



NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS IN NURSING EDUCATION

2017-2019

This report was prepared by the North Carolina Board of Nursing
May 2020



NC Board of Nursing
Trends in Nursing Education
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.

The information in the report is displayed by degree types (BSN, ADN/ASN, Diploma-RN 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 the Board's 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).

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: Determined by degree. *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

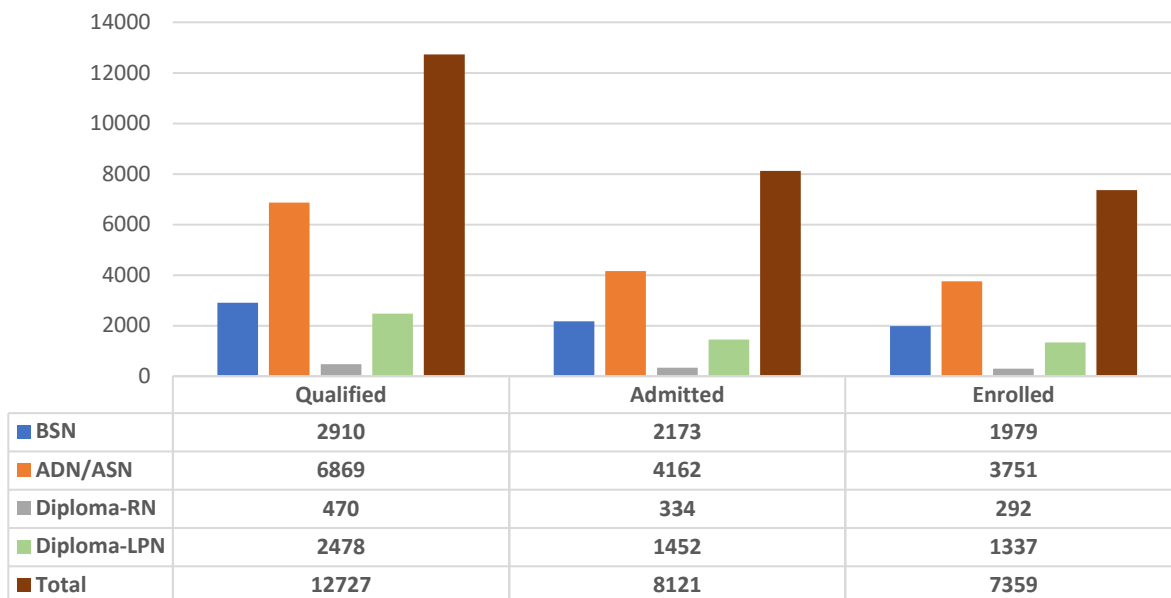
2017 - 2019

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Total Qualified Applicants, Admissions, and Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Year 2018-2019



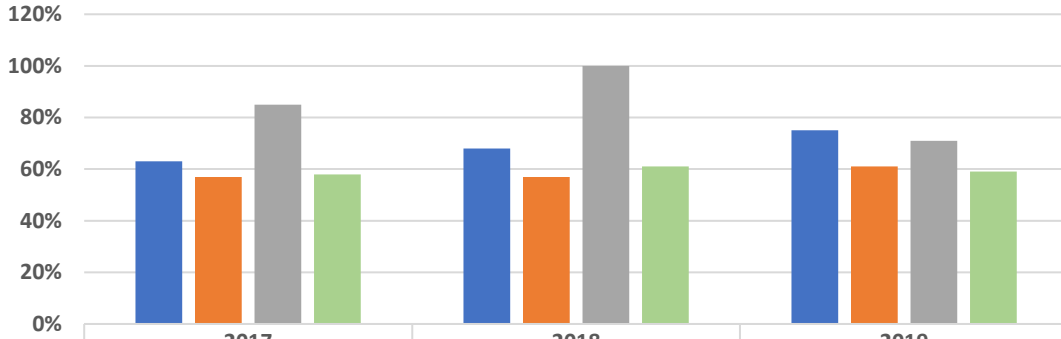
In North Carolina (NC), 12,727 applicants were qualified to attend pre-licensure nursing education programs, and 8121 (64%) of those applicants were admitted to the nursing programs for the 2018-2019 academic year.

