- 7 schools did not specify why graduates chose to leave Texas.

Table 5. Graduates by Program Type, 2011-2015

Program Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nurse Anesthetist	213	229	235	215	189
Nurse-Midwife	2	8	9	13	9
Nurse Practitioner	774	970	1,067	1,190	1,364
Clinical Nurse Specialist	30	53	26	36	31
Total	1,019	1,260	1,337	1,454	1,593

[3]All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master's students as well as post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

[4]Schools were able to report more than one reason for why graduates planned to work in states other than Texas.

Program Profile: Nurse Anesthetist Programs

In the 2015 NEPIS, nurse anesthetist programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 4 programs offered 2 different education models: master's degree and post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP.

Table 6 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 4 nurse anesthetist (NA) programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The majority of newly enrolled nurse anesthetist students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- The master's degree model offered admission to the smallest percentage of qualified applicants (26.7%).

Table 6. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse Anesthetist Programs, 2015

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity[2]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students	QANA
Master's Degree	135	484	129 (26.7%)	129	355
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	104	306	98 (32.0%)	93	208
All NA Programs	239	790	227 (28.7%)	222	563

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

[2]Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period.

- No programs reported information for post-master's certificate or post-master's DNP/DNAP

Table 7 (page 4) displays enrollment numbers for nurse anesthetist programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (59.3% of all nurse anesthetist enrollees).
- Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP enrollees made up the rest (40.7%) of nurse anesthetist enrolled students.
- From 2014 to 2015, enrollment in nurse anesthetist programs declined in the master's and increased in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP education model.

Table 7. Nurse Anesthetist Enrollment by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2015
Master's Degree	364
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	250
All Nurse Anesthetist Programs	614

Table 8 shows the number of nurse anesthetist graduates by education model.

- In 2015, there were 189 graduates from nurse anesthetist programs, a decrease from 215 in 2014 and 235 in 2013.
- The majority of the nurse anesthetist graduates were in the master's degree model (74.1%).
- There were no post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP graduates in AY 2012-2013, but in AY 2013-1014 there were 38 graduates and 49 in AY 2014-2015
- There was no post-master's DNP/DNAP model offered for 2015.

Table 8. Nurse Anesthetist Graduates by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	AY 2014-2015 Graduates
Master's Degree	140
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	49
All Nurse Anesthetist Programs	189

Program Profile: Nurse Practitioner Programs

In the 2015 NEPIS, nurse practitioner (NP) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 23 programs offered 4 different education models: master's degree, post-master's certificate, post baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP.

Table 9 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 23 nurse practitioner programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- The majority of newly enrolled nurse practitioner students were admitted to the master's degree education model (90.8%).
- The post-master's certificate model offered admission to the smallest percentage of qualified applications (51.4%).
- All qualified applications were offered admission to the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP and 95.7% of applications were offered admission to the post-master's DNP/DNAP education model.
- Enrollment capacity for the doctoral programs increased while the non-doctoral programs decreased.
- With the exception of the post-masters certificate model all models enrolled more students for 2015.
- In the master's degree and post-master's certificate models, the number of qualified applications exceeded enrollment capacity.[1]

Table 9. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse Practitioner Programs, 2015

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity[4]	Qualified Applic-ations	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students	QANA
Master's Degree	2,393	4,491	2,693 (60.0%)	2,131	1,798
Post-Master's Certificate	203	418	215 (51.4%)	151	203
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	58	32	32 (100%)	28	0
Post-Master's DNP/DNAP	75	47	45 (95.7%)	36	2
All NP Programs	2,729	4,988	2,985 (59.9%)	2,346	2,003

Table 10 displays enrollment numbers for nurse practitioner programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (92.8% of all nurse practitioner enrollees).
- The post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP (24) and Post-master's DNP/DNAP (22) enrollees accounted for less than 1.0% of all nurse practitioner enrolled

Table 10. Nurse Practitioner Enrollment by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2015
Master's Degree	4,587
Post-Master's Certificate	224
Practice Doctorate (Post Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	40
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	94
All Nurse Practitioner Programs	4,945

students.

Table 11 shows the number of nurse practitioner graduates by education model.

- There were 1,364 graduates from nurse practitioner programs.
- The majority of the nurse practitioner graduates were in the master's degree model (90.7%).
- Post-master's certificate graduates made up 7.6% of all nurse practitioner graduates.
- The doctoral models graduated 3.3% of all nurse practitioner graduates.

