NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS IN NURSING EDUCATION

2018-2020

This report was prepared by the North Carolina Board of Nursing
March 2021

NCBOARD OF NURSING

North Carolina Trends in Nursing Education: 2018–2020

March 2021

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 **128 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.

The information in the report is displayed by degree types (BSN, ADN/ASN, and Diploma-LPN). Programs options such as ABSN are included in the BSN degree type data.

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. Terry D. Ward, Education Consultant, at tward@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 <u>nursing</u> courses at any level. Do not include students taking a leave of absence.

Enrolled 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 officially registered as a member of the institution.

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).

Program Option: An alternative to the general or traditional nursing program admission and curriculum required for completion of the degree. For example: advanced placement program option may include alternate admission criteria based on previous degree(s) or education credit and include credit for required curriculum course(s) or an alternate or advanced curriculum for the same degree (e.g. ABSN, LPN to RN, LPN-BSN, and others).

Program Type: <u>Determined by degree</u>. *Example: BSN, ADN/ASN, Diploma*

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.
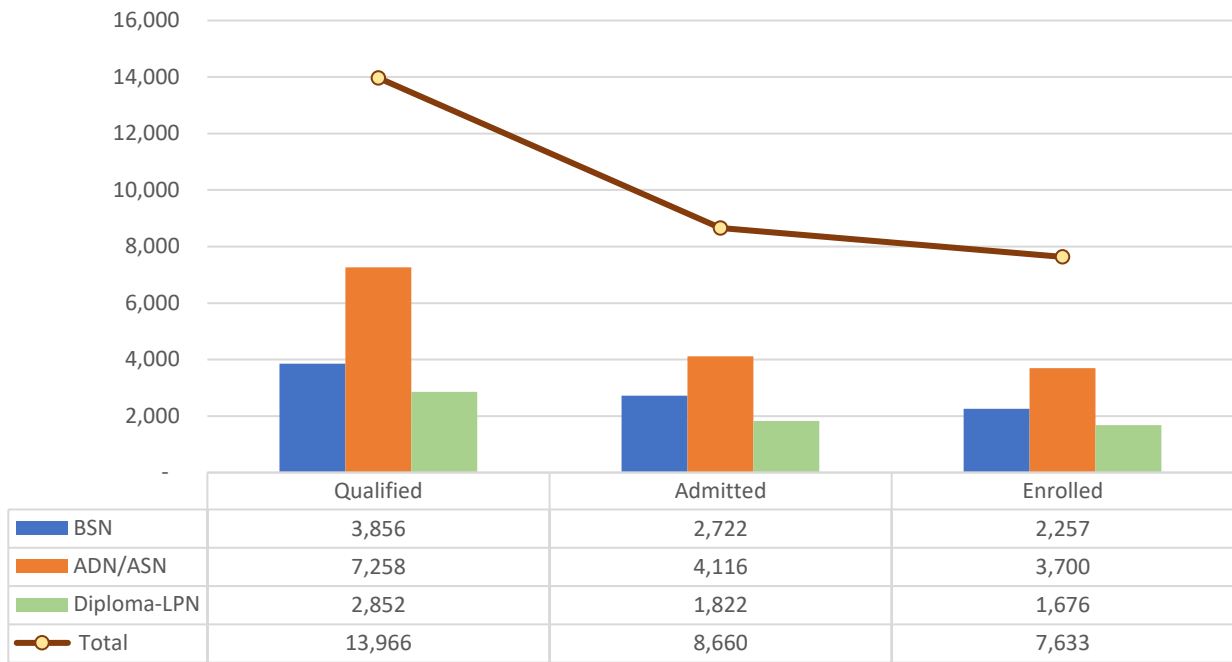
North Carolina Trends in Nursing Education
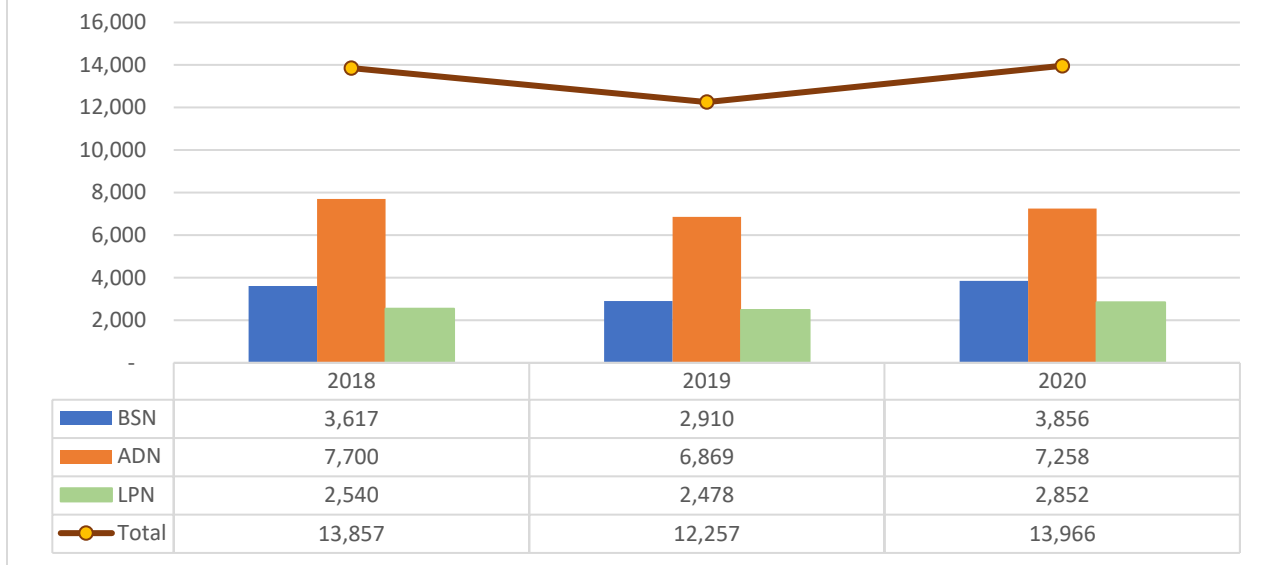## 2019 - 2020

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Charts and Tables

Total Applicants (Qualified, Admitted, and Enrolled) by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Year 2019-2020

	Qualified	Admitted	Enrolled
BSN	3,856	2,722	2,257
ADN/ASN	7,258	4,116	3,700
Diploma-LPN	2,852	1,822	1,676
Total	13,966	8,660	7,633

This chart demonstrates the number of **qualified applicants who were admitted and enrolled from the applicant pool** by prelicensure nursing program type. In North Carolina (NC), 13,966 applicants were qualified to attend pre-licensure nursing education programs, and 8,670 (62%) of those applicants were **admitted** to the nursing programs and 7,633 (55%) of those applicants were **enrolled** to the nursing programs for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Total Qualified Applicants by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
BSN	3,617	2,910	3,856
ADN	7,700	6,869	7,258
LPN	2,540	2,478	2,852
Total	13,857	12,257	13,966

This chart demonstrates the number of applicants who were **qualified** to attend pre-licensure nursing education programs by type for the 2018-2020 academic years. There were 13,857 in 2018; 12,257 in 2019; and 13,966 in 2020. This is a slight increase in the trend from the 2018-2019 academic year.