That is a slight decrease from the 2017-2018 academic year, where 13,231 applicants were qualified and 7,750 (59%) of those applicants were admitted to the nursing programs. Of the 8121 students admitted, 7359 students enrolled in nursing courses.

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-Registered Nurse (Dip-RN)
- Diploma-Licensed Practical Nurse (Dip-LPN)

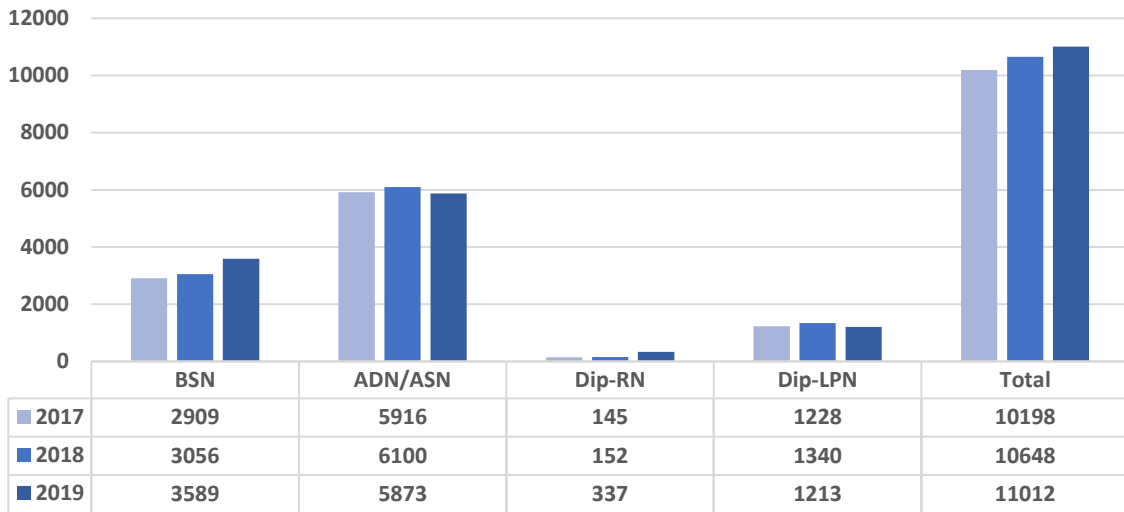
**Percent of Qualified Applicants Admitted to NC
Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Years 2017-2019**



	2017	2018	2019
■ BSN	63%	68%	75%
■ ADN/ASN	57%	57%	61%
■ Dip-RN	85%	100%	71%
■ Dip-LPN	58%	61%	59%

Overall, there was a slight increase in the percentages of qualified applicants admitted to NC nursing programs over the past three years for the BSN and ADN/ASN degrees. The Diploma-RN and Diploma-LPN were slightly lower this year. This is the last year of admitting students for the single Diploma-RN program. In 2019, this Diploma-RN program was converted to a BSN program.

