



Florida's Nursing Education Programs Continued to Expand in 2015

at a glance

To address the nursing shortage in Florida, the 2009 Legislature modified how the Board of Nursing oversees nursing education programs. The intent of these modifications was to increase the number of nursing programs and qualified nurses in Florida.

Since the legislation took effect in July 2009, the number of nursing education programs has increased by 116%.

Between the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years,

- the number of nursing student seats increased by 7%;
- enrollment in nursing programs increased by 5%, with the greatest increase occurring in bachelor's degree in nursing generic programs;
- nursing program retention rates remained the same at 82%; and
- the number of students graduating from nursing programs increased by 4%.

Most 2012-13 practical nursing program graduates (62%), associate degree graduates (78%), and bachelor's degree graduates (83%) were licensed and likely employed as a nurse in Florida in 2014.

Scope

The Legislature directed OPPAGA to conduct a series of annual reviews of the Board of Nursing's administration of the program approval and accountability processes for

nursing programs through the year 2020.¹ This report addresses how nursing programs' capacity, enrollment, and student outcomes have changed since the previous academic year.² OPPAGA will issue a subsequent report on nursing licensure exam data for the 2015 calendar year, as this data was not available at the time of publication.³

Background

To ensure quality nursing practice, Ch. 464, *Florida Statutes*, establishes the Florida Board of Nursing and grants the board authority to adopt rules, discipline nurses who violate regulations, and approve and monitor nursing education programs.⁴ In 2009, the Legislature modified the process for approving new nursing

¹ Chapters [2009-168](#), [2010-37](#), and [2014-92](#), *Laws of Florida*.

² Prior related OPPAGA reports are *Board of Nursing Addressed Statutory Changes; Nursing Program Capacity Expanded in 2009-10*, OPPAGA [Report No. 11-06](#), January 2011; *Florida's Nursing Education Programs Continued to Expand in 2011 with Significant Increases in Student Enrollment and Graduates*, OPPAGA [Report No. 12-04](#), January 2012; *Florida's Nursing Education Programs Continued to Expand in 2012 with Increases in Program Capacity, Student Enrollment, and Graduates*, OPPAGA [Report 13-03](#), January 2013; *Florida's Nursing Education Programs Continued to Expand in 2013, While Licensure Exams Passage Rates of New Programs Declined*, OPPAGA [Report No. 14-03](#), January 2014; *Florida's Nursing Education Programs Continued to Expand in 2014*, OPPAGA [Report No. 15-04](#).

³ For more information, refer to *Over One-Third of Nursing Programs Had Licensure Exam Passage Rates Below the Required Legislative Standard in 2014*, OPPAGA [Report 15-07](#).

⁴ New programs submit an application, fees, and supporting documents to the board office, which then reviews the application for any errors or deficiencies. Upon the receipt of a complete application, board staff places the program's application on the Board of Nursing's agenda for approval. The board monitors approved nursing programs by reviewing their students' scores on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

education programs by removing rulemaking authority from the Board of Nursing and specifying the nursing education program approval process in statute.⁵

The 2014 Legislature made additional revisions in Florida law related to nursing programs. For example, the revisions limited a program’s exam passage rate to only include first-time test takers within six months after graduation.⁶ They also required that nursing programs that enrolled students before July 1, 2014, be accredited by no later than July 2019 and all other programs must be accredited within five years after enrolling the first students.⁷ The 2014 law also allows the Florida Board of Nursing to extend a program’s probationary status for one additional year if the program demonstrates adequate progress toward the graduate passage rate goal by meeting a majority of the benchmarks established in the remediation plan.⁸

⁵ Chapter [2009-168](#), *Laws of Florida*.

⁶ Previously, there was no requirement to only include graduates who took the exam within six months of their graduation date.

⁷ Programs must be accredited by a specialized nursing accrediting agency that is nationally recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education programs.

⁸ The law requires approved nursing programs to have a minimum graduate licensure exam passage rate. If a program’s passage rate falls 10% below the national average for two consecutive calendar years, it is placed on probation, and must submit a remediation plan and increase its passage rate so that it equals or exceeds the required passage rate within the timeframes specified in s. 464.019 (5)(a)(3), *F.S.*

We surveyed nursing education programs in Florida to obtain information on their programs for the 2014-15 academic year; 320 programs responded to our survey and had students enrolled.^{9, 10, 11} As shown in Exhibit 1, these included 130 programs that offered a licensed practical nursing certificate, 147 programs that offered an associate degree in nursing, and 43 programs that offered a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Many of these programs offered both a generic curriculum (also called a track) for students with no medical experience and a bridge curriculum, which is an expedited program for students with nursing licenses or previous medical experience.¹²

⁹ Indiana State University offers one of Florida’s nursing education programs through a distance learning nursing program that awards a bachelor of science in nursing degree. At Indiana State University students must have a practical nursing certificate to be admitted. This program is not included in this total.

