

# **California Board of Registered Nursing**

## **2009-2010 Annual School Report**

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Data Summary and Historical Trend Analysis

A Presentation of Post-Licensure Nursing Education Programs in California

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## **PREFACE**

### **Nursing Education Survey Background**

Development of the 2009-2010 Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) School Survey was the work of the Board's Education Advisory Committee (EAC), which consists of nursing education stakeholders from across California. A list of the EAC members is included in the Appendices. The University of California, San Francisco was commissioned by the BRN to develop the online survey instrument, administer the survey, and report data collected from the survey. Post-licensure programs were surveyed for the first time in 2004-2005. Revisions to the post-licensure sections of the survey may prevent comparability of some data.

Funding for this project was provided by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

### **Organization of Report**

The survey collects data about nursing programs and their students and faculty from August 1 through July 31. Annual data presented in this report represent August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010. Demographic information and census data were requested for October 15, 2010.

Data from pre- and post-licensure nursing education programs are presented in separate reports and will be available on the BRN website. Data are presented in aggregate form and describe overall trends in the areas and over the times specified and, therefore, may not be applicable to individual nursing education programs.

Statistics for enrollments and completions represent two separate student populations. Therefore, it is not possible to directly compare enrollment and completion data.

### **Value of the Survey**

This survey has been developed to support nursing, nursing education and workforce planning in California. The Board of Registered Nursing believes that the results of this survey will provide data-driven evidence to influence policy at the local, state, federal and institutional levels.

The BRN extends appreciation to the Education Advisory Committee and all survey respondents. Your participation has been vital to the success of this project.

## Survey Participation

All post-licensure nursing education programs in California were invited to participate in the survey. In 2009-2010, 32 RN to BSN programs, 31 Master's degree programs, and seven doctoral programs responded to the survey. A list of survey respondents is provided in Appendix A.

Since 2004-2005, the number of post-licensure programs in California grew by 23.1% (n=6) for RN to BSN programs, 29.2% (n=7) for Master's degree programs, and 40.0% (n=2) for doctoral programs. The greatest growth in the number of programs occurred between the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic years, as shown in the table below.

Program Type	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
RN to BSN Program	26	27	31	32	32	32
Master's Degree Program	24	27	30	29*	29	31
Doctoral Program	5	5	6	7	7	7

\*Although there were 29 master's degree programs in 2007-2008, only 28 programs reported data that year.

## DATA SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL TREND ANALYSIS

This analysis presents data from post-licensure nursing programs that responded to the 2009-2010 BRN School Survey in comparison with data from previous years of the survey. Since post-licensure programs offer a range of degrees, this report is presented in three sections: RN to BSN programs, Master's degree programs, and doctoral programs. Data presented include the number of nursing programs, enrollments, completions, and student and faculty census data. Faculty census data are presented separately since they are collected by school, not by program type.

### RN to BSN Programs

Between 2004-2005 and 2009-2010, the number of RN to BSN programs increased by 23.1% (n=6). Over the five-year time period, the share of RN to BSN programs offered at private schools increased from a low of 34.6% in 2004-2005 to a high of 40.6% in 2009-2010.

#### Number of RN to BSN Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b># Programs</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
Public Programs	65.4%	63.0%	61.3%	59.4%	59.4%	59.4%
Private Programs	34.6%	37.0%	38.7%	40.6%	40.6%	40.6%

### Program Information

Most RN to BSN programs use flexible course scheduling such as block schedules and evening and weekend courses as methods of increasing RN access to the program. More than half of RN to BSN programs also use distance education to improve program access. The use of flexible course scheduling has increased steadily since 2004-2005, while the use of distance education approaches has declined in recent years. Some programs provide courses in work settings and partial funding of classes by the work site of the RN enrolled in the program.