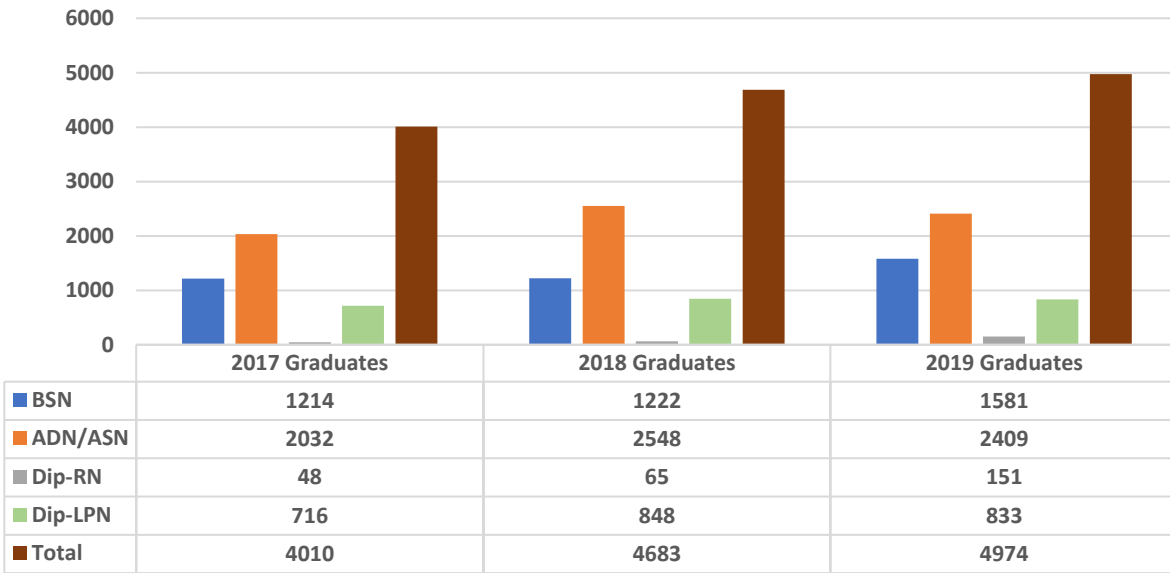
Total Enrollment by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Years 2017-2019



Total enrollment is a snapshot of all pre-licensure nursing students enrolled as of October 1, 2019. During October 2019, there were 11,012 nursing students enrolled in a pre-licensure nursing program taking nursing courses.

The 2018-2019 academic year proportion of total enrollment numbers according to program types are consistent with previous years. There has been a positive trend of total enrolled students over the past three years.

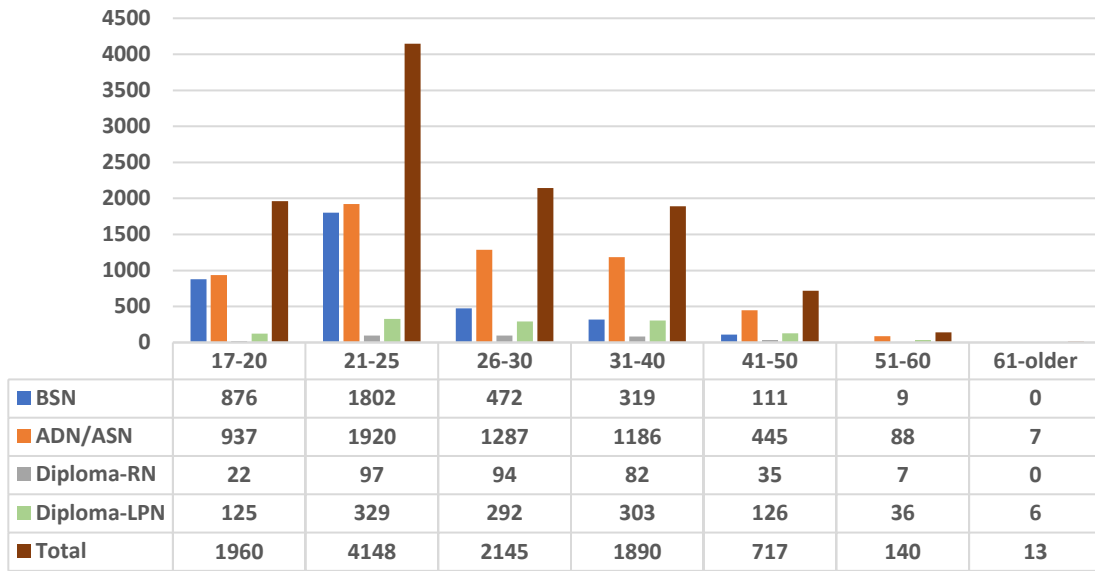
Total Graduates from NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Years 2017-2019



For the 2018-2019 academic year, graduate numbers were increased by 6% for total degree types from the 2017-2018 academic year. There were a total of 4,974 pre-licensure graduates in the 2018-2019 academic year as compared with 4,683 in the 2017-2018 academic year. Below are the percentages of nursing students for each degree type in the 2018-2019 academic year.

