



REPORT TO
CONSTITUENTS

2023

2023 ACEN REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

ABOUT THE ACEN

MISSION

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) supports the interests of nursing education, nursing practice, and the public by the functions of accreditation. Accreditation is a peer-reviewed, self-regulatory process by which non-governmental associations recognize educational institutions or programs that have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality. Accreditation also assists in the further improvement of the institutions or programs as related to resources invested, processes followed, and results achieved. The monitoring of certificate, diploma, and degree offerings is tied closely to state examination and licensing rules and to the oversight of preparation for work in the profession.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the ACEN is to provide specialized accreditation for all levels of nursing education and non-credit transition-to-practice programs.

Nursing Education Accreditation:

- The ACEN is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) as a specialized accrediting agency for nursing education programs located in the United States and its territories.
- The ACEN is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) for nursing education programs in the United States and its territories as well as for international nursing education programs.
- The ACEN accredits all types of nursing education programs, including clinical doctorate/DNP specialist certificate, master's/post-master's certificate, baccalaureate, associate, diploma, and practical nursing programs.
- The ACEN accredits nursing education programs in secondary, postsecondary, and hospital-based/single-purpose governing organizations that offer certificates, diplomas, or degrees.
- The ACEN serves as a Higher Education Reauthorization Act, Title IV Gatekeeper for all types of nursing education programs offered by certain institutions eligible to participate in financial aid programs administered by the USDE or other federal agencies.

Transition-to-Practice Accreditation:

- The ACEN accredits non-credit transition-to-practice programs at all levels of nursing licensure.
- The ACEN accredits non-credit transition-to-practice programs offered by academic institutions (e.g., university, college, career center) and healthcare agencies (e.g., hospitals, long-term care).

GOALS

As the leading authority in nursing accreditation, the goal of the ACEN is to be a supportive partner in strengthening the quality of nursing education and transition-to-practice programs through:

- supporting nursing education programs and transition-to-practice programs in obtaining and maintaining accreditation.
- promoting peer review.
- advocating for self-regulation.
- fostering quality, equity, access, opportunity, mobility, and preparation for practice (or transition to practice) at all levels of nursing preparation.
- developing standards and criteria for accreditation.

ABOUT THE REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS

The ACEN REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS is an annual publication produced by the ACEN. Its purpose is twofold:

- Discuss the accreditation process and share accreditation decisions made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners during the specified year.
- Present analysis of data collected from ACEN-accredited programs via the ACEN Annual Report.

The ACEN Report to Constituents includes a summary of data collected from multiple sources:

- Data regarding accreditation decisions rendered during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles are collected, collated, and analyzed from the ACEN's records.
- Data from the ACEN Annual Report, which is a summary of data from all programs accredited by the ACEN regarding program-specific, industry-relevant data in a number of areas relating to nursing program operations. It should be noted that these data are self-reported from all programs which represent a diverse group and survey questions may not have been interpreted in the same manner by all participants.
- Data from internal sources such as satisfaction data collected from programs and volunteers.

The ACEN Report to Constituents is used by the ACEN and its stakeholders to monitor components essential to the educational quality of ACEN-accredited nursing programs. Additionally, the ACEN Report to Constituents shares trended aggregated data to stakeholders.

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ACEN 2023 REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS: PART I

State of the ACEN

JUNE 2024

As of June 2024, with the ACEN Board of Commissioners having made accreditation decisions from the Fall 2023 accreditation cycle, the ACEN accredits 1,391 nursing programs, both domestic and international.

A breakdown of the program types accredited is provided below:

Program Type	Count
Practical	201
Diploma	27
Associate	833
Baccalaureate	222
Master's	82
Clinical Doctorate	25
TTP	1
TOTAL	1391