### Approaches to Increase RN Access to the Program

Approaches	Academic Year					
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs
Flexibility in course scheduling (block schedules, evening/weekend courses)	61.5%	63.0%	64.5%	72.1%	74.1%	81.5%
Teleconferencing, online, and other distance education modes	46.2%	51.9%	58.1%	68.0%	66.7%	55.6%
Partial funding of classes by work setting	30.8%	44.4%	41.9%	32.0%	33.3%	44.4%
Courses provided in work settings	30.8%	37.0%	29.0%	40.1%	33.3%	37.0%
Number of programs	26	27	31	25	27	27

More than half of the RN to BSN programs have direct articulation of ADN coursework or a specific program advisor to award credit for prior education and experience to their students. Some schools also use specific upper division courses or a two-plus-two program. The use of both of these mechanisms to award credit has increased each year since 2007-2008. A limited number of programs use portfolios to document competencies and testing to award credit to ADN prepared nurses entering their program.

### Mechanisms to Award Credit for Prior Education and Experience

Approaches	Academic Year					
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs	% of Programs
Direct articulation of ADN coursework	73.1%	55.6%	73.3%	64.0%	70.0%	72.4%
Specific program advisor	46.2%	59.3%	36.7%	52.0%	60.0%	51.7%
Tests to award credit (NLN achievement tests or challenge exams)	23.1%	40.7%	36.7%	36.0%	20.0%	17.2%
Specific upper division courses	11.5%	37.0%	26.7%	16.0%	30.0%	31.0%
Portfolios to document competencies	15.4%	18.5%	13.3%	24.0%	16.7%	17.2%
Two-plus-two programs	7.7%	18.5%	10.0%	16.0%	23.3%	27.6%
Number of programs	26	27	31	25	30	29

### New Student Enrollments

Admission spaces available for new student enrollments in RN to BSN programs more than doubled in the last six years, from 1,006 spaces in 2004-2005 to 2,396 in 2009-2010. These spaces were filled with a total of 2,126 students, more than tripling new student enrollment since 2004-2005. The decrease in the number of admission spaces available between 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 is likely due to fewer schools reporting these data than to an actual drop in spaces available. Although there was a drop in new student enrollment between 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, new student enrollment has been increasing since then.

### Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollment in RN to BSN Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Admission Spaces Available*	1,006	1,851	2,296	1,998	2,286	2,396
New Student Enrollments	666	1,665	1,438	1,759	1,985	2,126
% Spaces Filled	66.2%	90.0%	62.6%	88.0%	86.8%	88.7%

\*If admission spaces were not provided in the data, the number of new enrollments was used as the number of available admission spaces.

In 2009-2010, 20.8% (n=559) of qualified applications to RN to BSN programs were not accepted for admission, illustrating that a greater share of qualified applications were accepted in the last two years than in previous years. In 2005-2006, a new RN to BSN program began accepting students. Since this program accepts all qualified applicants, the increase in qualified applicants accepted from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006 is largely due to the addition of this program.

### Applications\* for Admission to RN to BSN Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b>Qualified Applications</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,341</b>	<b>2,769</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>2,685</b>
<i>Accepted</i>	666	1,665	1,438	1,759	1,985	2,126
<i>Not Accepted</i>	312	1,376	903	1,010	379	559
% Qualified Applications <i>Not Accepted</i>	31.9%	45.2%	38.6%	36.5%	16.0%	20.8%

\*Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, the increase in qualified applications may not represent an equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

### Student Completions

The number of students that completed an RN to BSN program in California more than tripled in the past six years, from 439 in 2004-2005 to 1,405 in 2009-2010. There were slightly fewer students who completed an RN to BSN program in 2009-2010 than in the previous year.

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Completions	439	973	1,044	1,006	1,439	1,405

### Student Census Data

The total number of students enrolled in RN to BSN programs more than doubled from 1,243 on October 15, 2005 to 3,356 five years later. The student census was at its highest in 2009.

	Year					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Student Census	1,243	--*	3,132	2,959	3,482	3,356

\*Data not collected in the given year.

### Summary

RN to BSN programs enrolled and graduated more students in 2009-2010 than in 2004-2005. Since several of the programs commented that their RN to BSN programs are exclusively online, many of them reported accepting all qualified applicants to the program. Therefore, the number of qualified applications, new student enrollments and student census are variable and highly dependent on interest in the RN to BSN program.

### Master's Degree Programs

Master's degree programs offer post-licensure nursing education in functional areas such as nursing education and administration, as well as advanced practice nursing areas (i.e. nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse midwife, nurse anesthetist, and school nurse).