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

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

Total Admitted Applicants by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

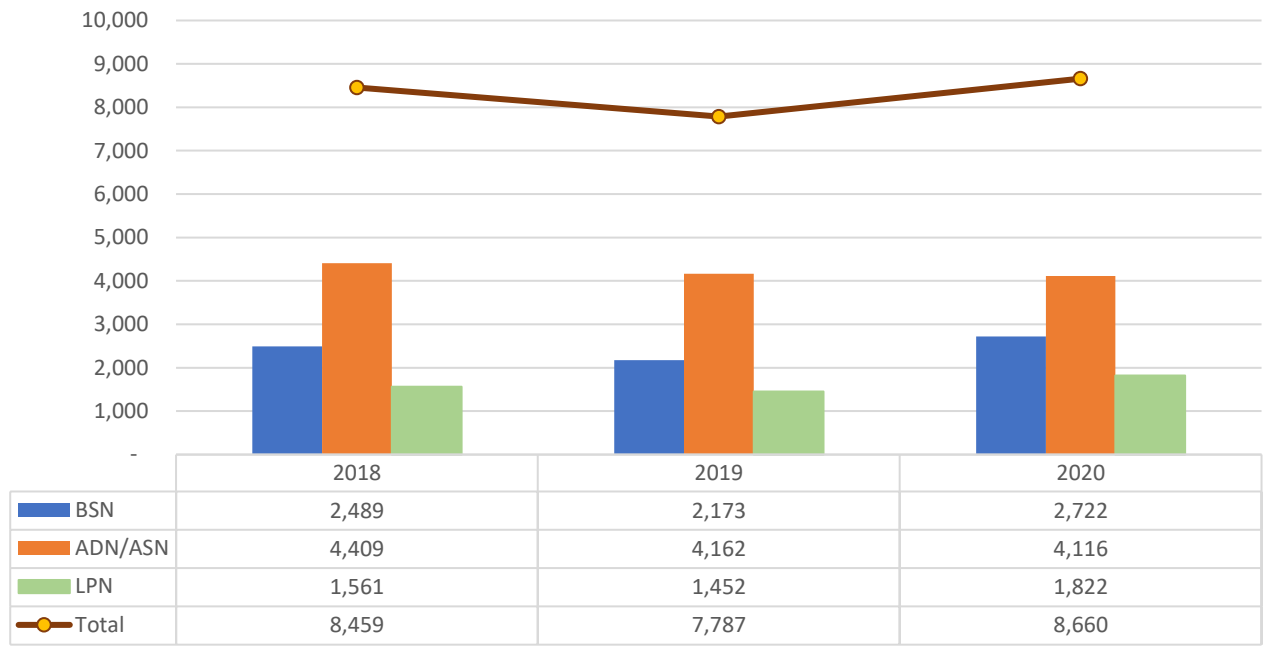|	2018	2019	2020
BSN	2,489	2,173	2,722
ADN/ASN	4,409	4,162	4,116
LPN	1,561	1,452	1,822
Total	8,459	7,787	8,660

This chart demonstrates the number of applicants who were **admitted** to pre-licensure nursing education programs by type for the 2018-2020 academic years. There were 8,459 in 2018; 7,787 in 2019; and 8,660 in 2020. There is a slight increase in the trend from the 2018-2019 academic year.

Percent of Qualified Applicants Admitted by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
■ BSN	68%	75%	71%
■ ADN/ASN	57%	61%	57%
■ Dip-LPN	61%	59%	64%
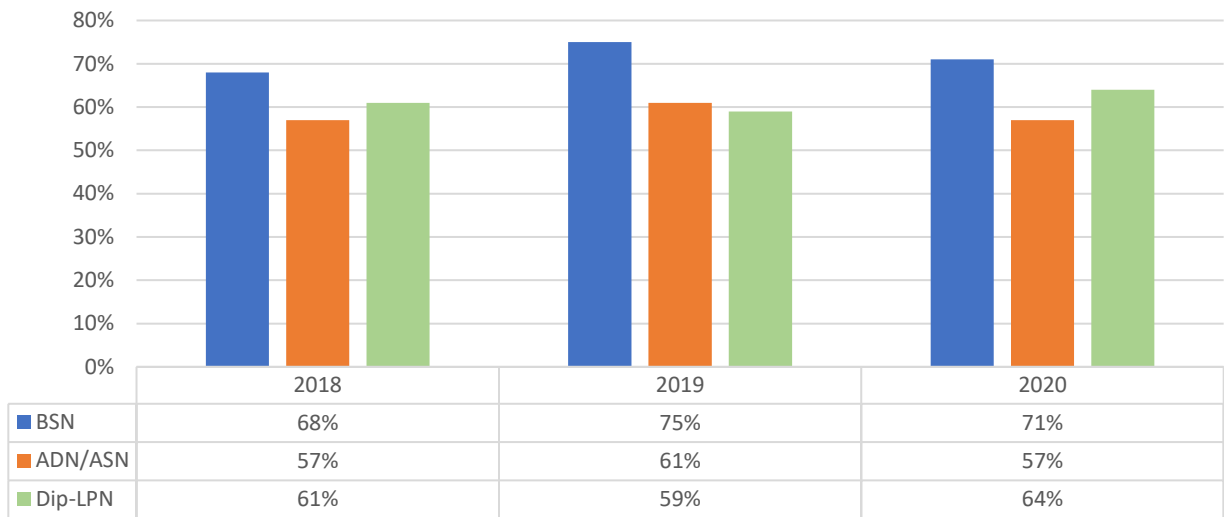
This chart demonstrates the **percent of qualified applicants who were admitted** to NC pre-licensure nursing programs. In the 2019-2020 academic year 8,660 (62%) of qualified applicants were admitted to NC pre-licensure nursing programs. In the 2019-2020 academic year, 2,722 (71%) of qualified applicants were admitted to BSN nursing programs; 4,116 (57%) of qualified applicants were admitted to ADN/ASN prelicensure programs; and 1,822 (64%) of qualified applicants were admitted to LPN nursing programs. This demonstrates a slight decrease in the trend for BSN and ADN/ASN prelicensure programs, and a slight increase from the previous year in the trend for LPN prelicensure nursing programs.

Total Qualified Applicants Enrolled by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
BSN	3,056	3,589	2,257
ADN/ASN	6,100	5,873	3,700
Dip-LPN	1,340	1,213	1,676
Total	10,496	10,675	7,633
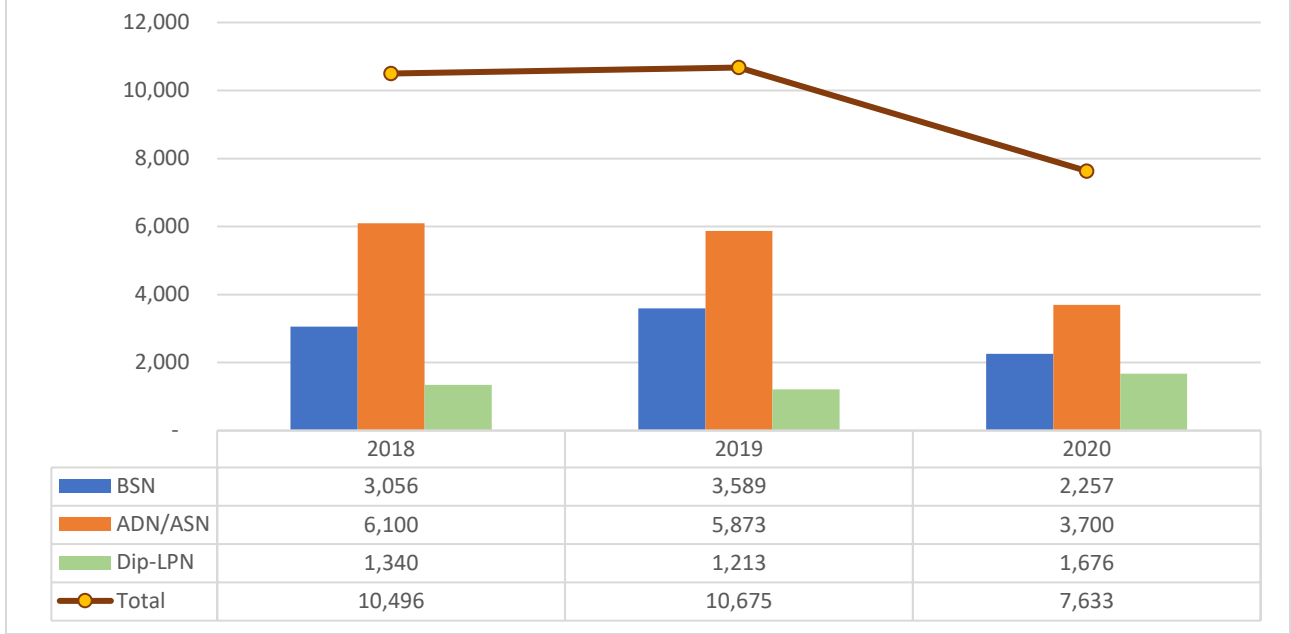
This chart demonstrates the number of **qualified applicants who were enrolled** to attend pre-licensure nursing education programs by type for the 2018-2020 academic years. There were 10,496 in 2018; 10,675 in 2019, and 7,633 in 2020. There is a slight decrease in the trend from the 2018-2019 academic year.