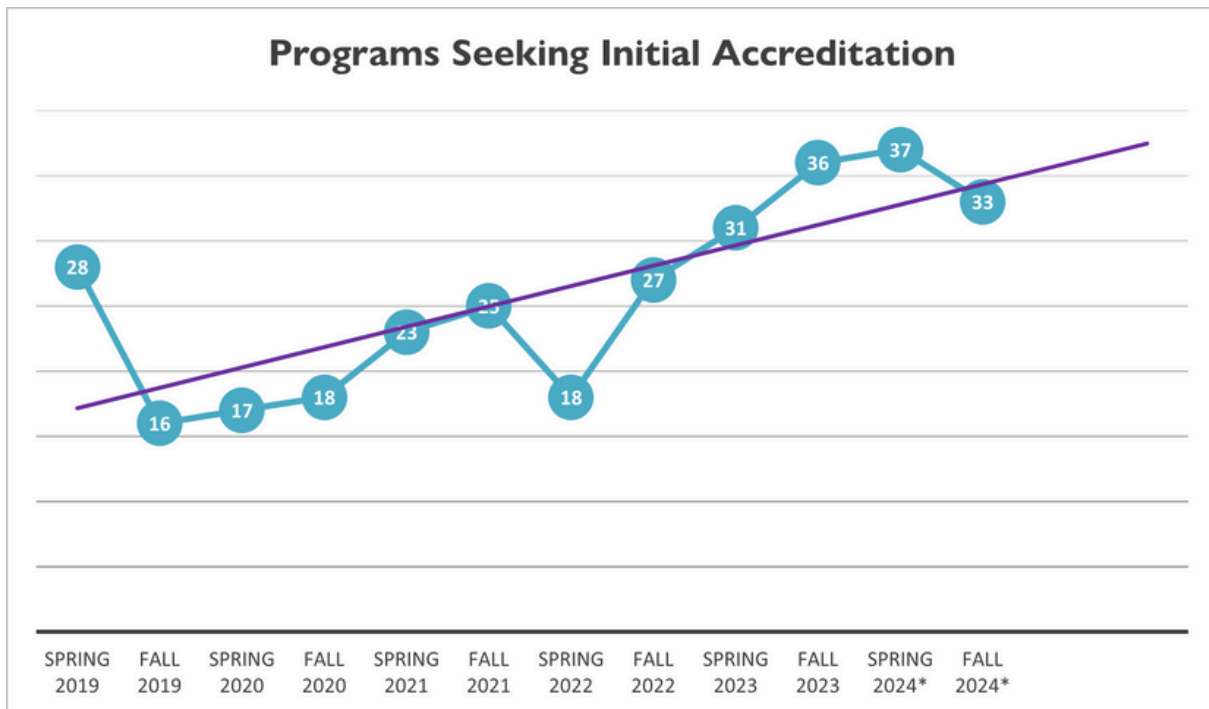
Candidates by Program Type and Scheduled Initial Visit						
Visit	Practical	Associate	Baccalaureate	Masters	Clinical Doctorate	Grand Total
Spring 2024	5	17	10	4	1	37
Fall 2024	9	11	7	3	3	33
Spring 2025	2	4	1		1	8
Fall 2025			2			2
Not Yet Scheduled	18	19	12	4	2	135

CANDIDACY NUMBERS 2019 – 2024 YTD*

	Practical	Diploma	Associate	Baccalaureate	Masters	Clinical Doctorate	TOTAL
2019	5	0	17	8	2	5	37
2020	9	0	23	14	3	2	51
2021	17	0	17	3	4	0	41
2022	14	0	36	20	12	5	87
2023	17	0	31	15	4	3	70
2024	10	0	8	7	1	2	28 YTD

