NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS IN NURSING EDUCATION

2013—2018

This report was prepared by the North Carolina Board of Nursing

February, 2019

North Carolina Trends in Nursing Education: 2013 – 2018

February 2019

Executive Summary

This report examines characteristics of the nursing student population and the programs in which those students are enrolled in North Carolina. The charts and data tables are based on information provided by **126 pre-licensure nursing education programs** to the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) each year during the month of October. The nursing education pipeline data will contribute to the analysis of how well current workforce needs are being met, as well as determination of what new policies might be needed to ensure adequate future nursing resources.

Each page of the report contains a brief summary statement explaining the table/graph. Nursing education continues to be competitive in NC, with nursing remaining as one of the highest sought out professions. The NCBON has jurisdiction over pre-licensure nursing education programs and the explanatory comments in this report are limited to the pre-licensure programs.

Consistent with our strategic initiative to advance best practices in nursing regulation by facilitating innovations in education and practice, we continue to collect and report annual supply data for nursing employers and other interested parties.

Questions about the information in this report can be directed to Dr. Crystal Tillman, Director – Education and Practice, at ctillman@ncbon.com.

DEFINITIONS

Admitted Applicants: A count of the individuals who received official notice from the program that they had met the requirements for admission to the program and were invited to begin the nursing education program during the Reporting Period.

Current Student Enrollment: A count of the number of nursing students enrolled on the Fall Term Census Date which is October 1. Include students at all points of the nursing program's curriculum sequence. This is a onetime snapshot of all current students taking nursing courses at any level. Do not include students taking a leave of absence.

Faculty Vacancy: A vacant position for a faculty member that is being actively recruited as of the Fall Term Census Date which is October 1.

Fall Term Census Date: October 1st of current year.

Full-time Faculty: Those members of the instructional, administrative, or research staff of the nursing academic unit who are employed full-time as defined by the institution, hold academic rank, carry the full scope of faculty responsibility (e.g., teaching, advisement, committee work), and receive the rights and privileges associated with full-time employment.

Graduates: A count of the number of students who successfully completed the program requirements and were verified by the Program Director during the Reporting Period.

New Applicants: A count of the Admitted Applicants who subsequently enrolled for the first time in the pre-licensure nursing education program during the Reporting Period. This count should include only individuals who were still enrolled in a nursing course after the first two weeks of class.

Part-time Faculty: Those members of the instructional, administrative, or research staff of the nursing academic unit who are employed part-time as defined by the institution, may or may not hold academic rank, and may or may not carry responsibility for a specific area (e.g., adjunct, clinical instructor).

Qualified Applicants: A count of the individuals who submitted complete applications on time and who met all institutional requirements for formal admission to the nursing education program during the Reporting Period.

Reporting Period: The most recently completed 12-month reporting period which may be the academic year defined as fall, spring, and summer semesters or terms.

Example: The data used for the 2017-2018 Reporting Period in the NCBON Education Annual Report will be Fall 2017, Spring 2018, and Summer 2018.
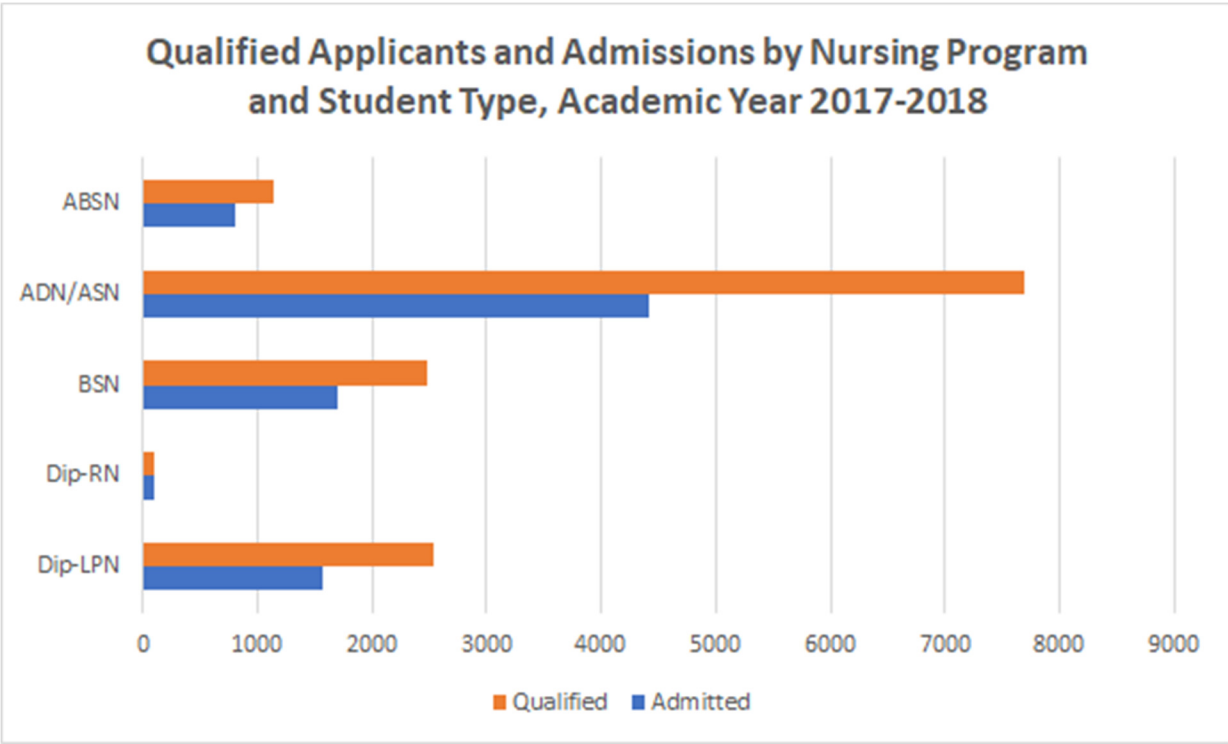
North Carolina Trends in Nursing Education

2013 - 2018

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Charts and Tables

Qualified Applicants and Admissions by Nursing Program and Student Type, Academic Year 2017-2018

|	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
Qualified	1143	2474	7700	95	2540	**13952**
Admitted	797	1692	4409	95	1561	**8554**

In North Carolina (NC), **13,952** applicants were qualified to attend pre-licensure nursing education programs, and **8554 (61%)** of those applicants were admitted to the nursing programs for the 2017-2018 academic year.