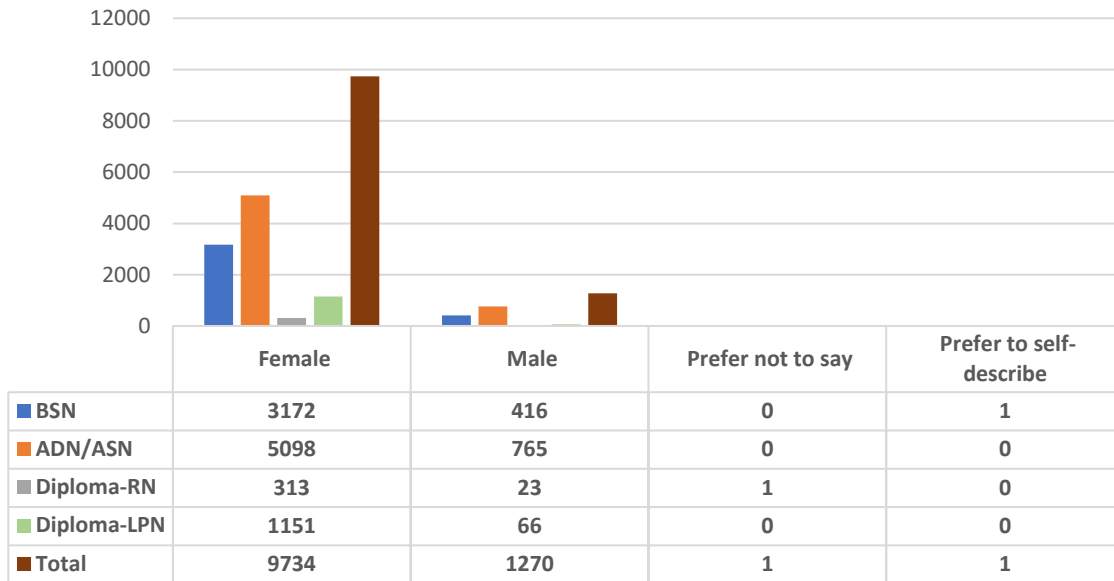
- BSN-32%
- ADN/ASN-48%
- Dip-RN-3%
- Dip-LPN-17%

Age Profile of Nursing Students Enrolled in NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Year 2018-2019



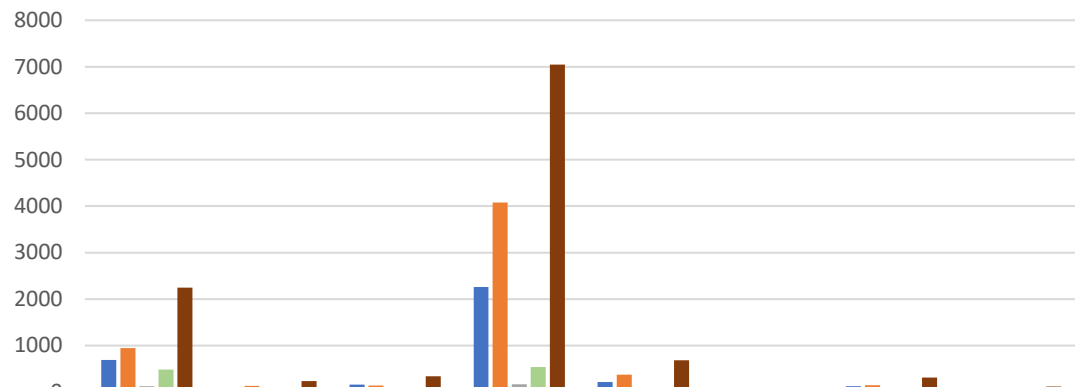
The age profile categories remained consistent from the 2017-2018 academic year. The largest age category was the 21-25 range. Total number of students is 11,013.