*2024 Year-to-Date as of 5/20/2024

ONBOARDED NEW PROGRAMS 2019 – 2024



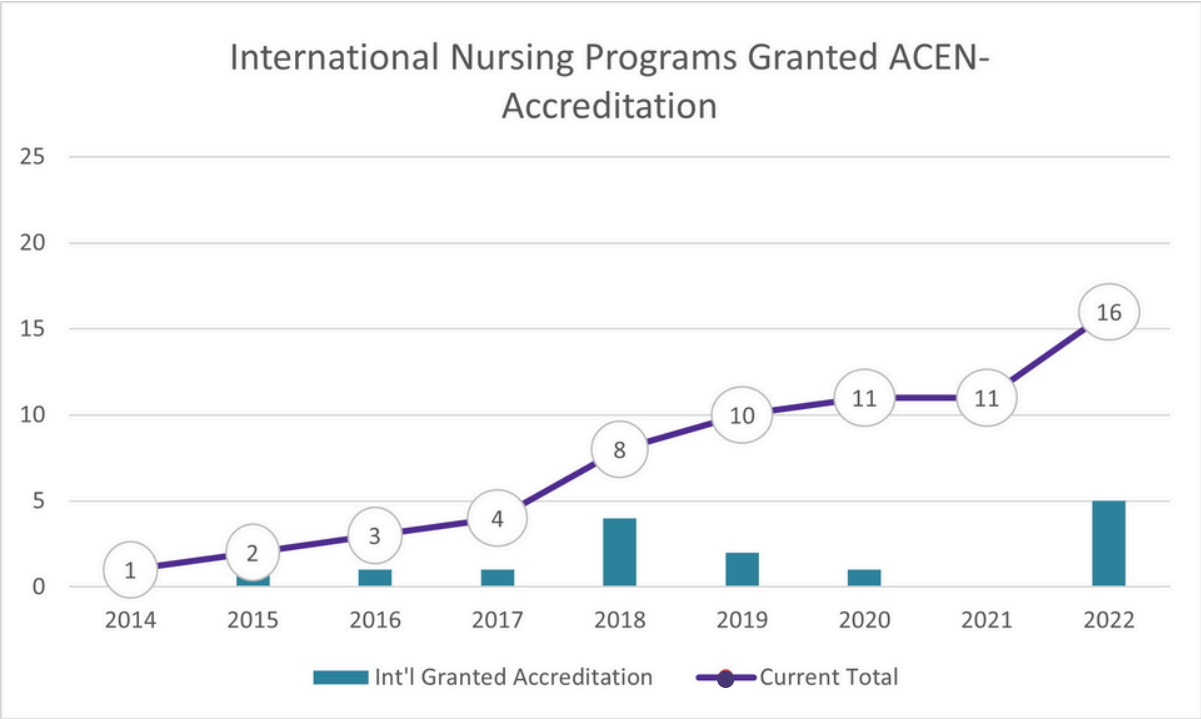
INTERNATIONAL NURSING PROGRAMS

As of June 2024, the ACEN accredits 16 programs in non-U.S. countries and territories. There are an additional 16 international programs in candidacy status with the ACEN, 8 of which are slated to have received an accreditation site visit by the end of 2024.

Presented below is a breakdown of the accreditation status of those international programs by program type:

International Nursing Programs			
	Eligible	Candidate	Accredited
Practical			
Diploma			
Associate		1	1
Baccalaureate	4	11	12
Masters	2	4	3
Clinical Doctorate			
TOTAL	6	16	16
Candidate Programs Visit Cycle			
	Spring 2024	4	
	Fall 2024	4	
	Not Yet Scheduled	8	

Since 2014, the ACEN has granted initial accreditation to a total of 16 nursing programs located internationally. The graph below provides a trended breakdown of the number of international programs granted accreditation annually since 2014:



2024 ACEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

In April 2024, the ACEN launched its first Annual Satisfaction Survey; which, designed by the ACEN Directors at the request of the Board of Commissioners, solicits feedback in a number of key areas related to the ACEN and accreditation. The survey was disseminated to the following strata of ACEN constituents:

- **Currently Accredited Programs (N=958, n=375)**
- **Newly Accredited Programs (e.g., any program granted initial accreditation in the preceding 4 accreditations cycles) (N=88, n=20)**
- **Candidate Programs (programs in candidacy as of April 2024) (N=135, n=56)**
- **ACEN Peer Evaluators (N=793, n=353)**

While individual segment surveys did contain questions specific to their segment, all constituents surveyed were asked the same core set of questions related to ACEN operations and interactions. Those core questions and the overall satisfaction ratings (based on the aggregate of respondents indicating “Moderately Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied”) provided by the constituents is provided below:

	Accredited Programs	Peer Evaluators	Newly Accredited	Candidates
Ease of Finding Desired Material on the ACEN website	93.60%	92.72%	90.00%	87.50%
Usefulness of materials on the ACEN website	97.07%	95.03%	85.00%	91.07%
Clarity of Materials on the ACEN website	94.93%	93.71%	95.00%	87.50%
ACEN Staff Knowledge	92.00%	86.09%	100.00%	89.29%
Timeliness of ACEN staff response	89.07%	85.43%	100.00%	92.86%
Clarity of ACEN Staff Response(s)	85.33%	85.10%	95.00%	92.86%

91.04%

Percentage of Constituents Reporting Satisfaction with the ACEN*

* Inclusive of “Satisfied” and “Very Satisfied (732/804)

ACEN 2023 REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS: PART II

Accreditation Process & Outcomes

FALL 2022–SPRING 2023

ACCREDITATION CYCLE OVERVIEW

ACEN peer evaluators conducted 232 site visits during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles reviewing 247 programs. TABLE 1 is an overview of all programs that received an accreditation site visit during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles.

Combined with any required Follow-Up Reports, the ACEN Board of Commissioners' decisions for the programs visited during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles resulted in 272 program types being granted initial or continuing accreditation (TABLE 2).

The 58 programs seeking initial accreditation included newly established nursing programs as well as longstanding programs seeking initial accreditation. The programs seeking initial accreditation were most commonly associate and practical programs. Zero programs seeking initial accreditation were denied accreditation. Zero programs seeking continuing accreditation were denied accreditation.

Table I Accreditation Reviews Conducted Involving a Site Visit, by Program Type and Purpose Fall 2022 - Spring 2023								
	CD	M	B	A	D	P	TTP	
<i>Initial Accreditation</i>	2	7	7	27		14	1	58
<i>Continuing Accreditation</i>	2	12	18	107	4	23		166
<i>Focused Visit</i>	2	1	2	9	2	4		20
<i>Follow-Up Visit</i>				2		1		3
Total	6	20	27	145	6	42	1	247

*CD = Clinical Doctorate, M = Master's, B = Baccalaureate, A = Associate, D = Diploma, P = Practical, and TTP = Transition-to-Practice

ACCREDITATION DECISIONS

TABLE 2 provides a breakdown of the decisions made by the Board of Commissioners. The table is organized to illustrate accreditation decisions made per program type.