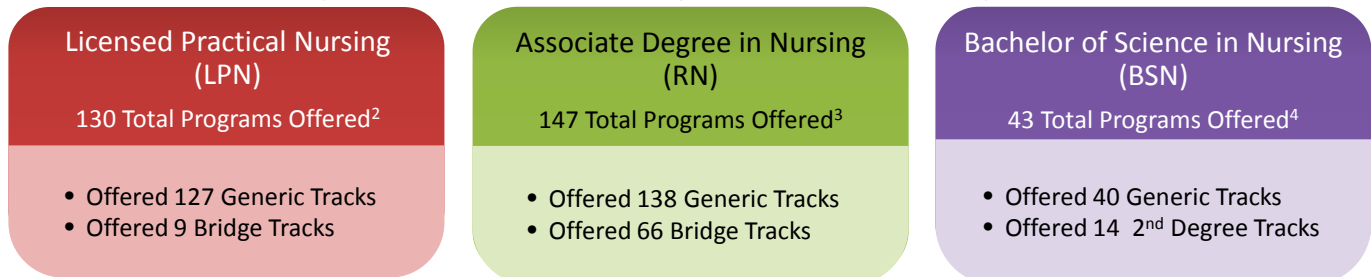
¹⁰ In the 2014-15 academic year, there were 393 open nursing programs, of which 61 did not have any students enrolled and 12 did not respond to our survey. A total of 320 nursing programs completed our 2014-15 survey.

¹¹ Of the total 320 programs that responded to our survey, 304 programs were open as of December 2015; 10 programs had voluntarily closed as of December 2015; and 6 were terminated by the Florida Board of Nursing as of December 2015.

¹² Section [464.019](#), *F.S.*, does not differentiate between bridge and generic curriculum tracks. In addition, the Florida Board of Nursing does not make a distinction between generic, bridge, or accelerated tracks.

Exhibit 1

During the 2014-15 Academic Year, Florida Nursing Education Programs That Responded to Our Survey Offered Licensed Practical Nursing Certificates, Associate’s Degrees, and Bachelor’s Degrees¹



¹ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results. Three of the twelve non-responsive programs were BSN programs.

² Six licensed practical nurse programs have both a generic and a bridge curriculum track and three have a bridge-only track.

³ Fifty-seven associate degree programs have both a generic and a bridge curriculum track and nine have a bridge-only track.

⁴ Eleven bachelor’s degree programs have both a generic curriculum track and a 2nd degree curriculum track and three programs only have a 2nd degree track. In addition, Indiana State University is not included in these totals but has a distance bachelor’s degree program that admits Florida students.

Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs and analysis.

These nursing programs were offered by public school districts, Florida colleges, state universities, private institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent Education, and private institutions that are members of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF). In addition, state law authorizes Pensacola Christian College to offer a bachelor of science in nursing degree.^{13, 14}

Findings

How many new nursing programs did the board approve, and how is the board monitoring programs?

Since the 2009 law took effect, the Board of Nursing approved 269 new nursing programs, bringing the total number of nursing programs in the state to 369 (a 116% increase since 2009).¹⁵ In 2015, there were 64 nursing programs on probation and the board terminated 9 programs for failure to meet the statutory requirements.

Overall, the number of nursing programs has increased by 116% since the 2009 law went into effect.¹⁶ As of December 2015, there were

369 open nursing programs statewide, compared to 171 open prior to July 2009.^{17, 18, 19} This represents a 116% increase in the number of nursing education programs since the statutory changes took effect.

The Board of Nursing approved 269 programs since the 2009 law took effect. As shown in Exhibit 2, all but 19 of the programs that applied since the law took effect have been approved.²⁰

During calendar year 2015, the board considered 25 new nursing program applications and approved 24. The one program that was denied did not provide verification of an appropriate clinical training site. Most (19 of 24) of the newly approved programs in 2015 were offered by private institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent Education, one was offered by a school district technical center, one was part of a school district program, and three were offered by a member of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.²¹

¹³ Section [1005.06\(1\)\(e\)](#), *F.S.*

¹⁴ Nursing education programs in Florida that hold specialized nursing accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) are not regulated by the Florida Board of Nursing. However, these programs still responded to our survey and are included in the 320 total programs.

¹⁵ Exhibit 1 describes only programs that responded to our 2014-15 survey (320). However, this findings section of the report is based on all programs as of December 2015.

¹⁶ OPPAGA [Report No. 15-04](#) revised the method used to calculate the percentage increase of new nursing programs since the new law took effect. In addition, it revised information presented in Exhibit 2 to remove five programs that were duplicated. Therefore, these figures should not be compared to similar data presented in OPPAGA reports published before 2015.

¹⁷ There were 171 open nursing education programs prior to the statutory changes. Of these, 16 were closed and 8 had been terminated as of December 2015, resulting in 147 programs open prior to the law taking effect that were still open at the end of 2015.