The 2020 academic year demonstrates a decrease in **qualified applicants who were enrolled** from previous years in BSN and ADN/ASN programs. This demonstrates a downward trend. Diploma-LPN programs demonstrate an increase in enrollment. This demonstrates an upward trend.

Total Current Student Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Year 2020

	2020
BSN	4,112
ADN/ASN	7,460
Diploma-LPN	1,554
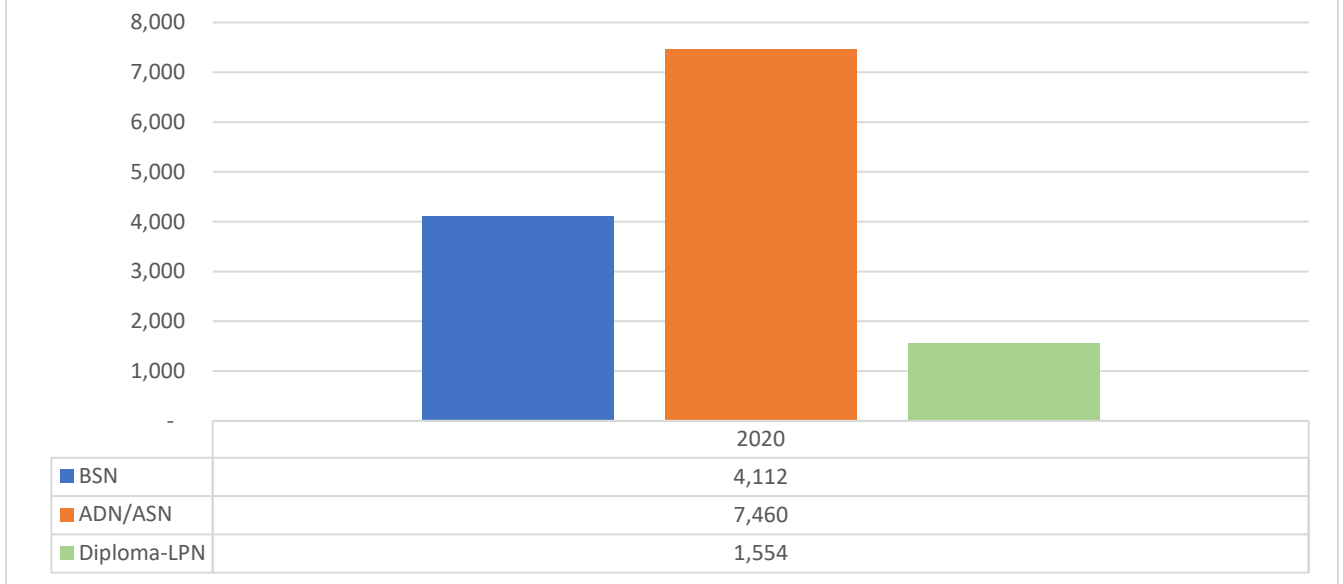
This chart demonstrates the **total current student enrollment** (the number of nursing students enrolled on the Fall Term Census Date which is October 1, 2020). This includes students at all points of the nursing program's curriculum sequence. This is a onetime snapshot of all current students taking <u>nursing</u> courses at any level. The total current student enrollment was **13,126** as of October 1, 2020.

Total Current Student Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020
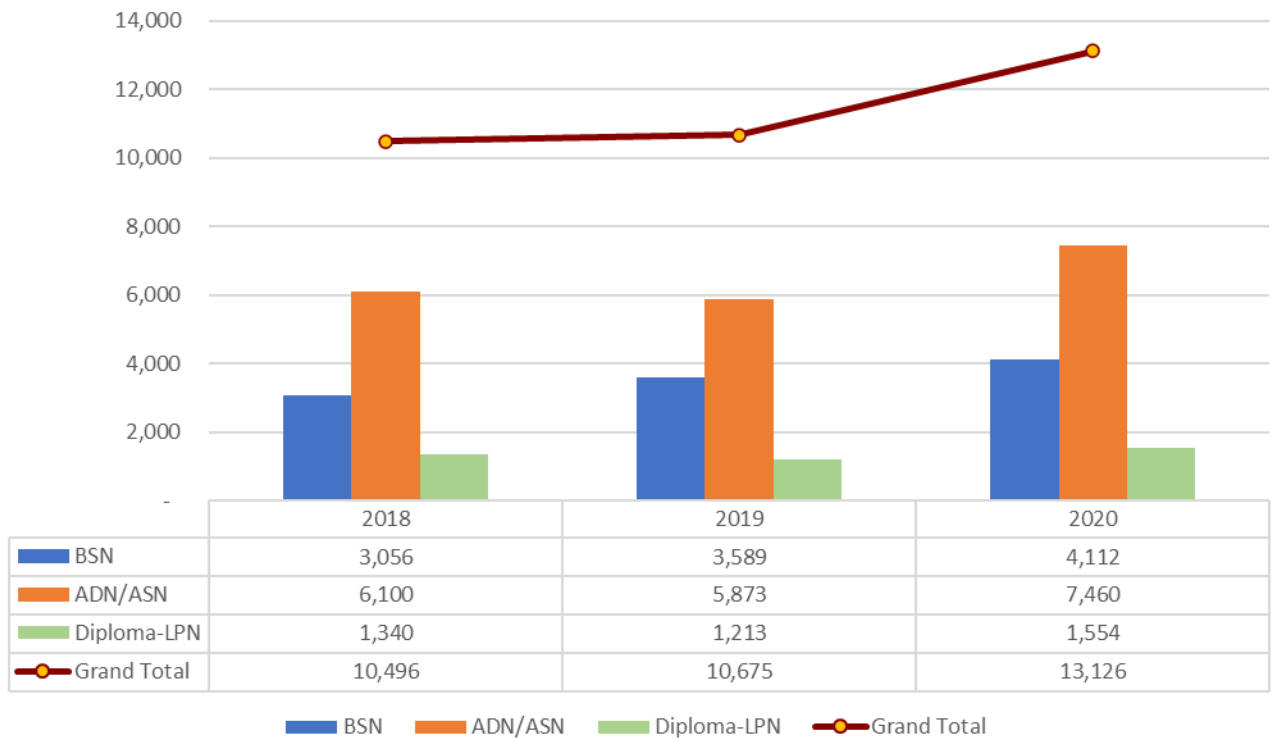
	2018	2019	2020
BSN	3,056	3,589	4,112
ADN/ASN	6,100	5,873	7,460
Diploma-LPN	1,340	1,213	1,554
Grand Total	10,496	10,675	13,126

This chart demonstrates the **total current student enrollment** by NC pre-licensure program type. There were a total of 10,496 in 2018; 10,675 in 2019; and 13,126 in 2020. This is an increase in the trend from the 2018-2019 academic year.