Table 2 ACEN Board of Commissioners Initial and Continuing Accreditation Decisions for Fall 2022–Spring 2023, n=272								
Decision	CD	M	B	A	D	P	TTP	Total
Initial Accreditation								
Granted	2	7	7	27	0	14	1	58
Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continuing Accreditation								
Granted	2	8	13	94	4	17	0	138
with Removal of Conditions	0	1	1	8	0	3	0	13
with Removal of Warning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
with Removal of Good Cause	0	1	0	4	0	1	0	6
Affirm Continuing Accreditation	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	7
with Conditions	0	2	5	12	1	5	0	25
with Warning	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
for Good Cause	0	2	1	7	0	4	0	14
Affirm Continuing Accreditation, Change Status to...								
with Conditions	1	1	0	4	0	2	0	8
with Warning	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
with Good Cause	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Programs Reviewed	6	22	29	159	6	49	1	272

*CD = Clinical Doctorate, M = Master's, B = Baccalaureate, A = Associate, D = Diploma, P = Practical, and TTP = Transition-to-Practice

The accreditation decision data contained within TABLE 1 and TABLE 2 can be summarized as follows:

- **232 accreditation site visits**
- **247 program types reviewed on-site**
- **Resulting in 247 decisions from site visits**
- **25 Follow-Up Reports**
- **Resulting in 272 total accreditation decisions rendered**

The differences between the number of site visits and the number of programs reviewed are due to a visit to a single institution that has multiple program types reviewed onsite. (e.g., one governing organization having both an associate and baccalaureate program under review). In addition, the overall count of accreditation decisions is a result of some programs accredited by the ACEN having either a focused visit (as a result of a substantive change) or a Follow-Up Report with no onsite visit.

A single program may have multiple accreditation decisions rendered during a given accreditation cycle, and multiple program types could have a single site visit resulting in multiple accreditation decisions.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS REVIEW LEVELS

Program review is comprised of three independent levels of peer review: the site visit containing the peer evaluators' recommendation, the Evaluation Review Panel's (ERP) recommendation, and the Board of Commissioners' final decision.

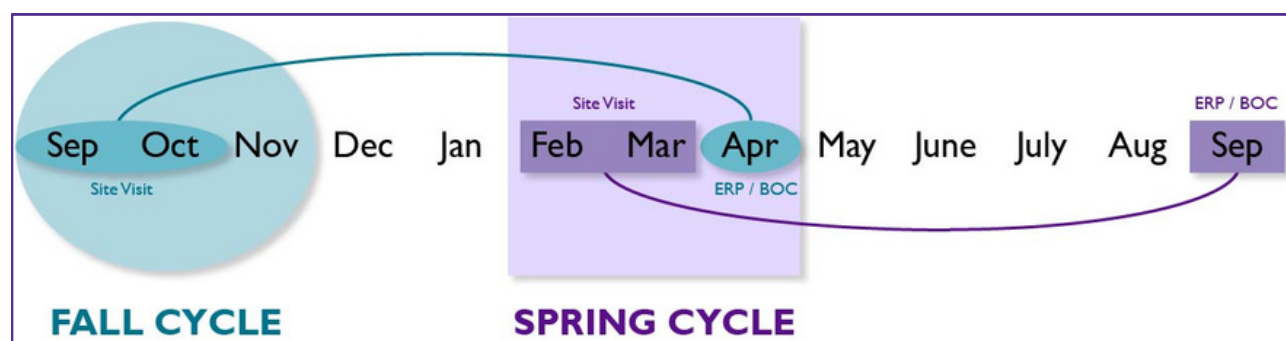
At the end of a site visit, peer evaluators make their recommendation for accreditation in the Site Visit Report. The program will receive a copy of the Site Visit Report and have the opportunity to provide a response with clarifications, changes, or additional information and evidence. The site visit team's recommendation and the program's response are then made available to the peer evaluators on the ERP, who review the information available and render its recommendation. Finally, the site visit team's recommendation, the program's response, and the ERP's summary containing the panel's recommendation, and any additional information provided are reviewed and considered by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners has the sole authority to grant the accreditation status of programs.

- [Continuing Accreditation](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Warning](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation with Conditions](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation with Warning](#)
- [Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause](#)
- [Denial of Continuing Accreditation](#)

An accreditation cycle begins with a program's site visit and ends when the Board of Commissioners makes its decision. This entire process can take 6–9 months.

GRAPH 1 illustrates a full year's accreditation cycles and their respective timelines.

Graph 1



For a detailed description of the accreditation process and policies, please consult the [ACEN Accreditation Manual](#).

TABLE 3 presents the number and types of recommendations made by peer evaluators at all three levels of review. The table illustrates consistency between recommendations and the final decision as evidenced by the minimal variation over the three steps of the process. Differences may be due to the submission of additional information after the site visit, the ERP, and/or a program voluntarily withdrawing before completing the entire review process.