That is a slight increase from the 2016-2017 academic year, where 13,231 applicants were qualified and 7,750 (59%) of those applicants were admitted to the nursing programs.

The numbers include pre-licensure nursing programs only, and do not include the RN-BSN programs, which are post-licensure programs.

- Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN)
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or Associate Science in Nursing (ASN)
- Diploma-Registered Nurse (Dip-RN)
- Diploma-Licensed Practical Nurse (Dip-LPN)

Trends in the Percent of Qualified Applicants Admitted to North Carolina Nursing Education Programs
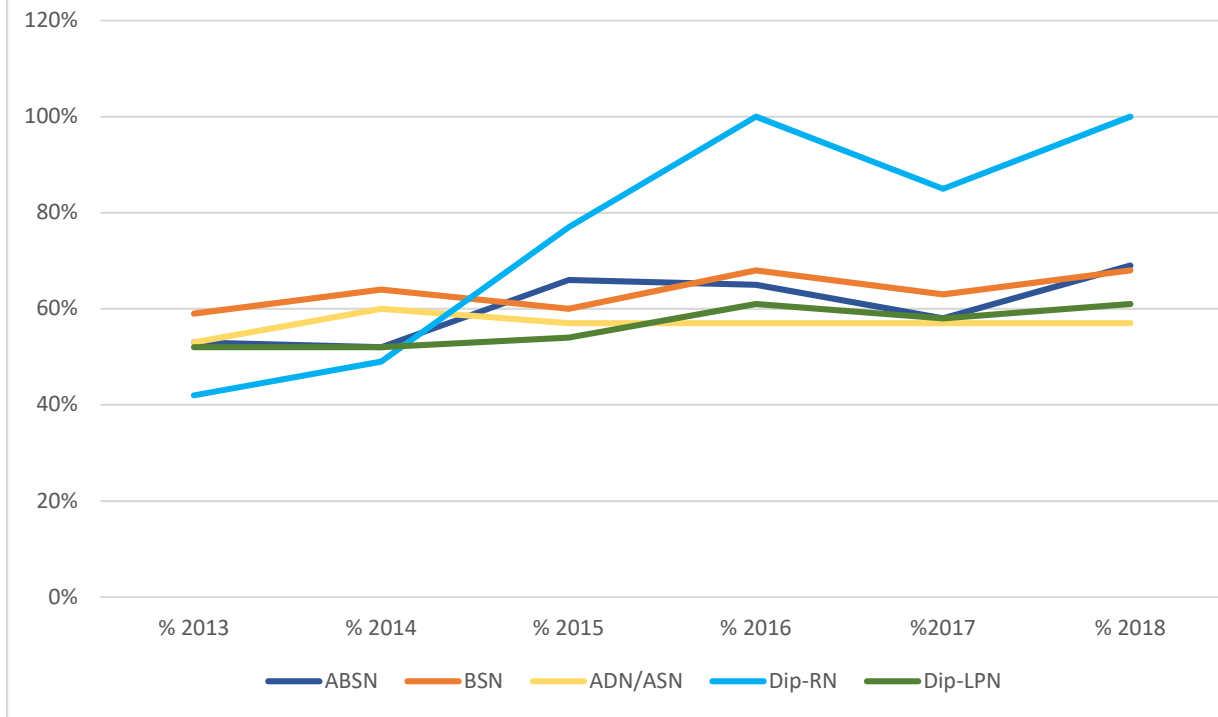
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ABSN	53%	52%	66%	65%	58%	**69%**
BSN	59%	64%	60%	68%	63%	**68%**
ADN/ASN	53%	60%	57%	57%	57%	**57%**
Dip-RN	42%	49%	77%	100%	85%	**100%**
Dip-LPN	52%	52%	54%	61%	58%	**61%**

Overall, there was a slight increase in the percentages of qualified applicants admitted to NC nursing programs over the past six years. The ADN/ASN programs remained consistent at 57% from 2017.

Total Enrollment by Nursing Program and Student Type as of October 1, 2018
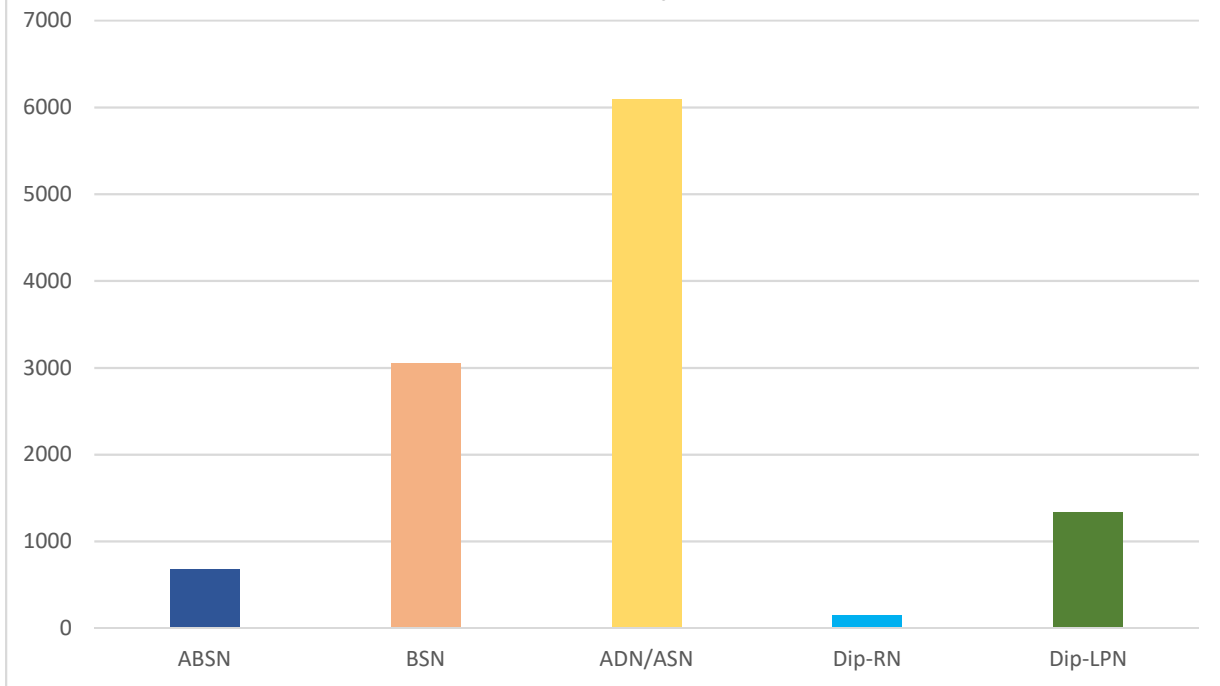
ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN
683	3056	6100	152	1340