¹⁸ There were 269 nursing programs approved since the law took effect. As of December 2015, 9 of these programs have been terminated and 38 have closed voluntarily, resulting in 222 programs that were approved since the law took effect that were still open at the end of 2015.

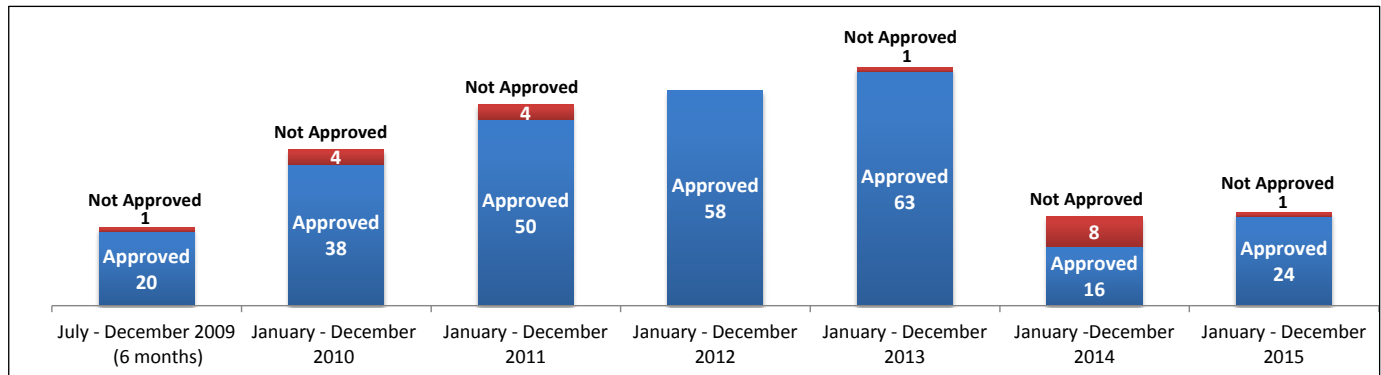
¹⁹ In the 2014-15 academic year, there were 393 open nursing programs, of which 61 did not have any students enrolled and 12 did not respond to our survey. A total of 320 nursing programs completed our 2014-15 survey.

²⁰ Prior to the law taking effect, 17 of 18 nursing program applications were approved from January 2008 through June 2009.

²¹ This is an unduplicated count of program applications and board approvals from January through December 2015. Programs may waive the committee's review of their application, or their applications may be denied.

Exhibit 2

Since the 2009 Law Went Into Effect, 269 of the 288 Nursing Programs That Applied Were Approved¹



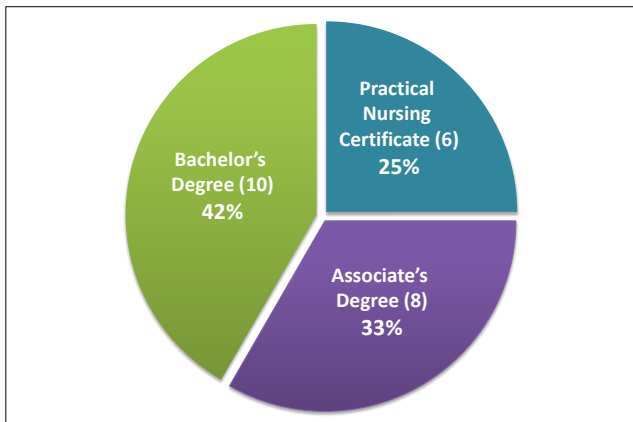
¹ Of the 269 programs approved since the statutory changes took effect, 47 were closed or terminated as of December 2015.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of Florida Board of Nursing data.

As shown in Exhibit 3, 10 of the new programs approved in 2015 award bachelor’s degrees, 8 award associate’s degrees, and 6 award practical nursing certificates.

Exhibit 3

Most Nursing Programs Approved in 2015 Offer Bachelor’s Degrees



Source: OPPAGA analysis of Florida Board of Nursing data.

In 2015, 64 nursing programs in Florida were on probation. The law requires approved nursing programs to have a minimum average graduate licensure exam passage rate. If a program’s average passage rate falls 10 percentage points below the national average for two consecutive calendar years, it is placed on probation, must submit a corrective action plan, and must increase its average passage rate within two

years.²² If a program does not improve within two calendar years of being placed on probation, the board may close the program; however, the board may extend the probation for one more year if the program demonstrates adequate progress toward the graduate passage rate goal.

During 2015, a total of 64 nursing programs were on probation (50 of these programs were created since 2009).²³ Of these, 24 were placed on probation in 2015, 29 had been on probation in 2014, and 11 were on probation prior to 2014.²⁴ In 2015, the Board of Nursing terminated nine programs for failure to meet the statutory requirements.²⁵

²² Section [464.019, F.S.](#), specifies that the first calendar year of scores the board could use was 2010. As a result, 2012 was the first year the board could place programs on probation using the criteria in law, based on calendar years 2010 and 2011.

²³ Thirty-one practical nursing programs and thirty-three associate degree in nursing programs were on probation.