Table 3
Accreditation Recommendations/Decisions for the Three Levels of Review by Program Type
Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Program Type	Accreditation Decision	SV	ERP	BOC
Clinical Doctorate	Initial Accreditation	2	2	2
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	1	2	2
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	1	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	0	0
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	0	0	0	
	SV	ERP	BOC	
Master's	Initial Accreditation	6	7	7
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	1	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	7	8	8
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	0	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	0	0	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	3	2	2
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	2	2
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	1	1	0	
	SV	ERP	BOC	
Baccalaureate	Initial Accreditation	7	7	7
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	9	13	13
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	0	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	2	2	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	8	4	5
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	1	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	1	1
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	0	0	0	
	SV	ERP	BOC	
Associate	Initial Accreditation	26	27	27
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	1	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	71	89	94
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	1	2	2
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	1	9	8
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	3	4	4
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	34	17	12
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	6	4	4
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	1	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	6	7
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	2	0	0	
	SV	ERP	BOC	
Diploma	Initial Accreditation	0	0	0
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	2	4	4
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	2	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	1	1
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	0	0
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	0	0	0	
	SV	ERP	BOC	
Practical	Initial Accreditation	14	14	14
	Denial of Initial Accreditation	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation	13	17	17
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation	0	1	2
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Conditions	0	3	3
	Continuing Accreditation with Removal of Good Cause	1	1	1
	Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	10	6	5
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Conditions	1	2	2
	Continuing Accreditation with Warning	3	1	1
	Affirm Continuing Accreditation with Warning	0	0	0
	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause	0	3	4
Denial of Continuing Accreditation	0	1	0	
Totals	Site Visit Report	Evaluation Review Panel	Board of Commissioners	
Initial	56	58	58	
Denial	5	2	0	
Continuing	181	210	214	
TOTAL	247	272	272	

PROGRAMS REQUIRING MONITORING

If a program seeking continuing accreditation is found to be in non-compliance with one or more of the ACEN's accreditation standards, it may be granted continuing accreditation requiring monitoring.

Of the programs seeking continuing accreditation in the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 accreditation cycles, 49 programs were deemed to require monitoring. Ten of these programs were seeking continuing accreditation after a substantive change, which resulted in an affirmation of accreditation with either Conditions or Warning. TABLE 4 below details the program types and monitoring levels:

Table 4 Programs Granted Continuing Accreditation Requiring Monitoring Fall 2022 -Spring 2023						
	Continuing with Conditions	Affirm Continuing with Conditions	Continuing with Warning	Affirm Continuing with Warning	Continuing with Good Cause	
CD	0	1	0	0	0	1
M	2	1	0	0	2	5
B	5	0	0	1	1	7
A	12	4	0	1	6	23
D	1	0	0	0	0	1
P	5	2	1	0	4	12
<i>Total</i>	25	8	1	2	13	49
Grand Total	33		3		13	

Programs granted continuing accreditation with conditions, continuing accreditation with warning, or continuing accreditation for good cause are expected to resolve all non-compliance within the monitoring period granted by the Board of Commissioners. In accordance with [ACEN Policy #4 Types of Commission Actions for Initial and Continuing Accreditation](#), the Board of Commissioners decision options are the following:

Board of Commissioner's Decision Options at the End of Maximum Monitoring Period by Program Accreditation Status		
Conditions	Warning	Good Cause
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Accreditation and Remove Conditions Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause Deny Continuing Accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Accreditation and Remove Warning Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause Deny Continuing Accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing Accreditation and Remove Good Cause Deny Continuing Accreditation

The various levels of monitoring and their required action(s) are detailed below:

- ▶ **Continuing Accreditation with Conditions:** is granted when a program is found to be in non-compliance with any one or two of the Accreditation Standards.

As a result of the Board of Commissioners granting continuing accreditation with conditions, these programs are required to submit a Follow-Up Report, which may include a Follow-Up Visit; after which (within a timeframe established by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with [ACEN Policy #4 Types of Commission Actions for Initial and Continuing Accreditation](#)), the Board of Commissioners will review the Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Site Visit Report (if applicable to the review), the Program Response (as applicable), the ERP recommendation, and additional information (as applicable), then render its decision regarding whether or not to grant continuing accreditation.

For programs seeking continuing accreditation during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles, 33 programs were granted continuing accreditation with conditions.

- ▶ **Continuing Accreditation with Warning:** is granted when a program is found to be in non-compliance with three or more Accreditation Standards.