In 2009-2010, 31 schools offered a Master's degree program including at least one of the aforementioned components. Of the schools that offer a Master's degree program, 58.1% are public programs.

In addition to the 31 Master's degree programs, California has three Advanced Practice Nursing Certificate Programs. These certificate programs partner with existing Master's degree programs in California. Student data from these certificate programs are reported in aggregate with data from the Master's degree programs.

### Number of Master's Degree Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b># Programs</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28*</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>
Public Programs	58.3%	55.6%	56.7%	57.1%	55.2%	58.1%
Private Programs	41.7%	44.4%	43.3%	42.9%	44.8%	41.9%

\*Although there were 29 Master's degree programs in 2007-08, only 28 programs reported data that year.

### New Student Enrollments

Since 2004-2005, admission spaces available for new student enrollments in Master's degree programs more than doubled (n=1,665). These spaces were filled with a total of 2,464 students, more than doubling new student enrollment (n=1,798) in the last six years.

### Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollment in Master's Degree Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Admission Spaces Available*	1,006	1,851	2,296	1,998	2,286	2,671
New Student Enrollments	666	1,665	1,438	1,759	1,985	2,464
% Spaces Filled	66.2%	90.0%	62.6%	88.0%	86.8%	92.3%

\*If admission spaces were not provided in the data, the number of new enrollments was used as the number of available admission spaces.

More qualified applications for admission were submitted to Master's degree programs in 2009-2010 than in any of the preceding five years. However, the number of new enrollment spaces grew at a slower rate, resulting in 33.8% (n=1,259) of qualified applications not accepted for admission in 2009-2010. The drop in qualified applications between 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 may be due to changes to the survey over the time period and to fewer schools reporting the number of qualified applications in 2007-2008 than in previous years than to an actual drop in the number of qualified applications over the time period.

### Applications\* for Admission to Master's Degree Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b>Qualified Applications</b>	<b>2,338</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>3,723</b>
<i>Accepted</i>	1,169	1,635	1,722	1,965	2,147	2,464
<i>Not Accepted</i>	1,169	1,344	921	135	613	1,259
% Qualified Applications <i>Not Accepted</i>	50.0%	45.1%	34.8%	6.4%	22.2%	33.8%

\*Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, the increase in qualified applications may not represent an equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

### Student Completions

The number of students who completed a Master's degree program in California increased by 81.4% (n=714) since 2004-2005.

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Completions	877	1,221	1,239	1,298	1,538	1,591

Nurse practitioners represent the largest share of graduates from Master's degree programs in each of the last four years, even though the number of students who completed nurse practitioner programs in 2009-2010 (n=616) was about the same as the previous year (n=622). All other specialty areas except administration/leadership had more students complete their programs in 2009-2010 than in 2006-2007.

### Student Completions by Program Track or Specialty Area\*

Program Track/Specialty Area	Academic Year			
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Nursing education	151	183	233	232
Administration/leadership	205	126	154	163
Clinical Nurse Specialist	128	179	213	198
Nurse Practitioner	597	567	622	616
Certified Nurse Midwife	21	26	15	27
Certified Nurse Anesthetist	59	54	71	76
School Nurse	3	10	10	47
Clinical Nurse Leader	**	**	67	55
Case Management <sup>2</sup>	--	--	11	33
Community Health <sup>2</sup>	--	--	2	19
Ambulatory Care <sup>2</sup>	--	--	19	19
Nurse Generalist <sup>2</sup>	--	--	139	53
Other specialty	75	153	42	97
<b>Total Student Completions</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,538<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>1,591<sup>1</sup></b>

\*These data were not collected prior to 2006-2007.

\*\*These data were not collected prior to 2008-2009.

1- Students who double-majored were counted in each specialty area for the first time in 2008-09.

Therefore, the sum of completions by specialty area may be greater than the total completions, which represent individual students that completed a MSN program in the given year.

2- Answer choice submitted by survey respondents.

More than half (58.8%) of nurse practitioners graduate with a specialty in family nursing, while about 20% graduate with specialties in acute care or pediatrics.