²⁴ Six of the programs that were on probation in 2014 voluntarily closed in 2015.

²⁵ In April 2015, the Board of Nursing adopted an alternative interpretation of s. [464.019\(5\)\(a\)\(3\), F.S.](#), which changed the length of time the board allows nursing programs to remain on probation before termination. Under the alternative interpretation, if a program fails to meet the statutory requirement after one year of probation, the board terminates the program. In addition, the board now terminates programs that have no graduates who take the NCLEX in the calendar year that immediately follows their placement on probation. However, programs can appeal these termination decisions and request a one-year extension of probation. Prior to April 2015, the board allowed programs to remain on probation for two years prior to termination. Board staff reported that this change affected programs that were on their first year of probation in 2014 and all programs placed on probation subsequently.

As of December 2015, 82 of the 369 nursing education programs in Florida were accredited. To improve program quality, the 2014 Legislature revised Florida law to require that all nursing education programs that enrolled students before July 1, 2014, be accredited by July 1, 2019; all other programs must be accredited within five years of first enrolling students.²⁶ At the end of 2015, 82 nursing education programs had the accreditation required by Florida statutes. Accreditation varied among program types: 35 bachelor's degree programs, 40 associate degree programs, and 7 practical nursing programs were accredited.

How have nursing programs' capacity, enrollment, and student outcomes changed since the prior year?

From 2013-14 to 2014-15, the number of seats available in nursing education programs for qualified students and the number of students

²⁶ Programs must be accredited by a specialized nursing accrediting agency that is nationally recognized by the United States Secretary of Education to accredit nursing education programs.

enrolled in the programs both increased. During the period, student retention rates remained the same and the number of students graduating from nursing programs increased slightly. Most graduates were licensed and likely employed as nurses in Florida, although the percentage employed varied by type of program.

The number of seats available in nursing education programs and the number of admitted students who subsequently enrolled both increased. As shown in Exhibit 4, the overall number of seats available for qualified students increased by 3,412, or 7%, from academic year 2013-14 to 2014-15.²⁷

Although there was an increase in the number of seats available, there was a small decrease (less than 1%) in the number of student applications received, and subsequently a small decrease in the number of qualified applicants to be considered for admission. However, there was a 2% increase in students admitted and in the number of students approved for admission who actually enrolled in nursing programs during the period.

²⁷ Florida law allows existing programs to increase their number of available seats without board approval.

**Exhibit 4
Program Seats, Students Admitted, and Students Admitted Who Enrolled Increased From 2013-14 to 2014-15¹**

Capacity Measure	2012-13	2013-14 ²	2014-15	Percentage Change 2013-14 to 2014-15
Seats	47,279	48,157	51,569	7%
Applications Received	62,970	63,241	63,066	<-1%
Qualified Applicants	41,262	42,468	42,014	-1%
Students Admitted	27,621	29,481	30,169	2%
Students Admitted Who Enrolled	23,981	25,869	26,306	2%

¹ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results.

² As part of the 2014-15 survey, programs were allowed to update their 2013-14 seats data. All other 2013-14 data is taken from last year's report.

Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs.

Total student enrollment in nursing programs increased overall from 2013-14 to 2014-15, but enrollment in some curriculum types declined. As shown in Exhibit 5, from 2013-14 to 2014-15 overall student enrollment in nursing programs changed from 40,216 to 42,323, an increase of 2,107 students (5%). This increase is due to 23 more programs reporting enrollment in 2014-15 than in 2013-14. During the period, the associate degree in nursing generic curriculum and bachelor’s degree in nursing programs (both generic curriculum and 2nd degree programs) experienced an increase in student

enrollment. The largest percentage increase in enrollment was in bachelor’s degree in nursing generic curriculum at 25%.

In contrast, enrollment in the remaining three curriculum types declined. Student enrollment in licensed practical nursing bridge programs had the largest decrease, from 295 students to 111 students (62%). In addition, enrollment in the associate degree in nursing bridge curriculum decreased by 2% and the practical nursing generic curriculum decreased by 1%.

Exhibit 5

Total Student Enrollment in Nursing Programs Increased Overall, but Enrollment in Some Program Types Declined From 2013-14 to 2014-15

Curriculum Type	Enrollment ¹			Percentage Change 2013-14 to 2014-15
	2012-13	2013-14 ²	2014-15	
Practical Nursing (LPN) – Generic	8,766	7,487	7,425	-1%
Practical Nursing (LPN) – Bridge	302	295	111	-62%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Generic	17,761	20,603	21,204	3%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Bridge	5,102	4,398	4,306	-2%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – Generic	5,835	6,446	8,074	25%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – 2nd Degree	925	987	1,203	22%
Total	38,691	40,216	42,323	5%

¹ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results.

² As part of the 2014-15 survey, some nursing programs updated enrollment numbers reported in 2013-14. All other 2013-14 data is taken from last year’s report.

Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs.