Total enrollment is a snapshot of all pre-licensure nursing students enrolled as of October 1, 2018. During October 2018, there were **11,331** nursing students enrolled in a pre-licensure nursing program taking nursing courses.

Total Enrollment by Nursing Program Types as of October 1, 2018
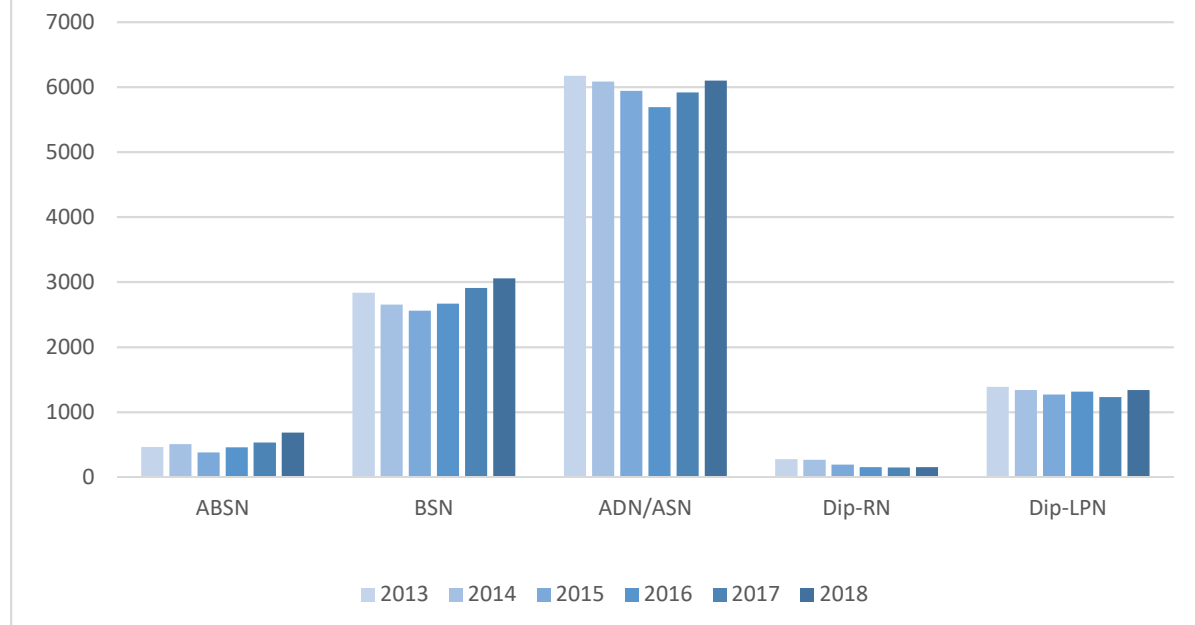
|	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ABSN	464	505	378	455	532	**683**
BSN	2835	2655	2559	2669	2909	**3056**
ADN/ASN	6172	6084	5944	5690	5916	**6100**
Dip-RN	275	267	193	154	145	**152**
Dip-LPN	1389	1337	1269	1313	1228	**1340**
Total	11135	10848	10343	10281	10730	**11331**

The 2017-2018 academic year proportion of total enrollment numbers according to program types are consistent with previous years. There was an increase for all program types. The total number of enrolled nursing students as of October 1, 2018 was **11,331**, an increase of 601 students (6%) over the 2017 total number of enrolled nursing students of 10,730.