As a result of the Board of Commissioners granting continuing accreditation with warning, these programs are required to submit a Follow-Up Report, and host a Follow-Up Visit; after which (within a timeframe established by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with [ACEN Policy #4 Types of Commission Actions for Initial and Continuing Accreditation](#)), the Board of Commissioners will review the Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Site Visit Report, the Program Response, the ERP recommendation, and additional information (as applicable), then render its decision regarding whether or not to grant continuing accreditation.

For programs seeking continuing accreditation during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles, 3 programs were granted continuing accreditation with warning.





- ▶ Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause: is granted for programs on conditions or warning that have reached the end of the maximum monitoring period for conditions and warning. A nursing program's accreditation can be extended for good cause if the program meets all three principles for good cause in accordance with [ACEN Policy #4 Types of Commission Actions for Initial and Continuing Accreditation](#).

Granting the program continuing accreditation for good cause indicates that the program:

- has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance;
- has the potential to remedy all deficiencies within the extended period as defined by the ACEN; that is, that the program provides evidence that makes it reasonable for the Board of Commissioners to determine that the program will remedy all deficiencies within the extended time defined by the ACEN; and,
- provides assurance to the Board of Commissioners that it is not aware of any other reasons (other than those identified by the Commission) why the accreditation of the nursing program could not be granted continuing accreditation for good cause.

As a result of the Board of Commissioners granting continuing accreditation for good cause, these programs are required to submit a Follow-Up Report, and host a Follow-Up Visit; after which (within a timeframe established by the Board of Commissioners in accordance with [ACEN Policy #4 Types of Commission Actions for Initial and Continuing Accreditation](#)), the Board of Commissioners will review the Follow-Up Report, the Follow-Up Site Visit Report, the Program Response, the ERP recommendation, and additional information (as applicable), then render its decision regarding whether or not to grant continuing accreditation.

For programs seeking continuing accreditation during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles, 13 were granted continuing accreditation for good cause.

DENIAL OF INITIAL OR CONTINUING ACCREDITATION

Initial accreditation is denied when the Board of Commissioners determines that a program is in non-compliance with one or more Accreditation Standards. During the Fall 2022–Spring 2023 accreditation cycles, a total of 58 programs were seeking initial accreditation. Zero programs seeking initial accreditation were denied initial accreditation during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles.

Continuing accreditation can be denied at any time by the Board of Commissioners. Continuing accreditation can be denied when the Board of Commissioners determines that a nursing program on conditions or warning is in continued non-compliance with one or more Accreditation Standards and must be denied when the Board of Commissioners determines that a nursing program is in continued non-compliance with any Accreditation Standard at the end of its good cause monitoring period. A total of 214 programs were seeking continuing accreditation during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles. Zero programs seeking continuing accreditation were denied during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles.

STANDARDS & CRITERIA 2017 vs. 2023

In July 2022, the ACEN Board of Commissioners approved the Standards & Criteria (henceforth referred to as the 2023 S&C). Programs reviewed in Fall 2022 used the 2017 S&C; however, programs reviewed in Spring 2023 were permitted to select which set of standards and criteria (2017 or 2023) they chose for their accreditation review. Fifty-one of the programs reviewed in Spring 2023 utilized the 2023 S&C. However, the Board of Commissioners applied the 2023 S&C when appropriate to make accreditation decisions for all programs that used the 2017 S&C during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 review cycles. Beginning January 1, 2024, all ACEN-accredited programs were required to adopt the 2023 ACEN Standards & Criteria.

Below is a crosswalk presenting the 2023 ACEN Standards & Criteria as it relates to any changes made to Criteria for the transitioning from the 2017 to 2023.

Standard	Standard 1		Standard 2		Standard 3		Standard 4		Standard 5	
Year	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017
Criteria	1.1	1.1	2.1	2.1/2.5	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.1	5.1	6.1
	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.2/2.5	3.2	3.1	4.2	4.2	5.2	6.3
	1.3	1.3	2.3	2.3	3.3	3.7	4.3	4.2/4.11	5.3	6.2
	1.4	1.5 / 1.6	2.4	1.10	3.4	3.5	4.4	4.3	5.4	6.4
	1.5	1.6/1.8	2.5	2.8	3.5	3.3	4.5	4.4		
	1.6	1.8/1.9	2.6	2.6 / 2.10	3.6	3.4	4.6	4.8		
	1.7	1.7/2.7	2.7	2.6/2.10	3.7	3.8/5.3/5.4	4.7	4.5/4.6		
	1.8	5.1	2.8	2.9	3.8	3.6.2	4.8	4.9		
	1.9	5.2	2.9	2.4	3.9	3.6.1	4.9	4.9/4.10		
					3.10	3.6.3	4.10	4.7/4.11		

While the number of standards was reduced from 6 (2017) to 5 (2023) the majority of criteria were retained, although some combined to eliminate redundancies and improve clarity.

TABLE 5 (right) provides a breakdown of the counts and types of programs that chose to use the 2023 vs. 2017 S&C inclusive of all accreditation reviews (including Follow-Up Reports).