Total Enrollment of NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Students by Gender, Academic Year 2018-2019



The enrollment for male students in pre-licensure nursing programs is at 12% of total enrollment. This is an increase of 3% from the 2017-2018 academic year. Categories of “prefer not to say” and “prefer to self-describe” are included for the first time in this year’s report.

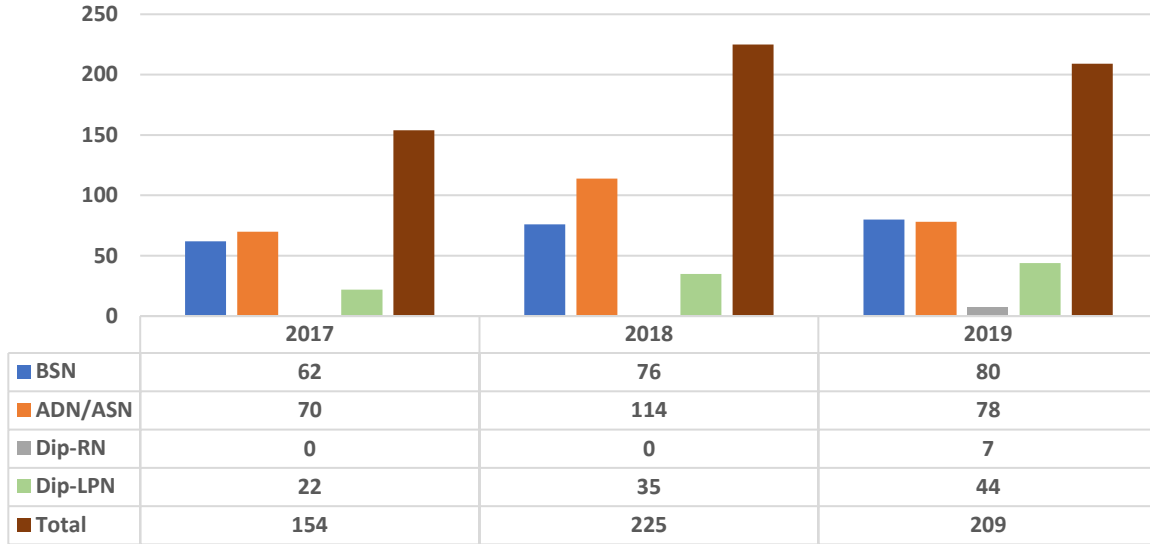
Enrolled NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Students by Race/Ethnicity, Academic Year 2018-2019



	African American/Black	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Caucasian/White	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Other	Unknown
BSN	691	48	162	2261	214	13	126	74
ADN/ASN	948	135	141	4076	377	14	145	37
Diploma-RN	124	5	7	167	18	1	14	1
Diploma-LPN	484	47	28	543	76	2	29	8
Total	2247	235	338	7047	685	30	314	120