#### Student Completions by Nurse Practitioner Specialty\*

	Academic Year			
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009**	2009-2010**
<b>Nurse Practitioners</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>616</b>
Acute care	7.2%	8.8%	10.9%	12.2%
Adult	6.5%	14.8%	4.7%	8.4%
Family	58.3%	53.1%	62.5%	58.8%
Gerontology	3.5%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%
Neonatal	0.2%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%
Occupational health	1.0%	0.7%	1.3%	1.9%
Pediatric	7.5%	6.2%	8.5%	9.3%
Psychiatric/mental health	2.8%	1.9%	1.6%	3.2%
Women's health	8.4%	7.4%	5.0%	1.9%
Other	4.5%	2.8%	5.9%	2.1%

\*These data were not collected prior to 2006-07.

\*\*NPs with double majors were counted in each category for the first time in 2008-09. Therefore, the percentages do not equal 100.

#### Student Census Data

The total number of students enrolled in Master's degree programs almost doubled (n=2,331) in the past six years. The slight drop in student census between 2007 and 2008 may be due to changes in the survey instrument rather than to an actual drop in the student census.

	Year					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Student Census	2,375	3,559	3,989	3,823	4,358	4,706

#### Summary

Since 2007-2008, schools have been receiving more qualified applications to their Master's degree programs but have been unable to accommodate the increased interest in their programs. Despite the growth in the number of qualified applications not accepted for admission, Master's programs enrolled and graduated more nurses in 2009-2010 than in 2004-2005. The majority of students that completed a Master's degree in 2009-2010 graduated from nurse practitioner programs. More than half (58.8%) of these nurse practitioners specialized in family nursing. As more students complete the nursing education track in Master's degree programs, more qualified candidates for nursing faculty positions enter the nursing workforce.

## Doctoral Programs

Limited data were requested from doctoral programs in 2004-2005. Therefore, some of the data presented do not include data from that year of the survey.

The number of doctoral nursing programs in California has grown since 2004-2005. In 2009-2010, there were seven nursing doctoral programs in California. Of these programs, 71.4% (n=5) of them were offered at private schools.

### Number of Doctoral Programs

	Academic Year					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b># Programs</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Public Programs	40.0%	40.0%	33.3%	28.6%	28.6%	28.6%
Private Programs	60.0%	60.0%	66.7%	71.4%	71.4%	71.4%

### New Student Enrollments

Admission spaces available for new student enrollments in doctoral programs increased by 78.7% (n=70) since 2005-2006. While the number of admission spaces available decreased slightly between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, the share of those spaces filled with new student enrollments increased to 158 students – more than doubling new student enrollment (n=87) since 2005-2006.

### Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollment in Doctoral Programs

	Academic Year				
	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Admission Spaces Available*	89	74	109	163	159
New Student Enrollments	71	57	106	112	158
% Spaces Filled	79.8%	77.0%	97.2%	68.7%	99.4%

\*If admission spaces were not provided in the data, the number of new enrollments was used as the number of available admission spaces.

The number of qualified applications to doctoral programs more than doubled (n=126) since 2006-2007. In 2009-2010, 21.4% (n=43) of these qualified applications were not accepted for admission.

### Applications\* for Admission to Doctoral Programs

	Academic Year			
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
<b>Qualified Applications</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>201</b>
Accepted	57	106	112	158
Not Accepted	18	3	8	43
% Qualified Applications Not Accepted	24.0%	2.8%	6.7%	21.4%

\*Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, the increase in qualified applications may not represent an equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

### *Student Completions*

The number of students that completed a nursing doctoral program in California more than doubled (n=35) in the past six years, from 29 in 2004-2005 to 64 in 2009-2010.

	<b>Academic Year</b>					
	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010
Completions	29	42	57	39	49	64

### *Student Census Data*

The total number of students enrolled in doctoral programs increased by 71.7% (n=180) in six years, from 251 students on October 15, 2005 to 431 five years later.

	<b>Year</b>					
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Student Census	251	--*	291	309	407	431

\*Data not collected in the given year.

### *Summary*

The number of students pursuing doctoral degrees has increased over the past six years. As more students complete these programs, more nursing researchers and more qualified applicants for nursing faculty positions will enter the nursing workforce.

### **Faculty Census Data**

Faculty data for post-licensure programs were requested for the first time in the 2005-2006 survey. These data were collected by school, not by degree program. Therefore, faculty data represent post-licensure programs as a whole, not a specific degree program.