TABLE 5b (below) presents data related to the Accreditation Standards with which the Board of Commissioners determined a program was in non-compliance.

Table 5 2022 - 2023 Accreditation Reviews Standards Used by Program Type			
	2017	2023	Total
Clinical Doctorate	6	0	6
Masters	21	1	22
Baccalaureate	20	9	29
Associate	132	27	159
Diploma	5	1	6
Practical	36	13	49
TTP	1	0	1
Grand Total	221	51	272

Table 5b Number of Nursing Education Programs* Found to be in Non-Compliance with Standards Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 Accreditation Cycles														
	# of Programs Requiring Monitoring		Standard 1		Standard 2		Standard 3		Standard 4		Standard 5		Standard 6	
	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023
CD	1	0			1									N/A
M	5	0			1								4	N/A
B	1	6		1				1		1		3		N/A
A	18	5				1				1		5		N/A
D	1	0												N/A
P	7	5	1	1					2	2		4	7	N/A
49	33	16	1	2	2	1	0	1	2	4	0	12	11	

**Programs may have multiple standards with which they were found non-compliant.*



FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

TABLE 6 provides an overview of Follow-Up Reports reviewed during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles. Of the 25 Follow-Up Reports reviewed, 13 resulted in continuing accreditation with removal of conditions, warning, or good cause, and zero were denied continuing accreditation. The remaining 12 were granted continuing accreditation for good cause.

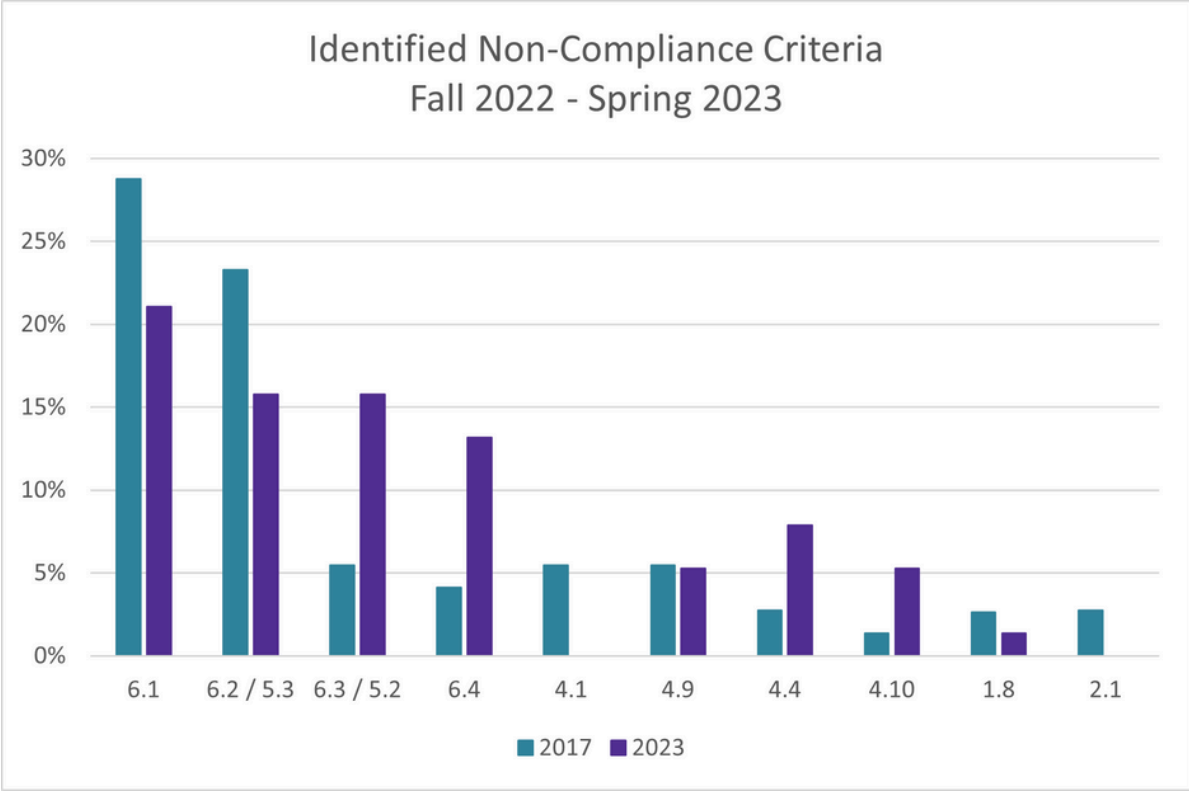
Table 6				
Review of Submitted Follow-Up Reports for Fall 2022–Spring 2023				
Program Type	Aggregate Reviewed	Continue Accreditation with Removal of Conditions or Warning	Continuing Accreditation for Good Cause or Denial of Continuing Accreditation	
			Good Cause	Denied
CD	0	0	0	0
M	2	1	1	0
B	2	1	1	0
A	14	8	6	0
D	0	0	0	0
P	7	3	4	0
Totals	25	13	12	0

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE NON-COMPLIANCE BY ACCREDITATION CYCLE

For the purposes of completing the 5-year trend, the 2017 Standard 6 data and the 2023 Standard 5 data are shown in aggregate.