**Trends in Total Graduates from North Carolina Nursing Education Programs**
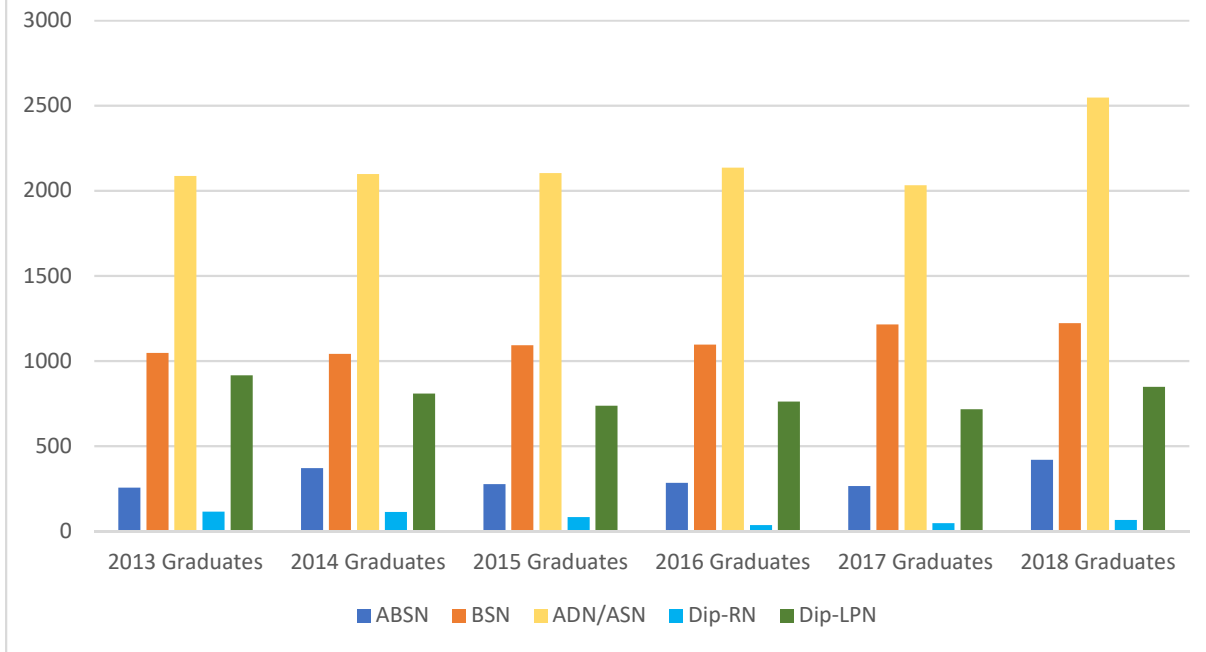
	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
2013 Graduates	256	1047	2086	115	916	4420
2014 Graduates	370	1041	2098	113	809	4431
2015 Graduates	277	1092	2103	82	737	4291
2016 Graduates	284	1096	2136	35	762	4313
2017 Graduates	265	1214	2032	48	716	4275
2018 Graduates	419	1222	2548	65	848	5102

For the 2017-2018 academic year, graduate numbers were increased by 19% for all degree types from the 2016-2017 academic year, especially for the ABSN, ADN/ASN, and Dip-LPN degree types. There were a total of **5,102** pre-licensure graduates in the 2017-2018 academic year as compared with 4,275 in the 2016-2017 academic year. Below are the percentages of nursing students for each degree type in the 2017-2018 academic year

- ABSN-8%
- BSN-24%
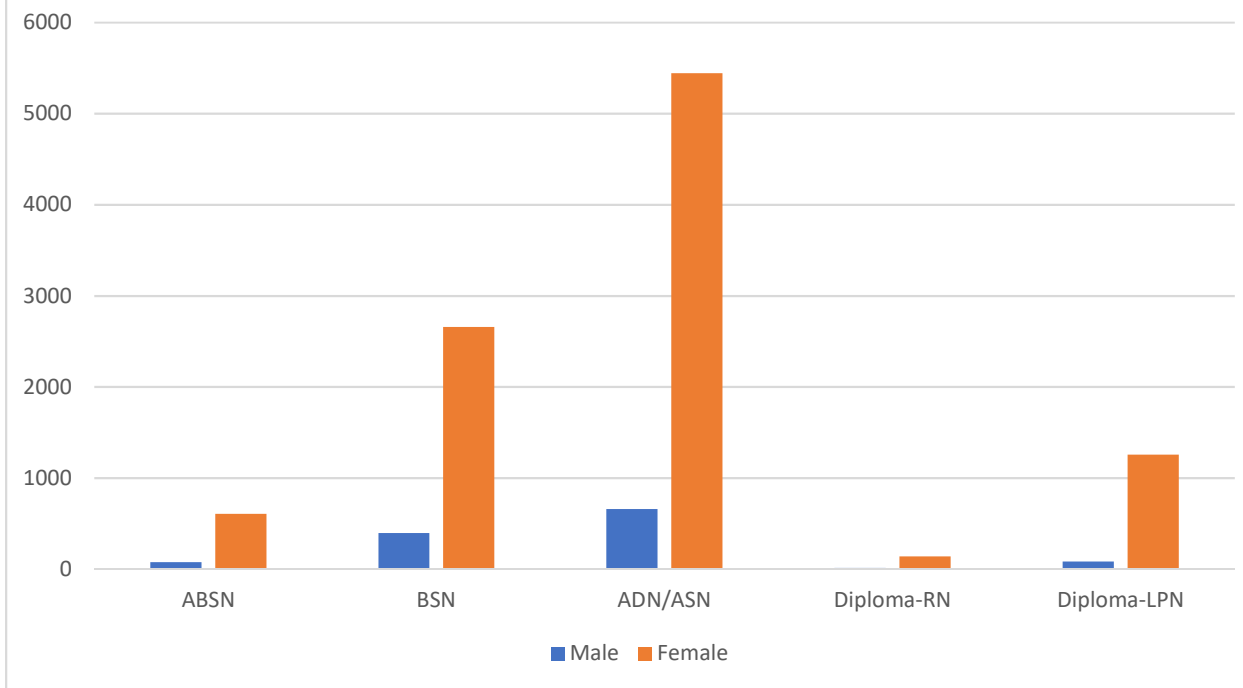- ADN/ASN-50%
- Dip-RN-1%
- Dip-LPN-17%