Table 11. Nurse Practitioner Graduates by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	AY 2014-2015 Graduates
Master's Degree	1,237
Post-Master's Certificate	104
Practice Doctorate (Post Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	0
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	23
All Nurse Practitioner Programs	1,364

Program Profile: Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs

In the 2015 NEPIS, clinical nurse specialist (CNS) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 3 programs (4 for 2014) offered 2 education models: master's degree and post-master's certificate.

Table 12 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 3 clinical nurse specialist programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- Most (92.0%) of the newly enrolled clinical nurse specialist students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- 71.1% of the qualified applications were offered admission in the master's degree model.
- All qualified applications (2) were offered admission and both enrolled in the post-master's certificate model during the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Overall, clinical nurse specialist programs accepted 72.1% of qualified applications.[1]

Table 12. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs, 2015

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity[2]	Qualified Applic-ations	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled Students	QANA
Master's Degree	50	59	42 (71.1%)	23	17
Post-Master's Certificate	25	2	2 (100%)	2	0
All CNS Programs	75	61	44 (72.1%)	25	17

Table 13 displays enrollment numbers for clinical nurse specialist programs by education model.

- The master's degree model reported the highest student enrollment (96.3% of all clinical nurse specialist enrollees).
- There were 2 students enrolled in the post-master's certificate model of the clinical nurse specialist program.

Table 13. Clinical Nurse Specialist Enrollment by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2015
Master's Degree	52
Post-Master's Certificate	2
All Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs	54

Table 14 shows the number of clinical nurse specialist graduates by education model.

- There were 31 graduates from clinical nurse specialist programs.
- All of the clinical nurse specialist graduates were in the master's degree model.
- No students graduated from a clinical nurse specialist program with a post-master's certificate.

Table 14. Clinical Nurse Specialist Graduates by Education Model, 2014, 2015

Education Model	AY 2013-2014 Graduates	AY 2014-2015 Graduates
Master's Degree	31	31
Post-Master's Certificate	5	0
All Clinical Nurse Specialist Programs	36	31

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

[2]Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period.

Program Profile: Nurse-Midwife Programs

In the 2015 NEPIS, nurse-midwife (NM) programs were asked to break out admissions, enrollment, and graduation data by education model. The 2 programs offered 3 different education models: master's degree, post-master's certificate and post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP.

Table 15 lists data on qualified applications and admissions to the 2 NM programs by education model. Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission at the school to which they were submitted.

- 66.6% of the newly enrolled NM students were admitted to the master's degree education model.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP.
- Enrollment capacity was greater than the number of qualified applications received by the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP[1].

Table 15. Qualified Applications & Admissions in Nurse-Midwife Programs, 2015

Education Model	Enrollment Capacity[2]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	Newly Enrolled	QANA
Master's Degree	10	16	10 (62.5%)	10	6
Post-Master's Certificate	1	2	1 (50.0%)	1	1
Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP	10	5	5 (100%)	4	0
All NM Programs	21	23	16 (69.5%)	15	7

Table 16 displays enrollment numbers for nurse-midwife programs by education model.

- The master's degree education model reported the highest student enrollment (55.2% of all NM enrollees).
- Post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP degree enrollees made up 41.4% of nurse-midwife enrolled students.
- There were no students enrolled in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP model of the nurse-midwife program.

Table 16. Nurse-Midwife Enrollment by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	Students Enrolled on Sept. 30, 2015
Master's Degree	16
Post-Master's Certificate	1
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	12
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	0
All Nurse-Midwife Programs	29

Table 17 shows the number of nurse-midwife graduates by education model.

- There were 9 total graduates from nurse-midwife programs.
- The majority of the nurse-midwife graduates were in the post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP model (56%).
- There were 3 NM graduates in the master's degree model and 1 NM graduate in the post-master's certificate model.

Table 17. Nurse-Midwife Graduates by Education Model, 2015

Education Model	AY 2014-2015 Graduates
Master's Degree	3
Post-Master's Certificate	1
Practice Doctorate (Post-Baccalaureate DNP/DNAP)	5
Practice Doctorate (Post-Master's DNP/DNAP)	0
All Nurse-Midwife Programs	9

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

[2]Per the survey operational definition, enrollment capacity refers to the the maximum number of students that a program can enroll in any given admission period.

[3]All enrollment, graduation, and admissions data gathered from this survey include master's students as well as post-master's certificate, post-baccalaureate DNP/DNAP, and post-master's DNP/DNAP students. Also, the data may include nurses that are already licensed to practice as an APRN.

[4]Schools were able to report more than one reason for why graduates planned to work in other states besides Texas.