Total Current Student Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type and Age, Academic Year 2019-2020
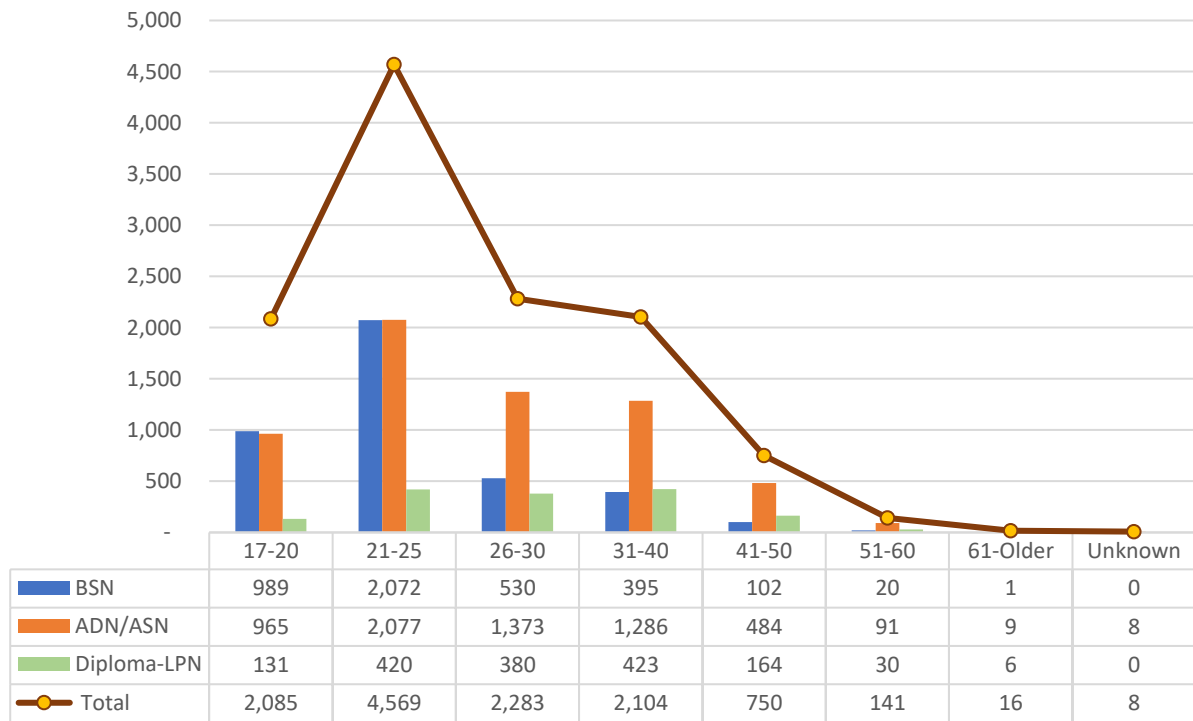
	17-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-Older	Unknown
BSN	989	2,072	530	395	102	20	1	0
ADN/ASN	965	2,077	1,373	1,286	484	91	9	8
Diploma-LPN	131	420	380	423	164	30	6	0
Total	2,085	4,569	2,283	2,104	750	141	16	8

This chart demonstrates the **total current student enrollment** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **age** of student in the 2019-2020 academic year. Total number of students is 11,956*.

*This number reflects missing data in this category

Percent of Current Student Enrollment NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Students by Age, Academic Year 2019-2020
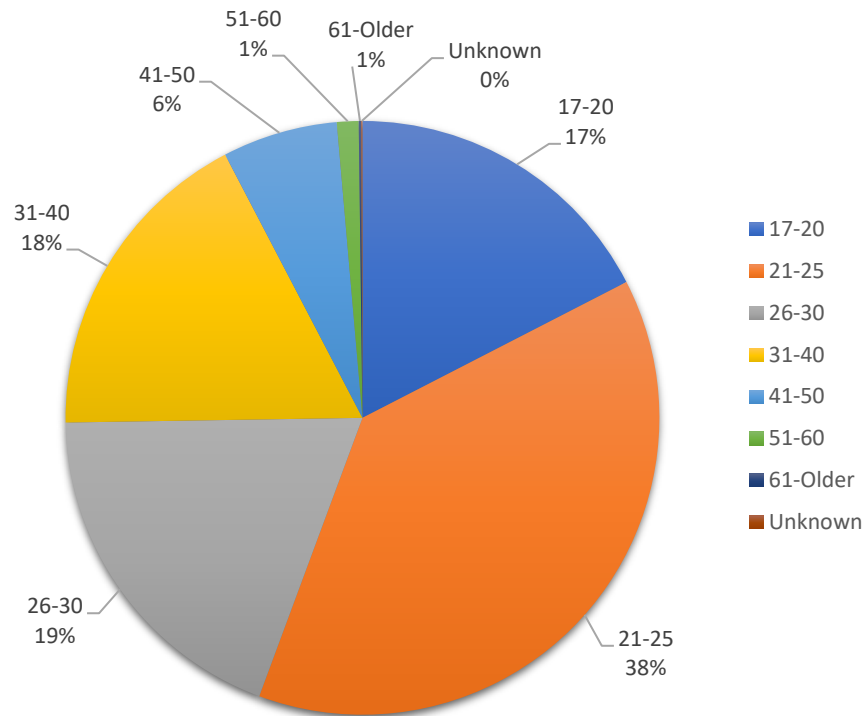
This chart demonstrates the **percent of current student enrollment** NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **age** in the 2019-2020 academic year. In NC the largest age category was 21-25. In this category, 4569 (38%) of the currently enrolled nursing students were 21-25 years of age. The smallest age category was 61-older. Only 16 (1%) of the currently enrolled students were 61-older.

Total Current Student Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, by Gender, Academic Year 2019-2020

	Female	Male	Prefer Not to Say	Self-Described
BSN	3,624	483	2	0
ADN/ASN	5,588	686	15	4
Diploma-LPN	1,451	103	0	0
Total	10,663	1,272	17	4

This chart demonstrates the **total current student enrollment** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **gender** in the 2019-2020 academic year. Total number of students is 11,956*.
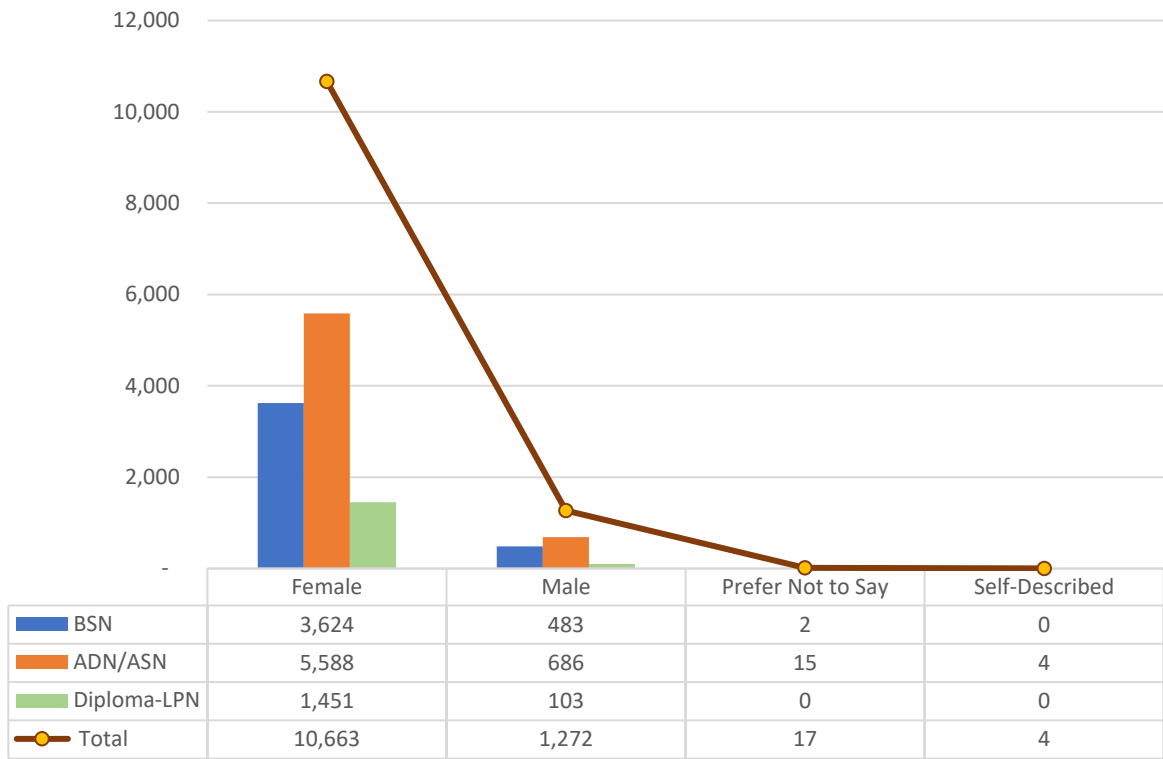
 *This number reflects missing data in this category