Age Profile of Nursing Students Enrolled in North Carolina as of October 1, 2018
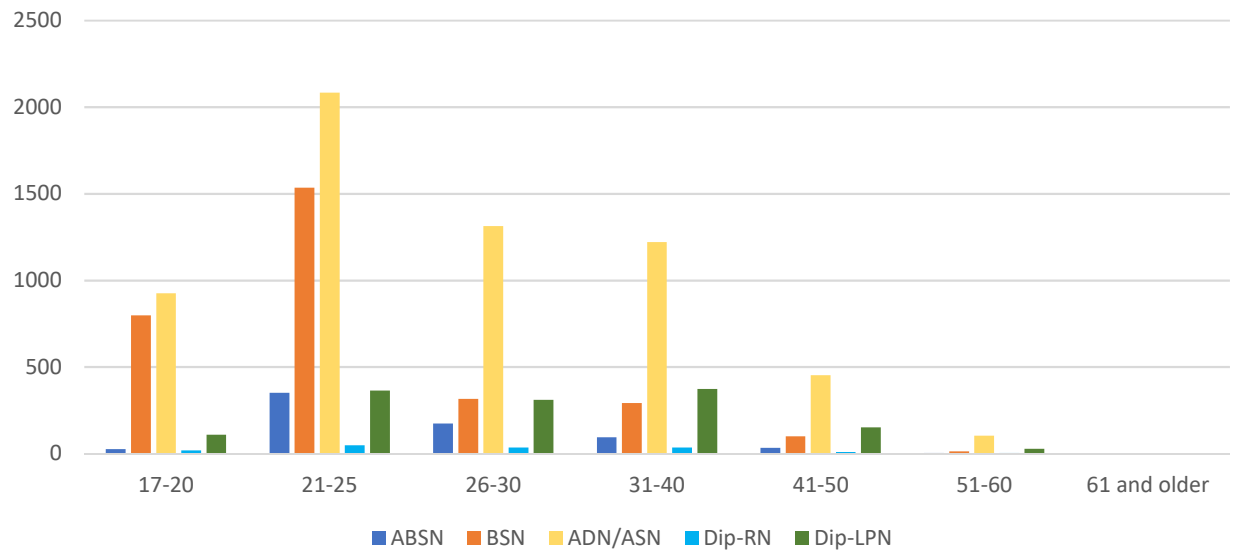
	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
17-20	27	798	925	18	109	**1877**
21-25	351	1535	2083	48	365	**4382**
26-30	174	317	1313	36	310	**2150**
31-40	94	293	1221	36	373	**2017**
41-50	33	100	452	10	152	**747**
51-60	4	13	103	4	28	**152**
61 and older	0	0	3	0	3	**6**
Total	**683**	**3056**	**6100**	**152**	**1340**	

The age profile categories remained consistent from the 2016-2017 academic year. The largest age category was the **21-25 range**. Total number of students is 11,331.

Gender of Nursing Students Enrolled in North Carolina as of Oct. 1, 2018

	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
Male	77	397	658	13	82	**1227**
Female	606	2659	5442	139	1258	**10104**
Total	**683**	**3056**	**6100**	**152**	**1340**	

The enrollment for male students in pre-licensure nursing programs decreased to **12%** for the 2017-2018 academic year. This is a slight 1% decrease from the 2016-2017 academic year. The highest percentage to date was the 2016-2017 academic year which was 13%.

Student Race/Ethnicity Enrolled in North Carolina as of Oct. 1, 2018
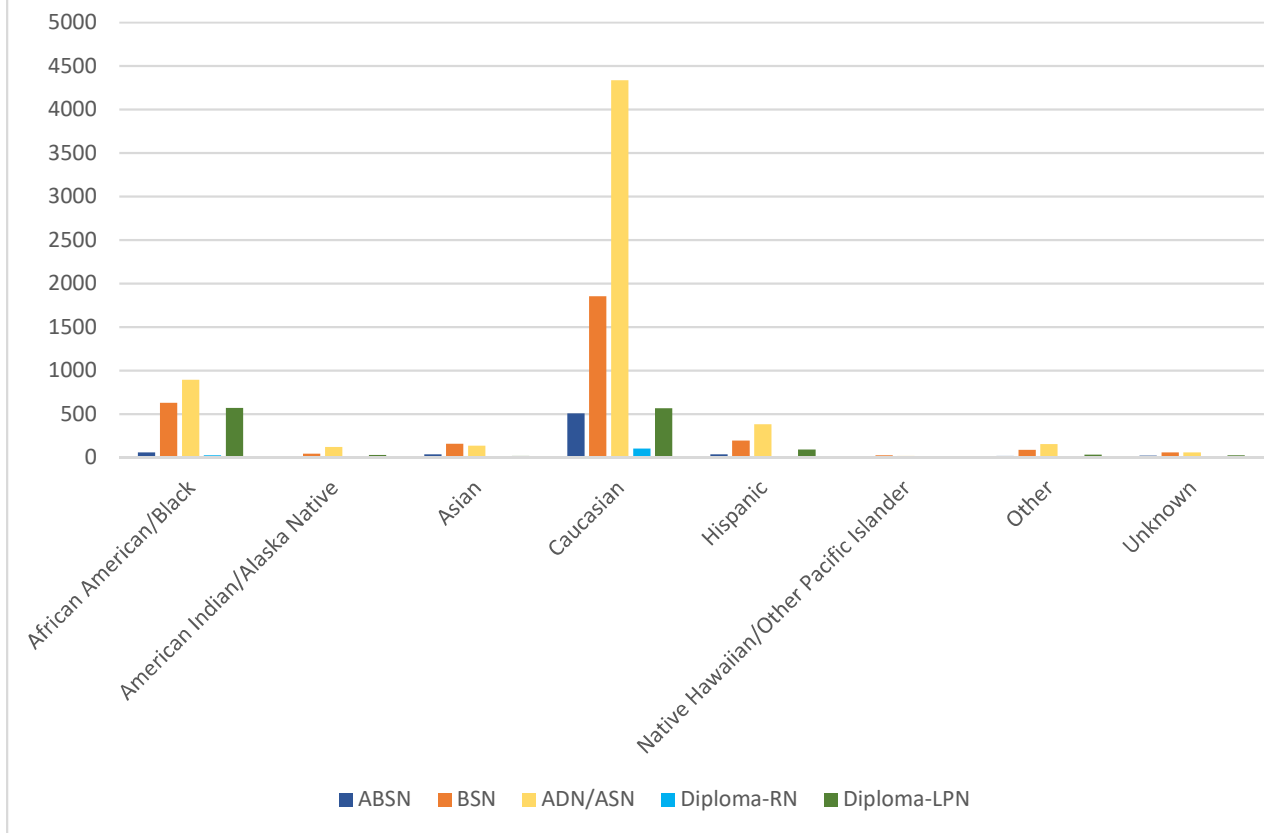
	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
African American/Black	59	628	895	26	570	**2178**
American Indian/Native Alaskan	5	45	121	0	30	**201**
Asian	35	160	135	5	20	**355**
Caucasian/White	508	1854	4337	104	566	**7369**
Hispanic	35	195	382	5	92	**709**
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	25	17	1	5	**49**
Other	17	89	154	9	32	**301**
Unknown	23	60	59	2	25	**169**
Total	**683**	**3056**	**6100**	**152**	**1340**	

