

CHANGES IN NEW MEXICO NURSING EDUCATION: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 ACADEMIC SURVEY

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In 2016, the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) replicated a 2012 Academic Survey that provided baseline data on publicly funded nursing programs in New Mexico as part of NMNEC's participation in the Robert Wood Johnson's Academic Progression in Nursing (APIN) grant. In 2016, 17 of 18 publicly-funded nursing programs participated that included 14 of the original 15 participants from 2012. In 2017, the data was analyzed and the 2016 Academic Survey of Publicly-Funded Nursing Education Institutions in New Mexico: A Comparative Follow-up Study from 2012 was written. A summary of the highlights from the report follows.

DIVERSITY

The percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native and the percentage of Hispanic/Latino graduates remain below the percentages of those population groups in New Mexico. However, the number of nurses reporting Hispanic/Latino ethnicity who were awarded doctoral degrees in nursing increased from 0 in 2012 to 7 in 2016 (30% of the total doctoral graduates in 2016).

GRADUATE DEGREES

The number of MSN degrees awarded at NM publicly-funded nursing institutions declined from a total of 89 in 2012 to a total of 55 in 2016. At the same time, the number of doctoral degrees increased from a total of 5 in 2012 to a total of 23 in 2016. In 2012, the doctor of philosophy (PhD) was the only nursing doctoral degree in New Mexico with graduates. In 2016, doctor of nursing practice (DNP) graduates from two DNP programs were included in the number of doctoral degrees awarded in 2016.

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

In 2012, the associate degree in nursing (ADN) was the most frequently awarded degree from the publicly-funded nursing education programs with a total of 450 graduates. The pre-licensure bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree was the second most frequently awarded degree with a total of 169 graduates. In 2016, the order reversed with the pre-licensure BSN as the most frequently awarded degree with a total of 251 graduates while the ADN graduates totaled 230. However, it is acknowledged that the total ADN graduate number for 2016 is under-reported in the survey as the dual degree ADN/BSN graduates from

Number (percentage) of nursing degrees awarded by type		
Nursing Degree Awarded	2012 Total Graduates	2016 Total Graduates
ADN	450 (54%)	230 (31%)
BSN (pre-licensure)	169 (21%)	251 (33%)
RN-BSN	112 (13%)	191 (25%)
MSN	89 (11%)	55 (7%)
Doctoral	5 (1%)	23 (3%)
Total	825	750

Source: 2016 Academic Survey of Publicly-Funded Nursing Education Institutions in New Mexico: A Comparative Follow-up Study from 2012.

NMNEC university-community college partnerships were reported only in the pre-licensure BSN category to avoid double-counting the graduates.

One known reason for the increase in pre-licensure BSN graduates in 2016 is the increased capacity for offering the pre-licensure BSN degree at publicly-funded nursing institutions in New Mexico. In 2012, students had two choices for obtaining their pre-licensure BSN in a state-funded institution. NMNEC university-community college partnerships created four additional locations in 2016 where students could earn a dual ADN and BSN degree. It is anticipated that the ongoing implementation of the NMNEC statewide nursing curriculum at additional publicly-funded nursing programs in NM as well as an increase in the number of NMNEC university-community college partnerships, the number of pre-licensure BSN degrees will continue to increase.

The number of RN to BSN (RN-BSN) degrees awarded also increased from a total of 112 in 2012 to 191 in 2016. With increases in both the pre-licensure BSN and the RN-BSN degrees awarded from NM publicly-funded nursing programs, there appears to be progress in NM toward the national goal to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020 (Institute of Medicine [IOM], 2010). The NMNEC Leadership Council plans to repeat this study in 2020 to see if current trends continue. The full report is available on the NMNEC website (<http://www.nmneec.org/resources>).

References

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