Percent of Current Student Enrollment NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Students by Gender, Academic Year 2019-2020
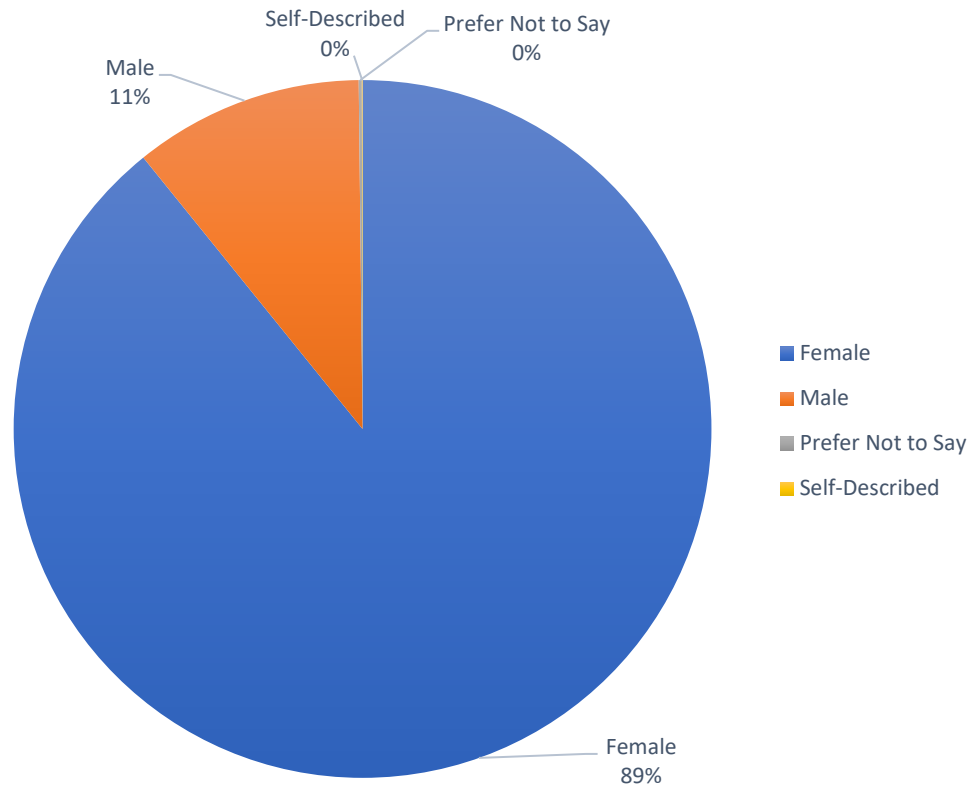
Self-Described
0%

Prefer Not to Say
0%

Male
11%

Female
89%

- Female
- Male
- Prefer Not to Say
- Self-Described

This chart demonstrates the **percent of current student enrollment** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **gender** in the 2019-2020 academic year. In NC the largest gender category was female. In this category, 10,663 (89%) of the currently enrolled students were female. There were 1,272 (11%) currently enrolled students in the male category. Less than one percent of the applicants who were currently enrolled, preferred not to say or self-described.

Total Current Student Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, by Race/Ethnicity, Academic Year 2019-2020

	White	African American	Latino	Asian American	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Other	Unknown
BSN	2,470	801	292	209	53	10	153	121
ADN/ASN	4,298	956	484	155	136	7	186	72
Diploma-LPN	719	633	77	20	45	6	46	9
Total	7,486	2,390	853	384	234	23	385	202

This chart demonstrates the **total current student enrollment** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **race/ethnicity** in the 2019-2020 academic year. Total number of students is 11,956*.
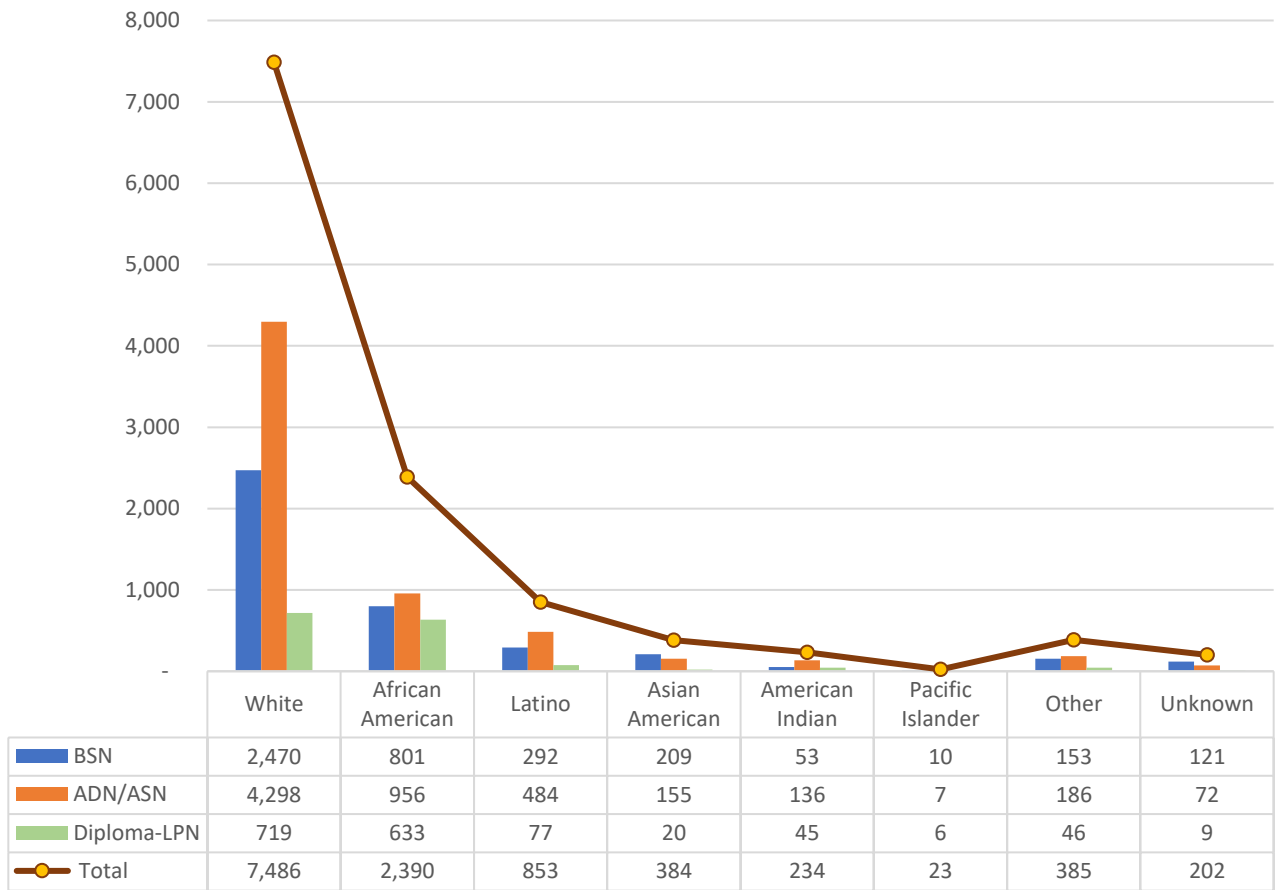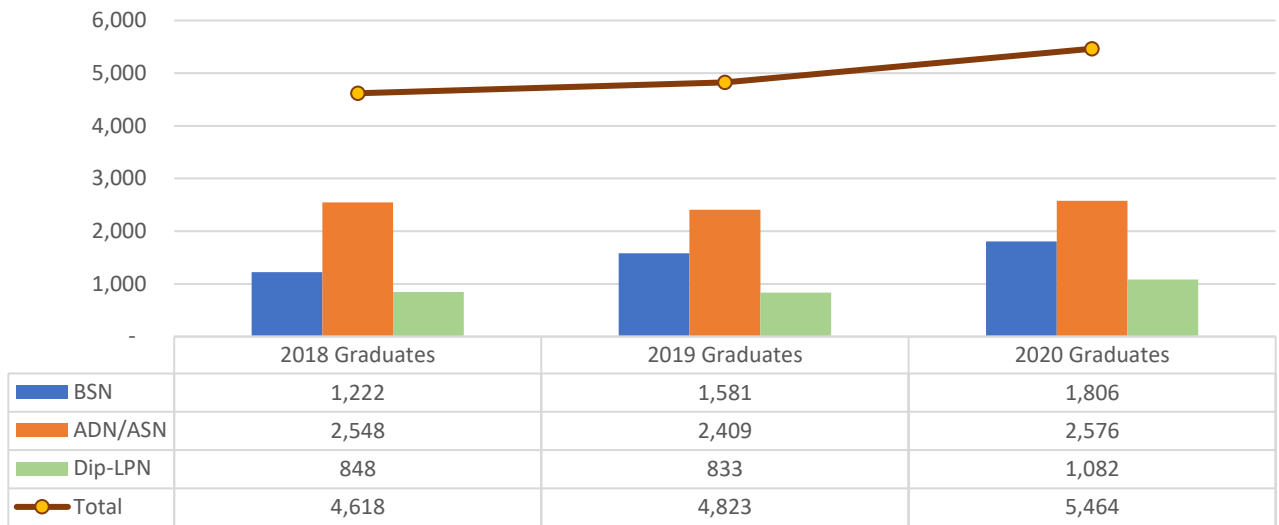
*This number reflects missing data in this category