On October 15, 2010, post-licensure programs reported a total of 1,169 faculty that taught post-licensure courses, even if the faculty member also had a teaching role in the pre-licensure programs offered at the school. Although the data show a decrease in the number of faculty over the last year, this decrease is likely due to changes in how faculty data were collected rather than to an actual decrease in the number of faculty.<sup>1</sup>

Of the 39 schools that offered post-licensure nursing programs in 2009-2010, 69.2% (n=27) reported sharing faculty with the pre-licensure programs offered at their school. Among the 27

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2009-2010, if schools reported that pre-licensure faculty were used to teach post-licensure programs, it was assumed that all pre-licensure faculty had a post-licensure teaching role. Feedback from nursing school deans and directors indicated that this assumption was not always true. Therefore, these questions were modified in 2009-2010 to collect data on the number of faculty that exclusively teach post-licensure students and the share of the pre-licensure faculty that also teach post-licensure courses.

schools that share faculty, an average of 35.7% of their pre-licensure faculty taught both pre- and post-licensure students. Twenty-four schools reported that they have some faculty that exclusively taught post-licensure students, while 15 schools reported that all of their post-licensure faculty also teach pre-licensure students. Since many programs use the same faculty for pre- and post-licensure programs, 30.3% (n=354) of the 1,169 total post-licensure faculty reported in 2010 were also reported as pre-licensure faculty.

Post-licensure nursing programs reported 60 vacant faculty positions for the 2009-2010 academic year. These vacancies represent a 4.9% faculty vacancy rate.

#### Faculty Census Data<sup>1</sup>

	Year				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010*
<b>Total Faculty</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>1,909</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,169</b>
<i>Full-time</i>	498	628	639	656	267
<i>Part-time</i>	1,046	977	1,270	1,157	549
<b>Vacancy Rate**</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
<i>Vacancies</i>	49	102	96	63	60

\*Faculty data were collected differently in 2009-10 than in previous years. Therefore, the full-time and part-time faculty do not equal the total number of faculty reported.

\*\*Vacancy rate = number of vacancies/(total faculty + number of vacancies)

1- Data were reported by school, *not* by degree program.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A – List of Survey Respondents by Degree Program

#### *RN to BSN Programs (32)*

Azusa Pacific University	Humboldt State University
California Baptist University	Loma Linda University
CSU Bakersfield	Mount Saint Mary's College
CSU Chico	National University
CSU Dominguez Hills	Pacific Union College
CSU East Bay	Point Loma Nazarene University
CSU Fresno	San Diego State University
CSU Fullerton	San Francisco State University
CSU Long Beach	San Jose State University
CSU Los Angeles	Sonoma State University
CSU Northridge	University of California Los Angeles
CSU Sacramento	University of Phoenix - Northern California
CSU San Bernardino	University of Phoenix - Southern California
CSU San Marcos	University of San Diego
CSU Stanislaus	West Coast University – Los Angeles
Holy Names University	West Coast University – Orange County

#### *Master's Degree Programs (31)*

Azusa Pacific University	Point Loma Nazarene University
CSU Bakersfield	Samuel Merritt University
CSU Chico	San Diego State University
CSU Dominguez Hills	San Francisco State University
CSU Fresno	San Jose State University
CSU Fullerton	Sonoma State University
CSU Long Beach	*University of California Irvine
CSU Los Angeles	University of California Los Angeles
CSU Sacramento	University of California San Francisco
CSU San Bernardino	University of Phoenix - Northern California
*CSU San Marcos	University of Phoenix - Southern California
CSU Stanislaus	University of San Diego
Dominican University	University of San Francisco
Holy Names University	University of Southern California
Loma Linda University	Western University of Health Sciences
Mount Saint Mary's College	

#### *Advanced Practice Nursing Certificate Programs (3)*

Kaiser School of Anesthesia/CSU Fullerton  
 University of California Davis  
 UCSF-San Francisco General Midwifery Program

#### *Doctoral Programs (7)*

Azusa Pacific University	University of San Diego
Loma Linda University	University of San Francisco
University of California Los Angeles	Western University of Health Sciences
University of California San Francisco	

\* - New programs in 2009-2010