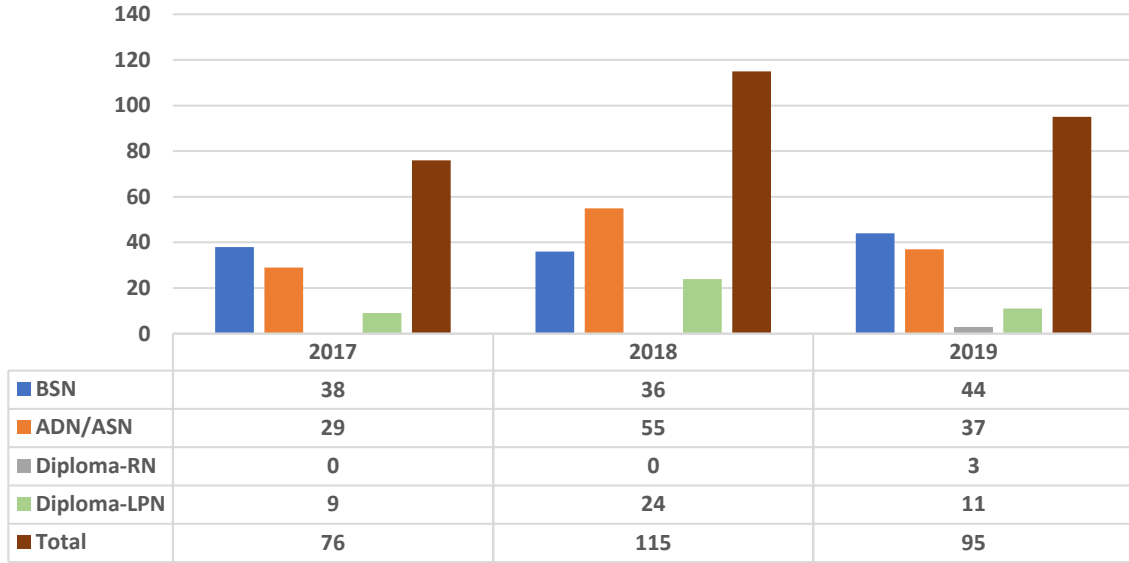
The diversity of nursing students based upon reported race and ethnicity remains consistent with the previous year's percentages.

Total Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Program Type, Academic Years 2017-2019



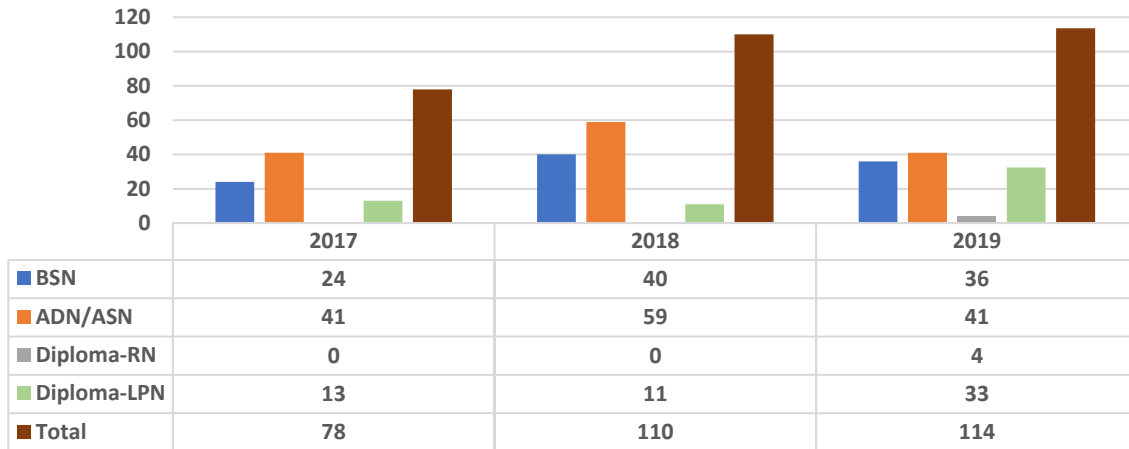
In 2018, there were 225 total faculty vacancies as compared to 2019 with 209 total faculty vacancies, a decrease of 7.1% in total faculty vacancies, however this remains higher than in 2017.