Percent of Current Student Enrollment NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Students by Race/Ethnicity, Academic Year 2019-2020
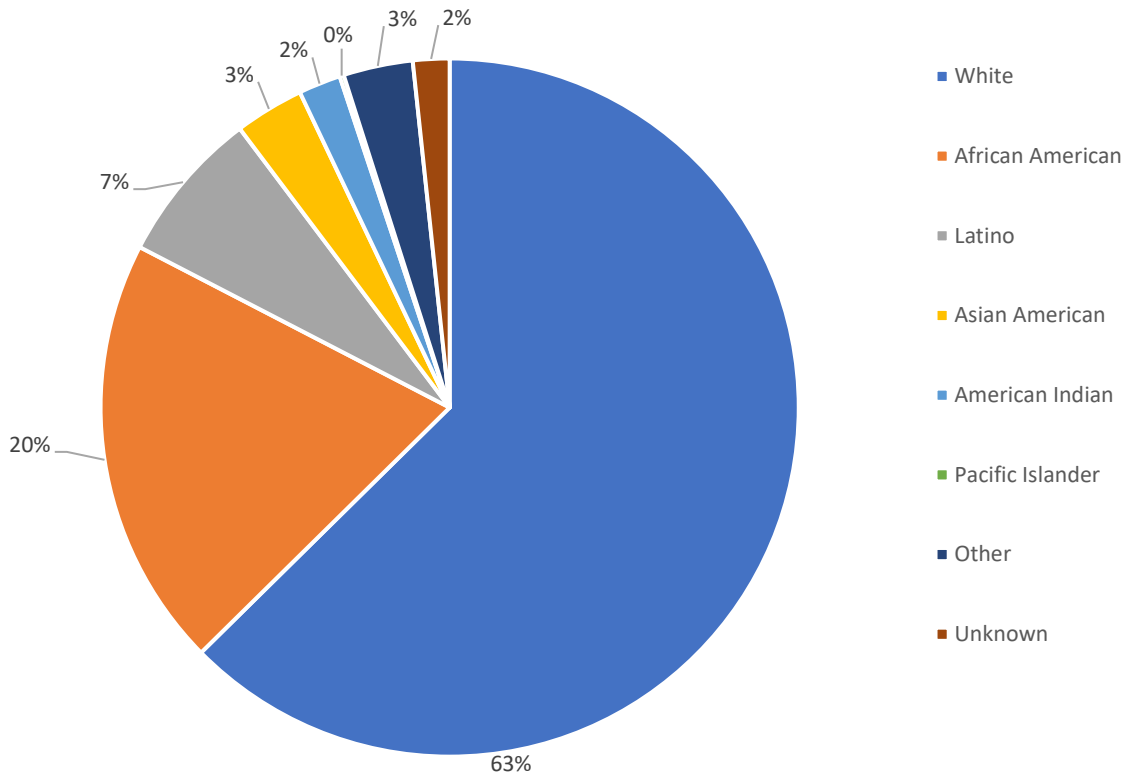
Legend:
- White
- African American
- Latino
- Asian American
- American Indian
- Pacific Islander
- Other
- Unknown

Pie chart values: 63%, 20%, 7%, 3%, 2%, 0%, 3%, 2%

This chart demonstrates the **percent of current student enrollment** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by **race/ethnicity** in the 2019-2020 academic year. In NC the largest race/ethnic group category was White. In this category, 7,486 (63%) of the applicants qualified for acceptance were White. In this category, 2,390 (20%) of the applicants qualified for acceptance were African American. In this category, 853 (7%) of the applicants qualified for acceptance were Latino. Asian American, American Indian and Pacific Islander applicants qualified for acceptance represented 3% or less of racial/ethnic groups category.

Total Graduates by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

|	2018 Graduates	2019 Graduates	2020 Graduates
BSN	1,222	1,581	1,806
ADN/ASN	2,548	2,409	2,576
Dip-LPN	848	833	1,082
Total	4,618	4,823	5,464

This chart demonstrates the number of **graduates** from pre-licensure nursing education programs by type for 2018-2020.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, total graduates from NC prelicensure nursing programs increased. There was a total of 5,464 pre-licensure graduates in the 2019-2020 academic year as compared to 4,823 in the 2018-2019 academic year. Below are the percentages of nursing students for each degree type in the 2020 academic year.

- BSN-33%
- ADN/ASN-47%
- Dip-LPN-20%

Total Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

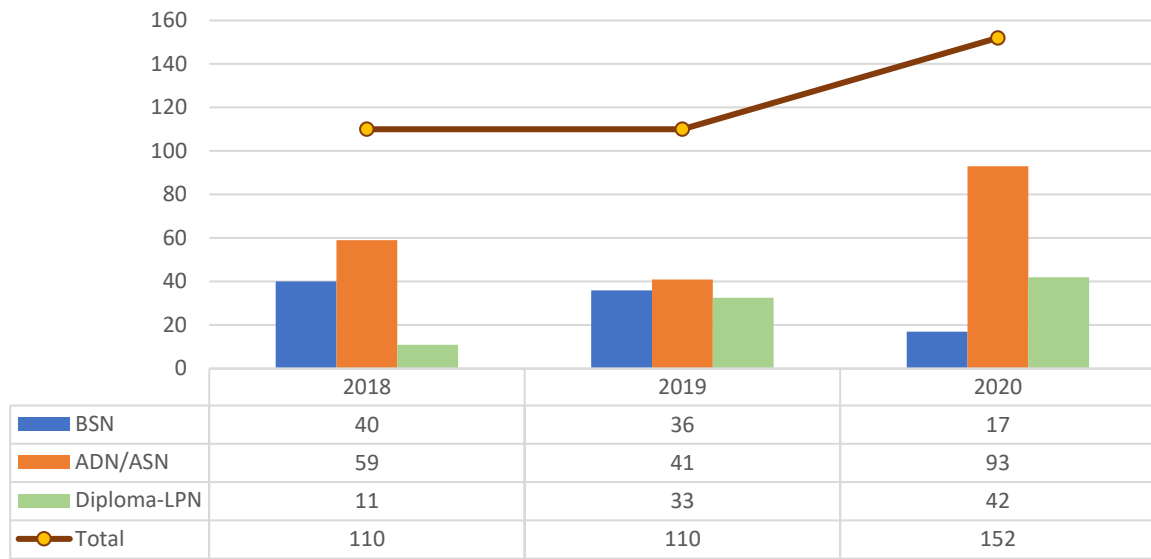|	2018	2019	2020
BSN	76	80	40
ADN/ASN	114	78	134
Diploma-LPN	35	44	65
Total	225	202	239
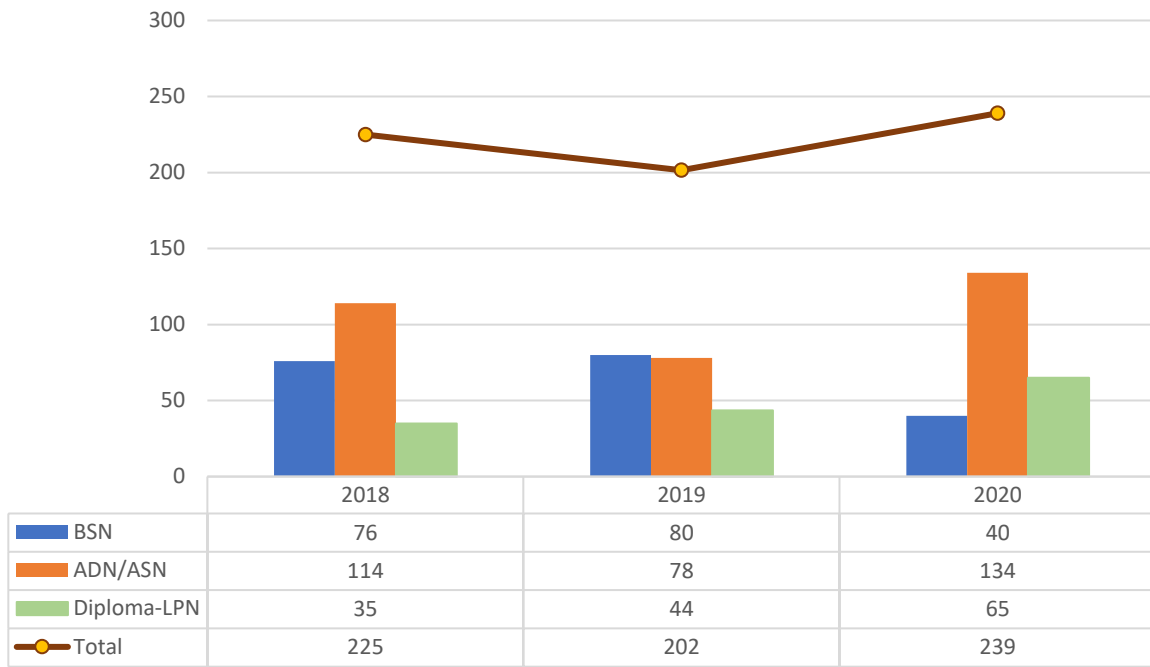
This chart demonstrates the **total number** of **faculty vacancies (**full and part-time combined) in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by program type, 2018-2020 academic years. Total number of faculty vacancies is **239**. The demonstrates an upward trend in faculty vacancies in 2020 in NC.