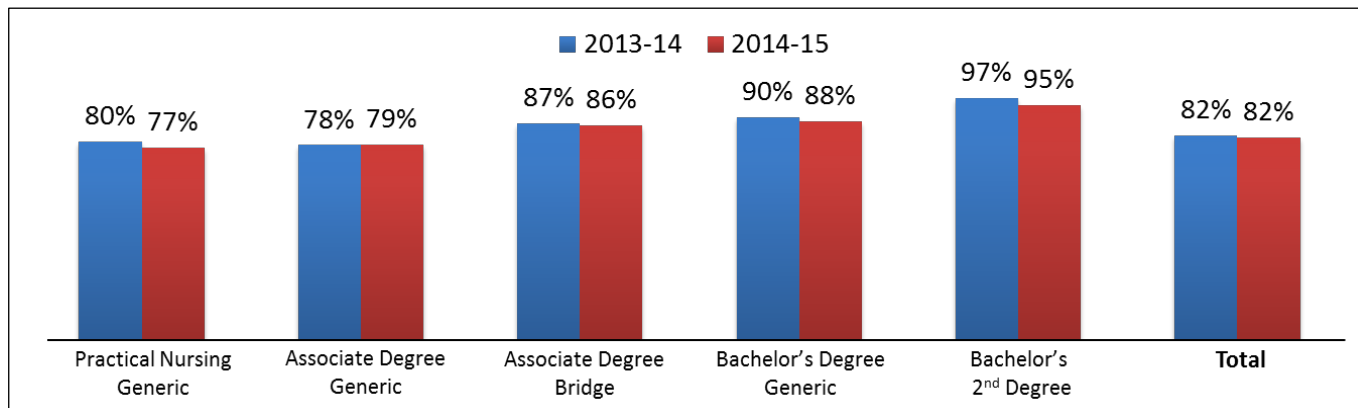
The total percentage of students retained in nursing programs remained the same. Retention rates measure whether students persist in or complete their educational program a year later. We assessed retention in each type of nursing program using the cohort of students who entered the programs in 2013-14 and 2014-15. To calculate retention, we added the number of graduates and the number of students still enrolled and divided by the number of newly enrolled students for each cohort.²⁸

The resulting retention rates varied among program types and curriculum types but remained the same overall. As shown in Exhibit 6, the one-year retention rates decreased slightly for four curriculum types, with the largest percentage point decrease experienced among licensed practical nursing generic programs (3%) and both bachelor’s degree in nursing programs (2%).

²⁸ Nursing programs admit students throughout the year, with several programs admitting students multiple times per year. We requested each nursing program to select a cohort of students for 2013-14 through 2014-15 and report to us the outcomes of these students over a one-year period.

Exhibit 6

The Total Percentage of Students Retained in Nursing Programs Remained the Same in 2014-15 as in the Prior Year^{1,2,3}



¹ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results.

² This data does not include the practical nursing (bridge curriculum) programs.

³ As part of the 2014-15 survey, some nursing programs updated retention numbers reported in 2013-14. All other 2013-14 data is taken from last year's report.

Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs.

However, the remaining program type had an improved retention rate. The associate degree generic program retention rate increased very slightly (by less than 1 percentage point). Appendix A provides additional details on the retention rates for nursing programs.

Overall, the number of students graduating from nursing programs increased from 2013-14 to 2014-15. Lengths of time for completing nursing programs generally range from one to four years, depending on curriculum. For example, a licensed practical nursing program is a one-year program, the associate degree in nursing is a two-year program, and the bachelor's degree in nursing is a four-year program.

As shown in Exhibit 7, overall, the number of students graduating from nursing programs

increased by 4% from 2013-14 to 2014-15.²⁹ The number of students graduating increased during the period for two program types, with the largest percentage increase (19%) occurring among bachelor's degree in nursing generic programs. In addition, associate degree in nursing generic programs experienced a 13% increase in the number of graduates.

However, the number of graduates in the four remaining curriculum types decreased from 2013-14 to 2014-15. The largest decrease, 31%, was experienced among practical nursing bridge programs. The associate degree in nursing bridge programs decreased by 15%. The practical nursing generic programs decreased by almost 7% and the bachelor's degree in nursing 2nd degree programs had a 2% decrease.

²⁹ Other factors may affect the graduation rate of students. Factors for which OPPAGA could not control includes students' economic stability, cost of programs, and curriculum changes.