For the ABSN ethnicity there was an increase in Caucasians, with a decrease in Asian and African Americans. The remaining categories remained the same from 2017.

For the BSN ethnicity there was an increase in Asians, African Americans, Hispanics and Pacific Islanders, with a decrease for Caucasians and American Indians. The Unknown/Other category remained the same from 2017.

For the ADN/ASN ethnicity there was an increase in African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics and Unknow/Other, with a decrease in Pacific Islander. The Asian category remained the same from 2017.

For the Diploma-RN ethnicity there was an increase in Caucasians, with a no decreases. The remaining categories remained the same from 2017.

For the Diploma-LPN ethnicity there was an increase in African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics and Unknown/Other, with a decrease in Asians and American Indians. The Pacific Islander remained the same from 2017.

Trends in Faculty Vacancies by Program Type
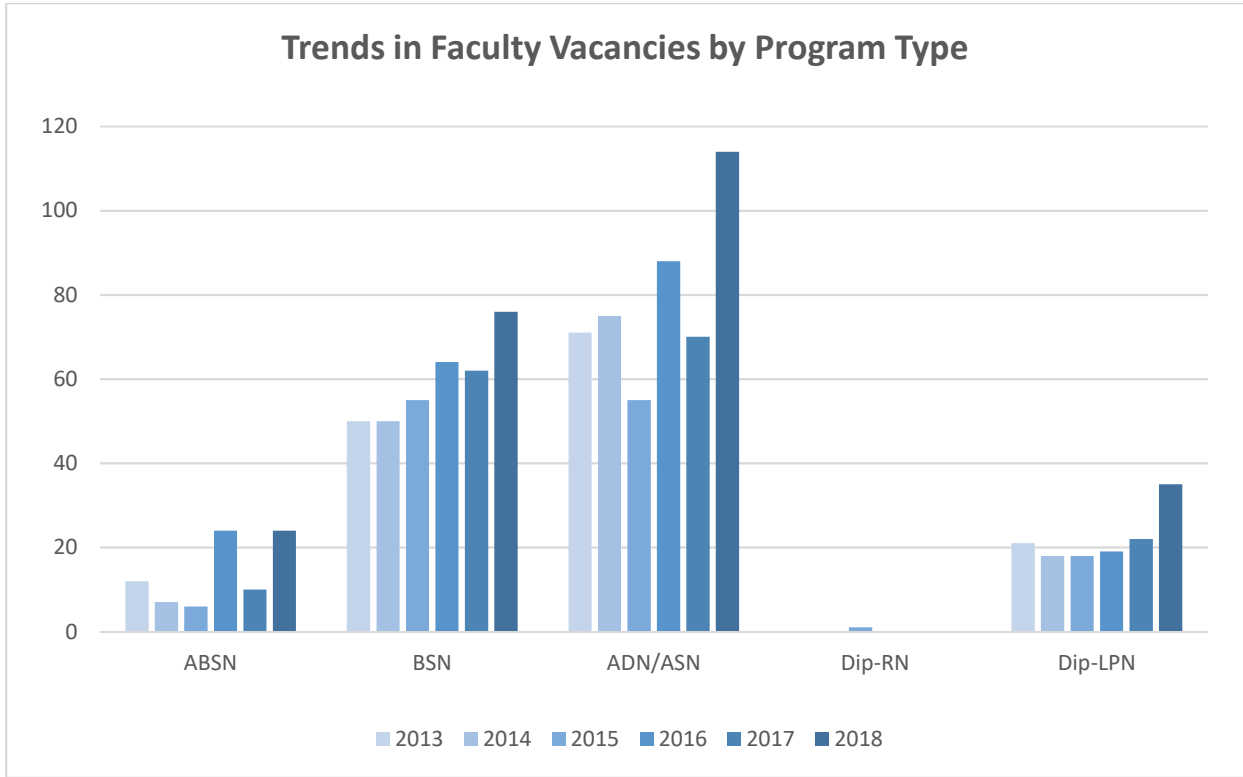
	ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN	Total
2013	12	50	71	0	21	154
2014	7	50	75	0	18	150
2015	6	55	55	1	18	135
2016	24	64	88	0	19	195
2017	10	62	70	0	22	164
2018	**24**	**76**	**114**	**0**	**35**	**249**

The faculty vacancies for all program types have increased except for the Dip-RN program. In 2017 there were 164 faculty vacancies as compared to 2018 with **249** faculty vacancies, an increase of 52%. This increase is reflective of national trends. If vacancies continue to rise in coming years, student enrollment may be negatively impacted.