Total Full-Time Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
BSN	36	44	23
ADN/ASN	55	37	41
Diploma-LPN	24	11	23
Total	115	92	87
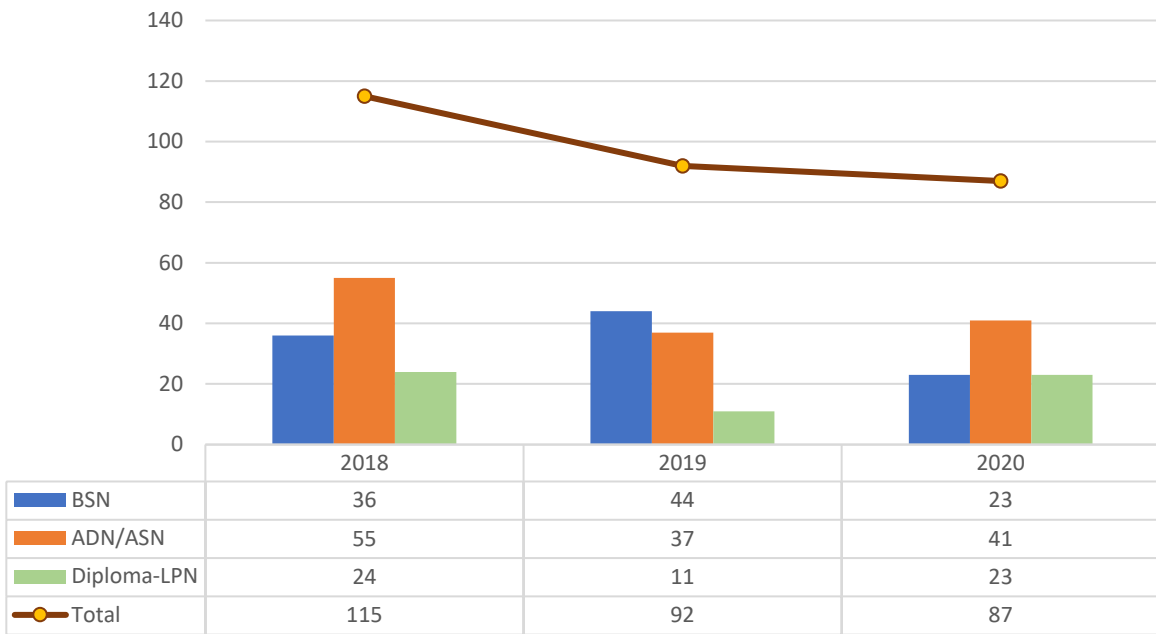
This chart demonstrates the **total number** of **full-time faculty vacancies** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by program type, 2018-2020 academic years. Total number of full-time faculty vacancies is **87**. The demonstrates a slight decrease in full-time faculty vacancies in 2020 in NC.

Total Part-Time Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2018-2020

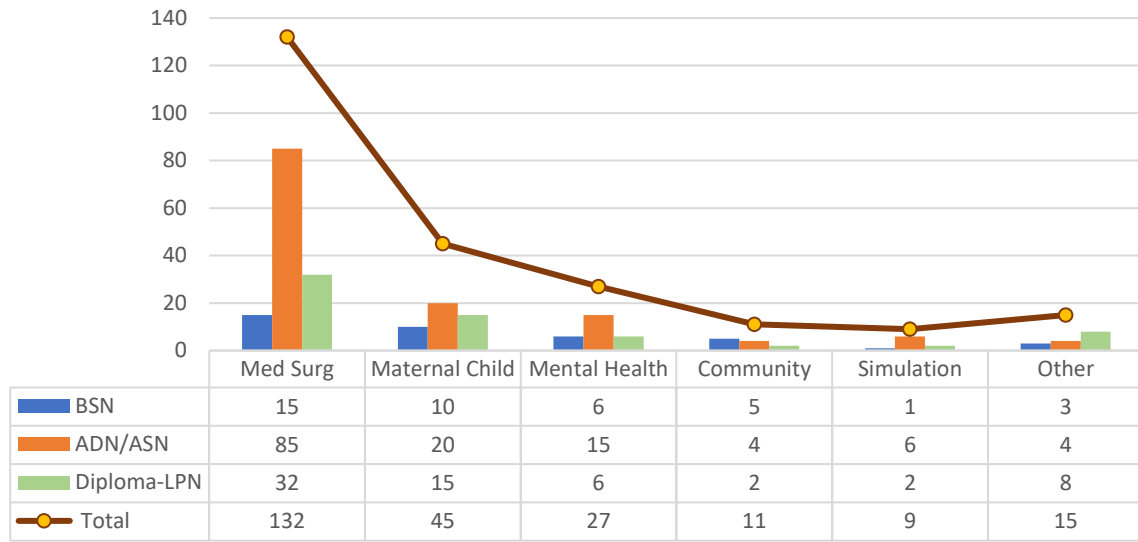|	2018	2019	2020
BSN	40	36	17
ADN/ASN	59	41	93
Diploma-LPN	11	33	42
Total	110	110	152

This chart demonstrates the **total number** of **part-time faculty vacancies** in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by program type, 2018-2020 academic years. Total number of part-time faculty vacancies is **152**. The demonstrates an increase in part-time faculty vacancies in 2020 in NC.

Total Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type and Practice Specialty, Academic Year 2019-2020

	Med Surg	Maternal Child	Mental Health	Community	Simulation	Other
BSN	15	10	6	5	1	3
ADN/ASN	85	20	15	4	6	4
Diploma-LPN	32	15	6	2	2	8
Total	132	45	27	11	9	15

This chart demonstrates the **total number** of **faculty vacancies** (full and part-time combined) in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs by program type and practice specialty for the 2019-2020 academic year. Total number of full and part time faculty vacancies by practice specialty is **239**.

