This update presents data for the 85[1] vocational nursing (VN) programs and the military-based VN program[1] in Texas during the 2019 reporting year, including:

- 79 generic programs
- 6 Multiple Entry/Exit Programs (MEEPs)

The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) collected data using the 2019 Board of Nursing's (BON) Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) that was available online as of September 30, 2019. The reporting period was academic year (AY) 2018-2019 (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019) 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 2010 through 2019.

- Seats for new students[3,4] decreased by 4.4% between 2018 and 2019.
- Qualified applications were those that met all criteria for admission based on the standards set by individual programs.
  - There were 8,240 qualified applications in 2019, a decrease of 2.3% from 2018.[5]
  - Of the qualified applications, admission was offered to 6,819, or 82.8%.
- The number of qualified applications not offered admission (QANA) increased by 11.4% from 2018 to 2019.
- 44 programs accepted all qualified applications, 3 fewer than in 2018.

The 44 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 23 programs (54.8% of 42 responding programs).
  - Programs that ranked lack of clinical space first or second cited reasons such as preference given to professional nursing students (17 programs) and lack of clinical availability in certain locations or settings (10 programs).

Table 1. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and QANA, 2010-2019

Year	Seats for New Students[3,4,6]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
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%)
2019	7,165	8,240	6,819	1,421 (11.4)

- Limited classroom space was ranked first or second in importance for not offering admission to all qualified applications by 19 programs (45.2%).
- Lack of qualified faculty applicants was ranked first or second by 15 programs (35.7%) and lack of budgeted faculty positions was ranked first or second by 13 programs (31.0%).
- Other reasons programs cited for not offering qualified applications admission included students failing to meet requirements to enroll (7 programs).

Newly Enrolled Students in Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 1 and Table 2 show the yearly change in the number of newly enrolled students from 2010 to 2019. Newly enrolled students are those who were offered admission and decided to register and enroll in the program.

- From 2018 to 2019, the number of newly enrolled students decreased by 5.7%, from 5,991 to 5,650.

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

- Since 2010, there was an overall decrease of 28.1% in the number of newly enrolled VN students.

Figure 1. Newly Enrolled Students, 2010-2019

Table 2. Change in Newly Enrolled Students, 2010-2019

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	% Annual Enrollment Change
2010	7,860	-
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%
2019	5,650	-5.7%

Total Enrollment in Vocational Nursing Programs

Table 3 presents the breakdown of total enrollment by program type and setting for AY 2018-2019.

- 95.9% of enrolled students were in generic programs. There were 333 students enrolled in MEEPs[7] during AY 2018-2019.

- 66.9% of all enrolled students were enrolled in community, state, or technical colleges.

- 32.6% of students were enrolled in for profit or other institutions, even though these programs represented only 16.5% 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 2018-2019

Program Type	Program Setting	Enrollment	% of Total Enrollment
Generic	Community, State, or Technical College	5,059	62.8%
	Independent College or University	35	0.4%
	For Profit and other institutions	2,624	32.6%
MEEP	Community, State, or Technical College	333	4.1%
Total		8,051	100.0%

Figure 2 shows the trend in total VN enrollment since 2010.

- Total VN student enrollment decreased by 5.6% since 2017.
- The total number of students enrolled in VN programs decreased by 18.3% between 2010 and 2019.

Figure 2. Total VN Enrollment, 2010-2019

Graduates from Vocational Nursing Programs

Figure 3 and Table 4 show the change in the number of VN graduates since 2010.

- VN graduates decreased between 2018 and 2019.
- A total of 3,790 students graduated in 2019, a decrease of 9.4% from 2018.