Exhibit 7

The Overall Number of Students Graduating From Nursing Programs Increased From 2013-14 to 2014-15

Curriculum Type	Graduates ¹			Percentage Change
	2012-13	2013-14 ²	2014-15	
Practical Nursing (LPN) – Generic	4,101	3,897	3,635	-7%
Practical Nursing (LPN) – Bridge	176	103	71	-31%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Generic	6,351	6,992	7,921	13%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Bridge	2,092	2,368	2,009	-15%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – Generic	1,900	2,015	2,399	19%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – 2nd Degree	508	600	586	-2%
Total	15,128	15,975	16,621	4%

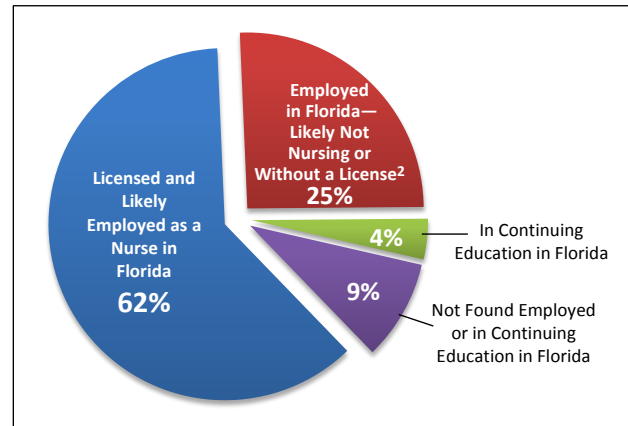
¹ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results.

² As part of the 2014-15 survey, some nursing programs updated graduation numbers reported in 2013-14. All other 2013-14 data is taken from last year's report.

Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs.

Most practical nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed as a nurse in Florida. As shown in Exhibit 8, we found that 62% of the 2012-13 practical nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed in a nursing-related field in 2014.^{30, 31} Approximately 25% of graduates were employed in a field other than nursing or did not have an active nursing license, while 9% were not found employed in Florida. The remaining 4% of graduates were found enrolled in continuing education.

Exhibit 8
Most 2012-13 Graduates of Practical Nursing Programs Were Licensed and Likely Employed in Nursing-Related Fields in 2014¹



³⁰ The analyses in Exhibits 8, 9, and 10 show outcomes for all nursing program graduates that applied for licensure. These analyses are based on licensure data from the Florida Department of Health and unemployment insurance and continuing education data from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP). The data about graduations used in these analyses were obtained from information reported by license applicants, not from our survey. Therefore, it does not include graduates from Florida nursing programs who did not apply for nursing licensure in Florida and the numbers of graduates reported in the analyses is not the same as the numbers from the survey shown in Exhibit 7. The percentage of graduates who did not apply for licensure cannot be accurately determined from existing data because 12 nursing programs did not respond to our survey. Our prior analysis of these data suggest that a very small percent of graduates do not apply for licensure in Florida.

³¹ The FETPIP data shows whether people who applied for licensure in Florida are employed in a nursing-related industry but it does not specify that they are employed as nurses. Nursing-related industries include hospitals, doctors' offices, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and other patient-care facilities. Nursing-related industries may also include educational programs that teach health care or health care insurance industries.

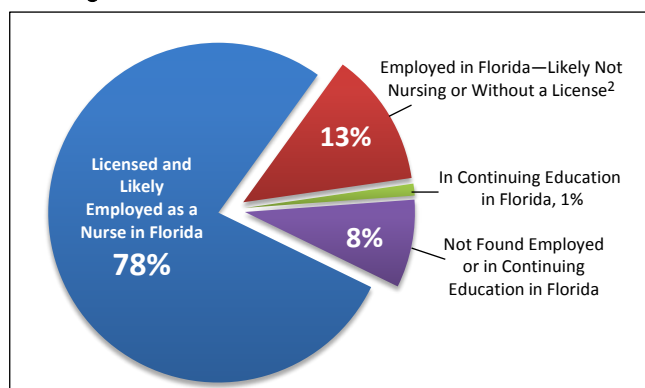
¹ The FETPIP data used in this analysis shows whether nurses were employed in a nursing-related industry in 2014 but did not specify that they were employed as nurses.

² Half (50%) of these individuals with a LPN degree were employed in Florida in a health-related field but did not have a nursing license.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of licensure data from the Florida Department of Health; and unemployment insurance and continuing education data from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) at the Florida Department of Education.

Most associate degree in nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed as a nurse in Florida. As shown in Exhibit 9, 78% of the 2012-13 associate degree in nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed in a nursing-related field in 2014. Approximately 13% of graduates were employed in a field other than nursing or did not have an active nursing license, while 8% were not found employed in Florida. The remaining 1% of graduates were found in continuing education.

**Exhibit 9
Most 2012-13 Graduates of Associate Degree Programs Were Licensed and Likely Employed in Nursing-Related Fields in 2014¹**



¹ The FETPIP data used in this analysis shows whether nurses were employed in a nursing-related industry but did not specify that they were employed as nurses.