Percent of Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Practice Specialty, Academic Year 2019-2020
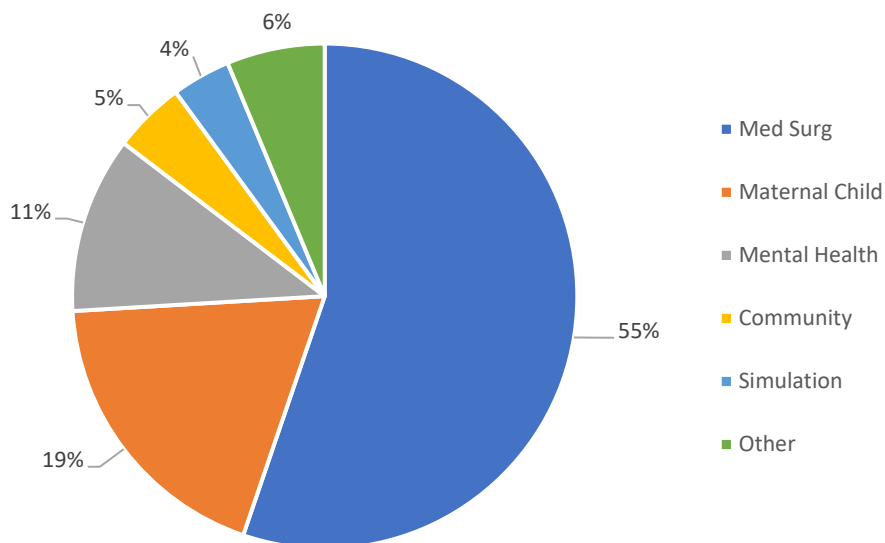
This chart demonstrates the **percent of faculty vacancies** (full and part-time combined) in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs **by specialty** for the 2019-2020 academic year. In NC the largest percent of faculty vacancies was in the Medical-Surgical Specialty category. There were 132 (55%) faculty vacancies in the Medical Surgical Specialty. There were 45 (19%) faculty vacancies in the Maternal Child Specialty. There were 27 (11%) faculty vacancies in the Mental Health Specialty. Community health 11 (5%), Simulation 9 (4%), and other specialties represented 15 (6%) or less of the faculty vacancies in this category.

Accredited NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Year 2019-2020

	2020
■ BSN	28
■ ADN/ASN	24
■ Diploma-LPN	8
■ Total	60
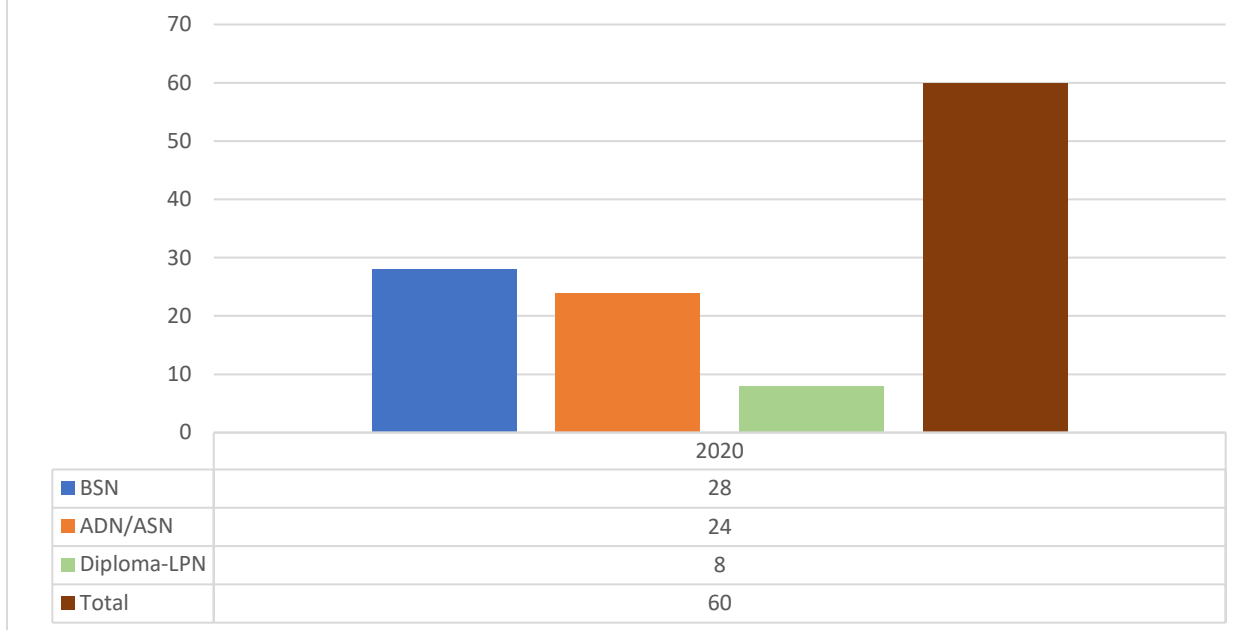
The NCBON collects data on national accreditation status for prelicensure nursing programs in NC. National nursing accreditation is optional in NC but strongly encouraged for quality purposes. This chart shows 60 (47%) out of 128 nursing programs in NC were nationally accredited in 2020. In comparison to 55 (44%) out of 126 in 2019. This demonstrates a slight increase in number of accredited NC prelicensure nursing programs.

For the 2020 reporting period, there were 30 BSN, 59 ADN/ASN, and 39 Diploma-LPN programs reporting. **Accredited NC prelicensure programs by type** demonstrate 28 (93%) of BSN prelicensure programs are accredited in NC; 24 (41%) of ADN/ASN prelicensure programs are accredited in NC; and 8 (21%) of LPN prelicensure programs are accredited in NC

ADN Programs RIBN Data, Academic Years 2018-2020

	2018	2019	2020
Enrolled	336	330	292
Completed	92	97	99
Total	428	427	391
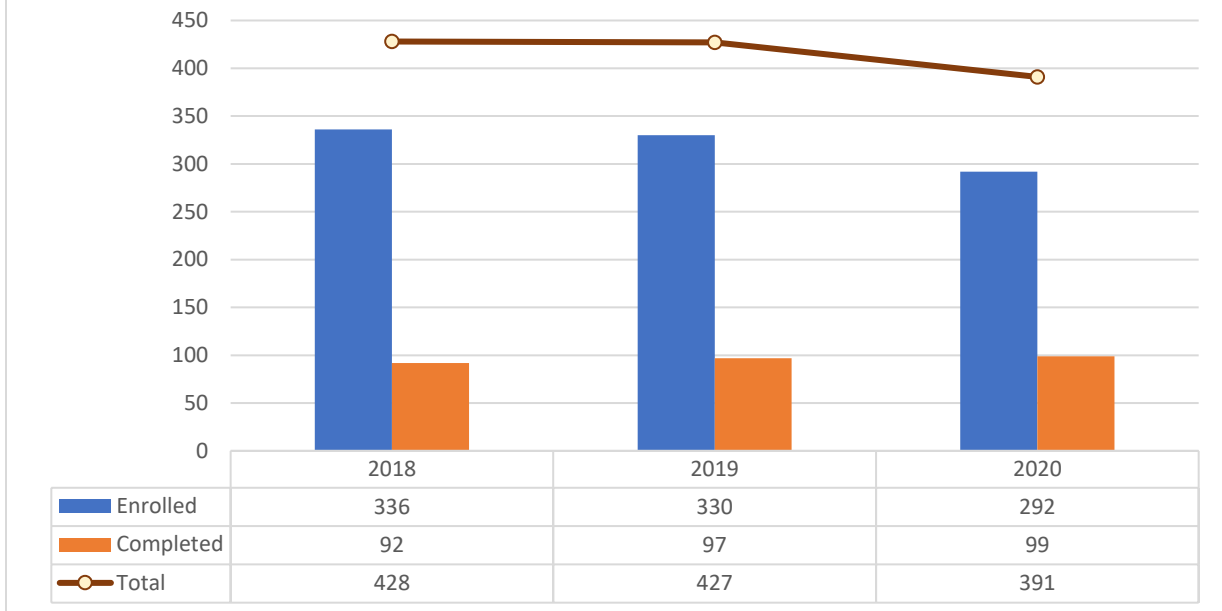
The NCBON collects data on Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses programs in NC. RIBN provides students with a four-year option in which they complete an Associate Degree and Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. This chart demonstrates RIBN students who are enrolled in and completed RIBN programs 2018-2020 academic years. In 2020, 292 students were enrolled in, and 99 students completed RIBN programs. There was a slight decrease in students who enrolled in and completed RIBN programs from previous years 2020.