Faculty Vacancies FT vs PT in 2018
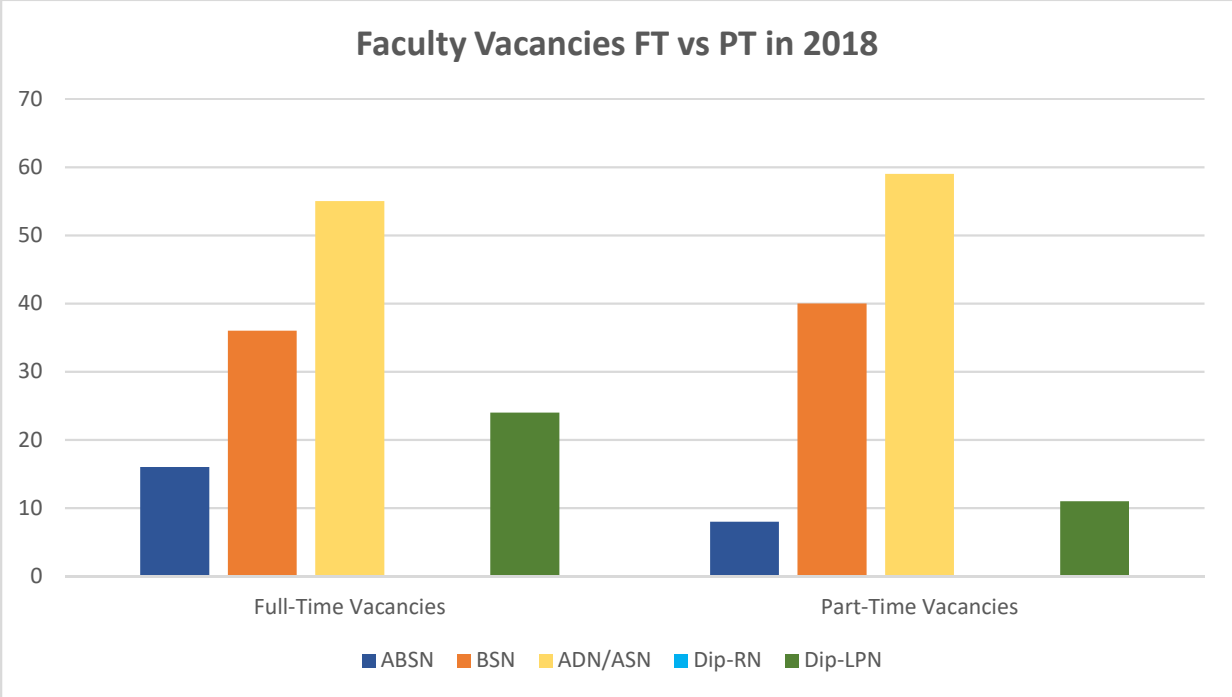
	Full-Time Vacancies	Part-Time Vacancies
ABSN	16	8
BSN	36	40
ADN/ASN	55	59
Dip-RN	0	0
Dip-LPN	24	11
Total	131	118

In 2018 there were **131** full-time vacancies and **118** part-time vacancies (**total 249)** with the most vacancies occurring in the ADN/ASN programs. This is a substantial increase of 44% full-time vacancies and 39% part-time vacancies when compared to 91 full-time vacancies and 85 part-time vacancies in 2017.

Faculty Vacancies by Practice Categories
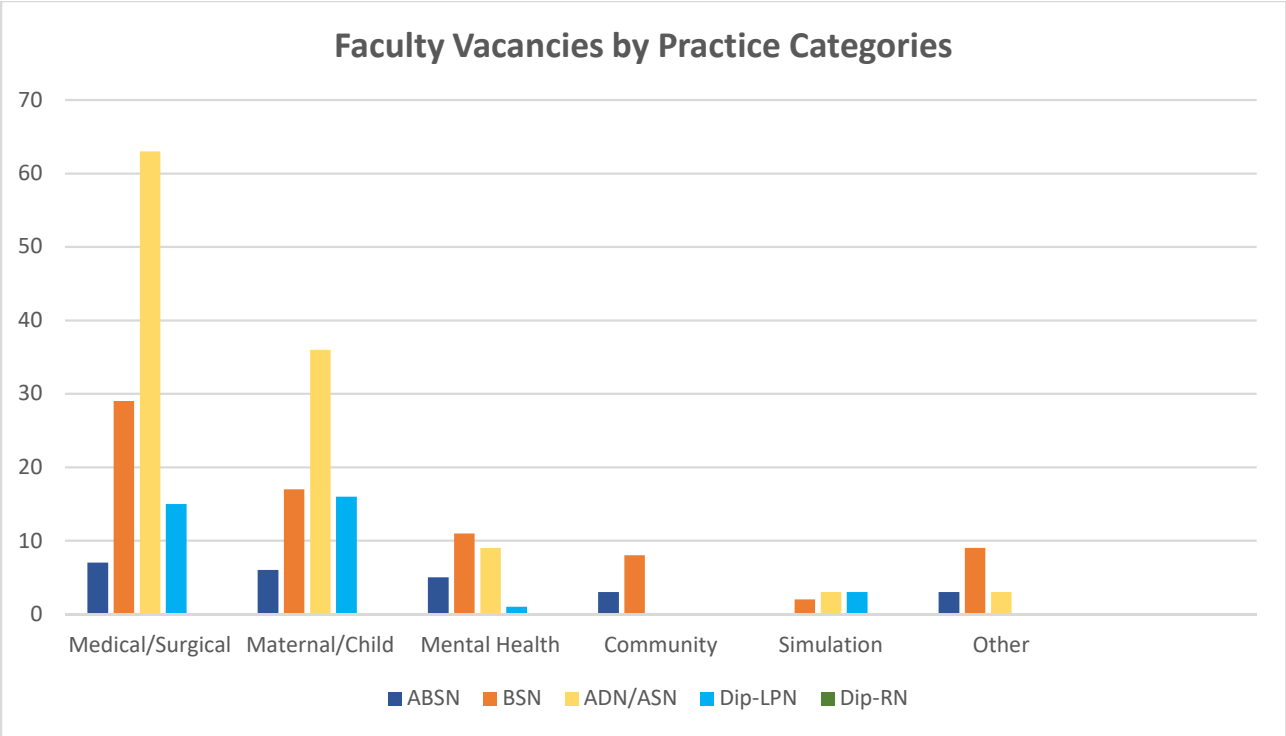
	Medical/Surgical	Maternal/Child	Mental Health	Community	Simulation	Other
ABSN	7	6	5	3	0	3
BSN	29	17	11	8	2	9
ADN/ASN	63	36	9	0	3	3
Dip-LPN	15	16	1	0	3	0
Dip-RN	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**114**	**75**	**26**	**11**	**8**	**15**