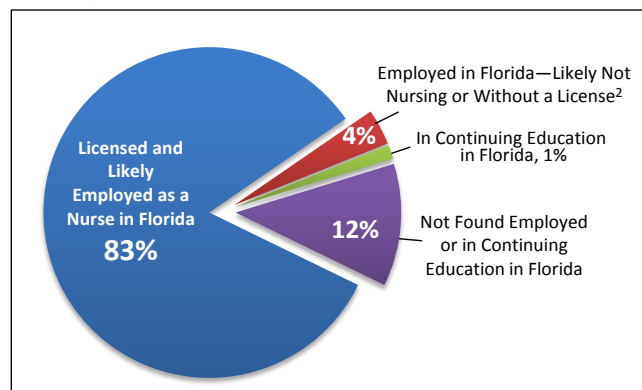
² Over half (51%) of these individuals with an ADN degree were employed in Florida in a health-related field but did not have a nursing license.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of licensure data from the Florida Department of Health; and unemployment insurance and continuing education data from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) at the Florida Department of Education.

Most bachelor's degree in nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed as a nurse in Florida. As shown in Exhibit 10, 83% of 2012-13 bachelor's degree in nursing program graduates were licensed and likely employed in a nursing-related field in 2014.³² Approximately 4% of graduates were employed in a field other than nursing or did not have an active nursing

license, while 12% were not found employed in Florida. The remaining 1% of graduates were found in continuing education. Appendix B shows the percentages of Florida nursing program graduates (practical, associate degree and bachelor's degree) for school years 2010-11 through 2012-13 who were employed in a nursing-related field as of 2014.

**Exhibit 10
Most 2012-13 Graduates of Bachelor's Degree Programs Were Licensed and Likely Employed in Nursing-Related Fields in 2014¹**



¹ The FETPIP data used in this analysis shows whether nurses were employed in a nursing-related industry but did not specify that they were employed as nurses.

² Less than one-third (31%) of these individuals with a BSN degree were employed in Florida in a health-related field but did not have a nursing license.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of licensure data from the Florida Department of Health; and unemployment insurance and continuing education data from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) at the Florida Department of Education.

³² Prior OPPAGA reports combined the graduates from the associate's and bachelor's degree programs. The Department of Health was able to provide additional information on these individuals for the 2016 report.

Appendix A

Retention of Florida Nursing Education Programs

Nursing Program Student Retention

Exhibit A-1 shows the number of new students enrolled in each type of nursing program who entered the programs in 2013 and 2014 and the percentage of students retained (i.e., still enrolled in the programs a year later). To calculate retention, for each cohort we added the number of graduates and the number of students still enrolled and divided by the number of newly enrolled students. Overall, the retention rate for students who entered in 2014 was the same as the rate for those who entered in 2013. Retention rate changes varied by program type.

Exhibit A-1

The Percentage of Students Retained in Nursing Programs Remained the Same in 2014 as in the Prior Year^{1,2}

Curriculum Type	Students Entering in 2013 ³ (Status as of 2014)		Students Entering in 2014 ⁴ (Status as of 2015)	
	Total New Students Enrolled	Percentage Retained	Total New Students Enrolled	Percentage Retained
Practical Nursing (LPN) – Generic	2,952	80%	2,394	77%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Generic	7,673	78%	6,352	79%
Associate Degree in Nursing – Bridge	2,171	87%	1,863	86%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – Generic	2,002	90%	2,237	88%
Bachelor's Degree in Nursing – 2nd Degree	551	97%	460	95%
Total	15,349	82%	13,306	82%

¹ Nursing programs admit students throughout the year, with several programs admitting students multiple times per year. We requested each nursing program to select a cohort of students for 2013 and 2014 and report to us the outcomes of these students over a one-year period.

² This data does not include the practical nursing (bridge curriculum) programs.

³ As part of the 2014-15 survey, some nursing programs updated retention numbers reported in 2013-14. All other 2013-14 data is taken from last year's report.

⁴ Twelve programs did not respond to the 2014-15 survey and are not included in the results.