Figure 3. VN Graduates, 2010-2019

Table 4. Change in VN Graduates, 2010-2019

Year	Graduates	% Annual Change in Graduates
2010	5,046	-
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%
2019	3,790	-9.4%
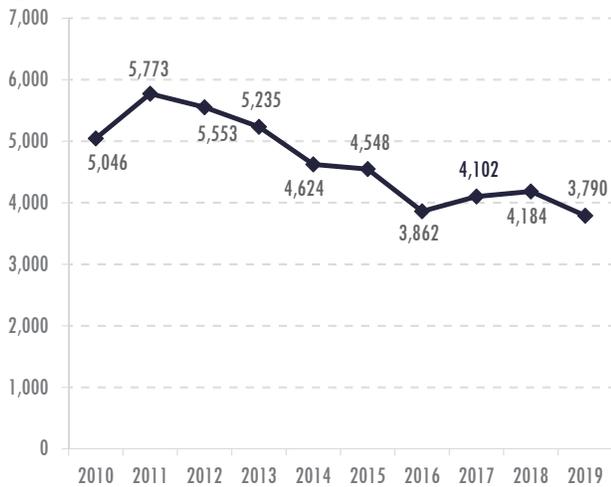
VN graduates by program and institution type are shown in Table 5.

- 95.7% of students graduated from generic programs. 163 students (4.3%) graduated from MEEPs.
- 70.2% of total graduates were from community, state, or technical colleges.
- For profit and other institutions graduated the second largest proportion (29.5%) of VN students during the reporting period.
- Independent college or university graduates comprised 0.3% 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 2018-2019. 60 programs identified having barriers to increasing the number of graduates.[9] Some of these barriers included:

- Academic failure or challenges (22 programs)
- Lack of clinical sites (14 programs)
- Shortage of faculty (8 programs)
- Lack of qualified applicants (7 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.

- Most VN programs perceived that it was easy or very easy for their graduates to find jobs (81.4%).
- Only 3.5% 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 (2 programs) and limited opportunities for VNs in acute care or hospital settings (9 programs).

Table 5. VN Graduates by Program Type, 2019

Program Type	Program Setting	Graduates	% of Total Graduates
Generic	Community, State, or Technical College	2,497	65.9%
	Independent College or University	11	0.3%
	For Profit and other institutions	1,119	29.5%
MEEP	Community, State, or Technical College	163	4.3%
Total		3,790	100%

Figure 4. Difficulty of VN Graduates in Finding a Job, 2019

Difficult 3.5%
Neutral 15.1%
Very Easy 20.9%
Easy 60.5%
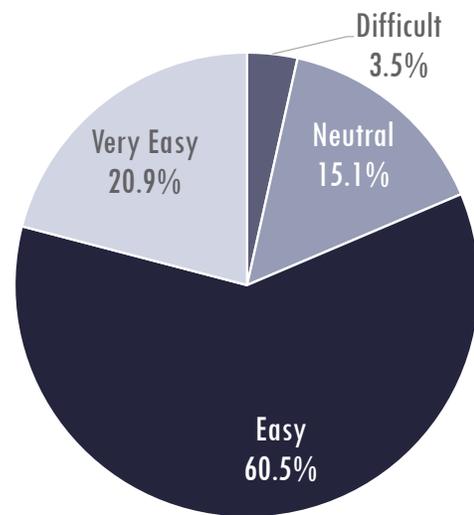
[9]Programs could list more than one barrier to increasing the number of graduates.

Table 6 lists data on qualified applications[10] and admissions to the military-based VN program from 2010 to 2019.

- There were 590 qualified applications in 2019, an increase of 5.7% from 2018.
- All qualified applications were offered admission in 2019.

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 2010 to 2019.

- There were 590 newly enrolled students, which was also the number of total enrolled students for the military-based VN program.
- In 2019, there were 333 graduates. This represented a 6.2% decrease in graduates from 2018.

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

Table 6. Qualified Applications, Admissions, and QANA for Military-Based Program, 2010-2019

Year	Seats for New Students[4,5]	Qualified Applications	Offered Admission	QANA (%)
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%)
2019	640	590	590	0 (0%)

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

Table 7. Newly Enrolled Students, Total Enrollment, and Graduates for Military-Based Program, 2010-2019

Year	Newly Enrolled Students	Total Enrollment	Graduates
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
2019	590	590	333