In 2018, 114 of the 249 total faculty vacancies (46%) are in the medical/surgical practice specialty. In 2017 the medical/surgical practice category also had the most vacancies.
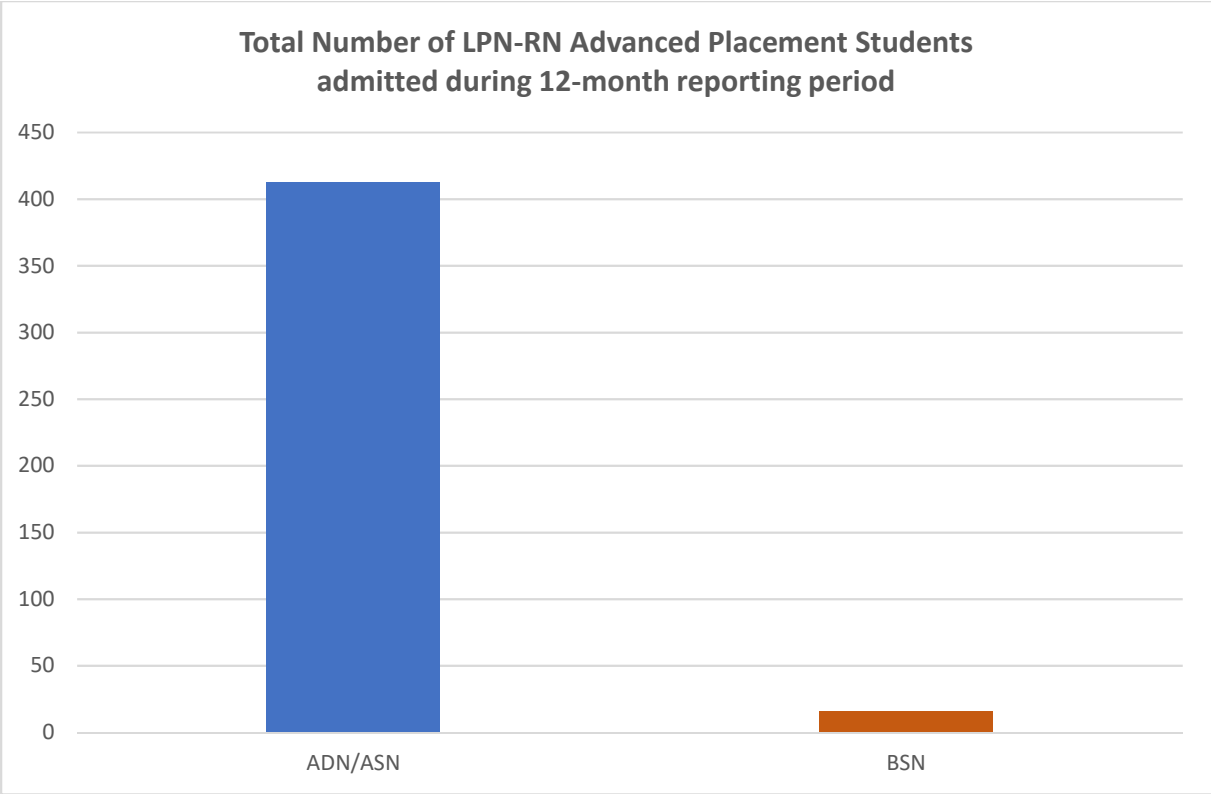
Accreditation by Program Type as of October 1, 2018
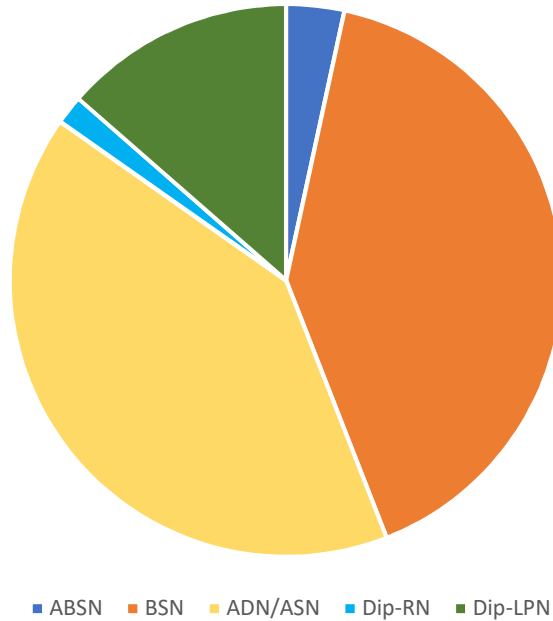
ABSN	BSN	ADN/ASN	Dip-RN	Dip-LPN
2	24	24	1	8

This chart details national nursing accreditation. National nursing accreditation is optional in NC but strongly encouraged for quality purposes.

 In NC, **59 out of 126 (47%)** of pre-licensure nursing programs are nationally accredited. The two ABSN programs in the chart above do not offer a generic BSN degree. Five additional universities offer the ABSN option in addition to their generic BSN degree option and are therefore included in the BSN section of the chart. To enroll in an ABSN program, the student must have a previous bachelor's degree.

Total Number of LPN-RN Advanced Placement Students admitted during 12-month reporting period

ADN/ASN	BSN
413	16

During the 2017-2018 academic year, **429 LPNs** returned to complete their ADN/ASN or BSN degree to become an RN. The number is consistent with last year's data.