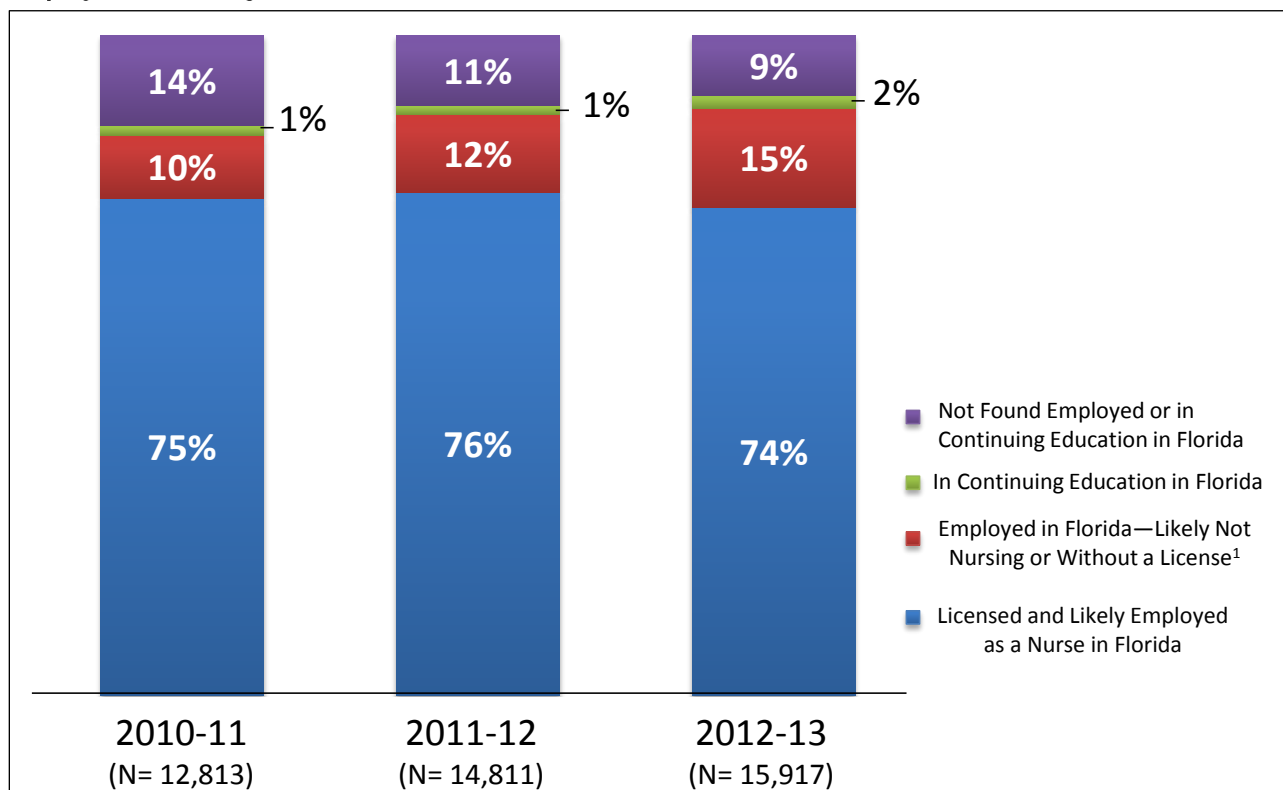
Source: OPPAGA survey of nursing education programs.

Appendix B

Employment Outcomes of Florida Nursing Education Program Graduates

Exhibit B-1 shows the percentages of Florida undergraduate nursing program graduates for school years 2010-11 through 2012-13 who were employed in a nursing-related field as of 2014. The data showed that most individuals who graduated from a Florida nursing program were licensed and employed in nursing-related fields in Florida.³³ For example, 74% of 2012-13 graduates were licensed and likely employed in a nursing-related field in Florida in 2014. To conduct this analysis we examined licensure and employment data for people who graduated from a Florida undergraduate nursing program in school years 2010-11 through 2012-13 and applied for licensure. We used Florida Department of Health licensure data to determine whether these graduates were licensed in 2014 and used Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) unemployment insurance data to determine if they were likely employed in a nursing-related field in Florida in 2014.

Exhibit B-1
Most Graduates of Florida Nursing Programs From 2010-11 through 2012-13 Were Licensed and Likely Employed in Nursing-Related Fields in 2014



¹ In 2012-13, nearly half (49%) of these individuals were employed in Florida in a health-related field without a license.

Source: OPPAGA analysis of licensure data from the Florida Department of Health; and unemployment insurance and continuing education data from the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) at the Florida Department of Education.

³³ The analysis in Exhibit B-1 shows outcomes for all nursing program graduates who sought licensure. Prior OPPAGA reports show outcomes for all nurses currently licensed in Florida.

The Florida Legislature

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability



OPPAGA provides performance and accountability information about Florida government in several ways.

- [Reports](#) deliver program evaluation and policy analysis to assist the Legislature in overseeing government operations, developing policy choices, and making Florida government more efficient and effective.
- [PolicyCasts](#), short narrated slide presentations, provide bottom-line briefings of findings and recommendations for select reports.
- Government Program Summaries (GPS), an online encyclopedia, www.oppaga.state.fl.us/government, provides descriptive, evaluative, and performance information on more than 200 Florida state government programs.
- [PolicyNotes](#), an electronic newsletter, delivers brief announcements of research reports, conferences, and other resources of interest for Florida's policy research and program evaluation community.
- Visit OPPAGA's website at www.oppaga.state.fl.us

OPPAGA supports the Florida Legislature by providing data, evaluative research, and objective analyses that assist legislative budget and policy deliberations. This project was conducted in accordance with applicable evaluation standards. Copies of this report in print or alternate accessible format may be obtained by telephone (850/488-0021), by FAX (850/487-3804), in person, or by mail (OPPAGA Report Production, Claude Pepper Building, Room 312, 111 W. Madison St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1475). Cover photo by Mark Foley.

OPPAGA website: www.oppaga.state.fl.us

Project supervised by Emily Sikes (850/717-0531)

Project conducted by Heather Orender Turner (850/717-0533), Sean Millard, Justin Graham, and William Howard

David D. Summers (850/717-0555), Staff Director, Education Policy Area

R. Philip Twogood, Coordinator