Full Time Faculty Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2017-2019



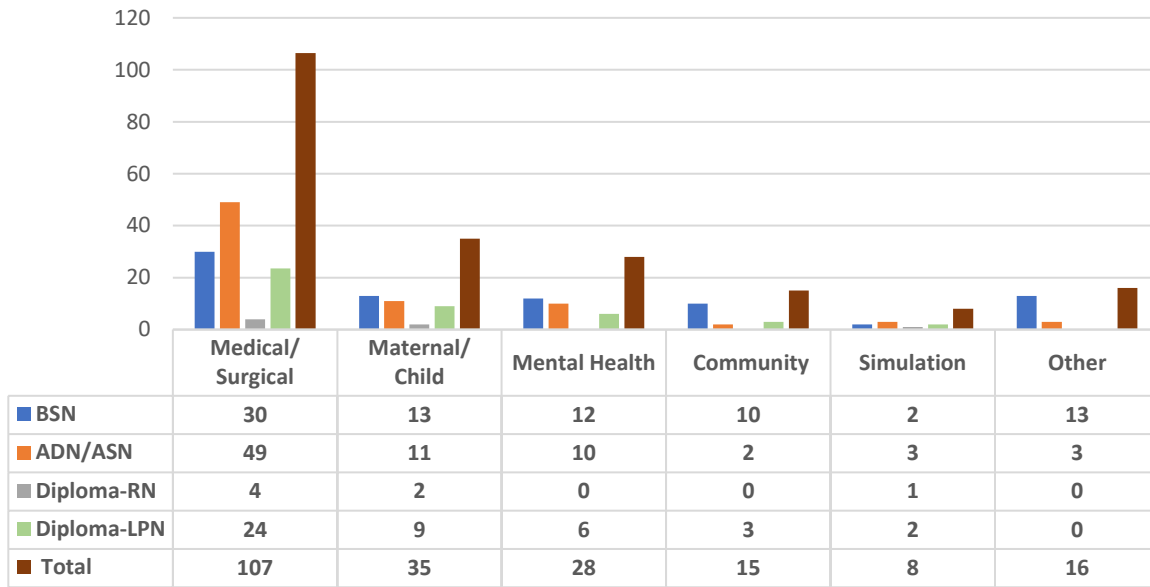
In 2019, there were 95 full-time vacancies. In 2018, there were 131 full-time faculty vacancies, a slight decrease in full-time faculty vacancies for 2019.

Part Time Vacancies by NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Type, Academic Years 2017-2019



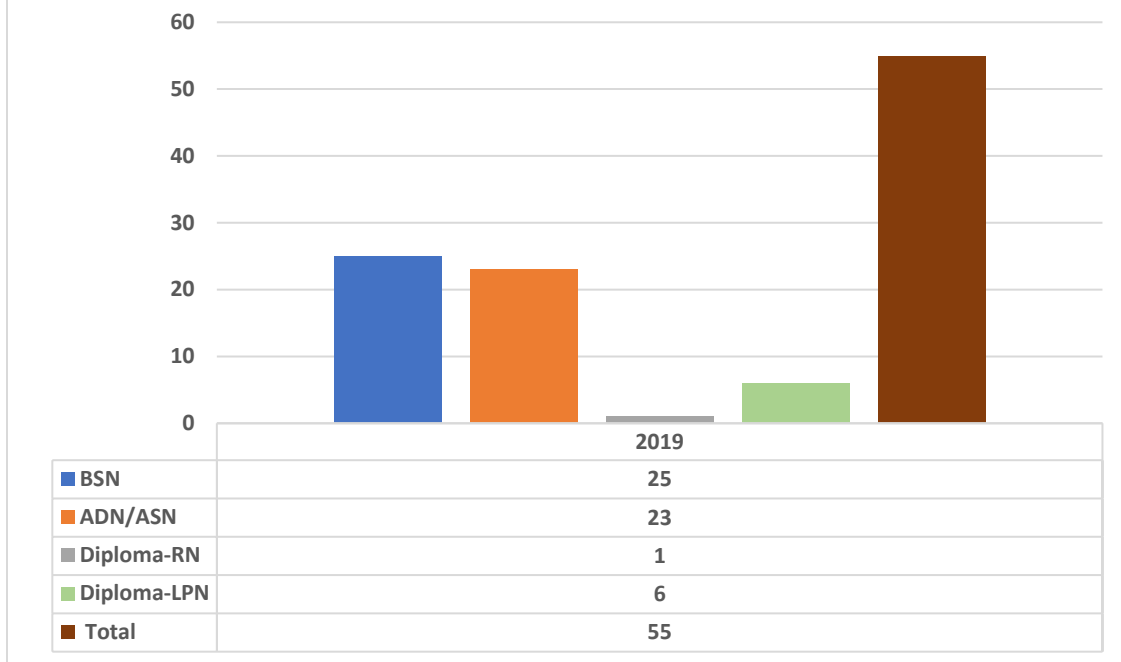
In 2019, there were 114 part-time vacancies. In 2018, there were 118 part-time faculty vacancies, and remains consistent for part-time faculty vacancies for 2019.

NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Program Faculty Vacancies by Program Type and Practice Specialty, Academic Year 2018-2019



In 2019, 107 of the 209 total faculty vacancies (51%) are in the medical/surgical practice specialty. In 2018, the medical/surgical practice category also had the most vacancies.

Accredited NC Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs, Academic Years 2018-2019



This chart details national nursing accreditation. National nursing accreditation is optional in NC but strongly encouraged for quality purposes. In NC, 55 out of 126 (44%) of pre-licensure nursing programs were nationally accredited in 2019, compared with 59 of 126 (47%) of pre-licensure nursing programs in 2018. Below are the accredited percentages according to degree type.

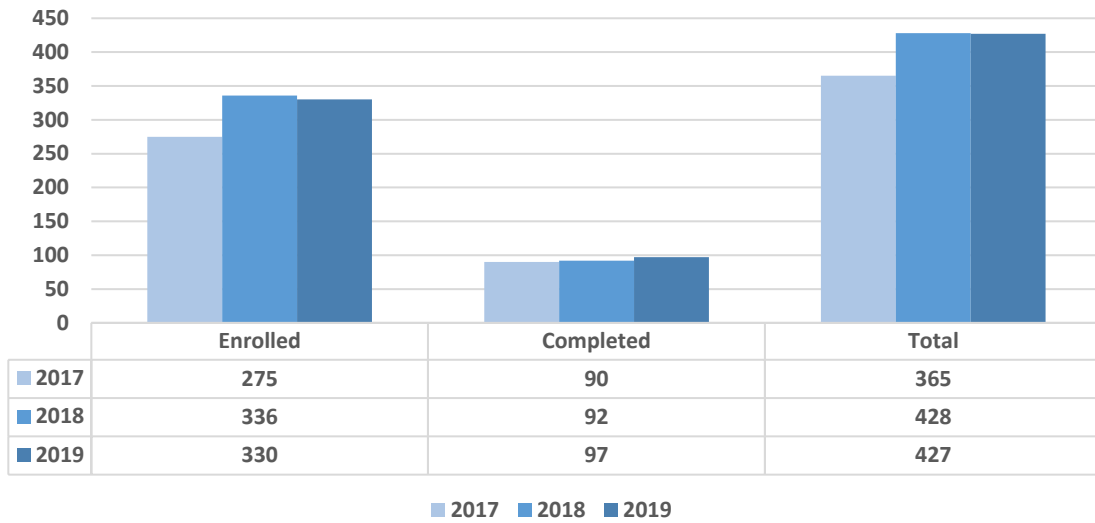
BSN-93% (two nursing programs are new programs going through the accreditation process)

ADN/ASN-41%

Diploma-RN-100%

Diplomas-LPN-21%

ADN Programs RIBN Data, Academic Years 2017-2019



The NC BON collects data tracking the number of students enrolled in the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) Program. The 2019 data is consistent with 2018. RIBN provides students with a four-year option in which they complete an Associate Degree and Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing in partnered nursing programs.