GRAPH 2 provides a graphical representation of the most common criteria with which programs were identified as being in non-compliance for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles.

Graph 2



AREAS NEEDING DEVELOPMENT

Each program reviewed for initial or continuing receives an accreditation decision letter from the Board of Commissioners within 30 days of the decision being rendered. The comprehensive review process may result in a decision that includes areas needing development for one or more criteria in each Accreditation Standard.

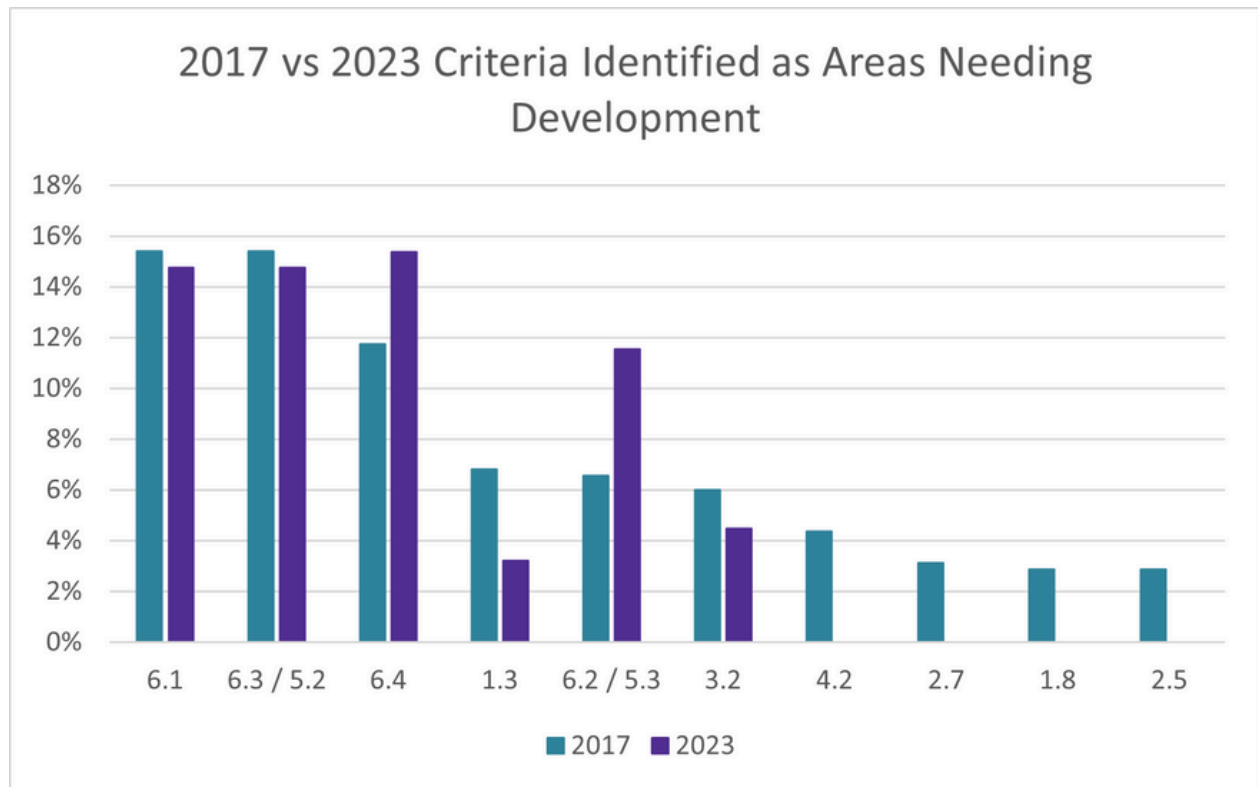
An area needing development (AND) (updated to “Suggestions For Improvement” (SFI) in the 2023 S&C) means that the program is in compliance with the criterion, but there is an opportunity for improvement. The identified ANDs provide guidance for the program’s faculty to assist them in their efforts to further improve the educational quality of their nursing program.

TABLE 7 presents the aggregated frequency of identified ANDs by standard and by program type for both the 2017 Standards and Criteria and the 2023 Standards and Criteria, respectively. Since each standard contains multiple criteria, each program may have more than one criterion with identified ANDs.

Table 7 Standards with Criteria Identified as an Area Needing Development by Program Type Aggregated by Frequency Fall 2022 - Spring 2023 Accreditation Cycles														
	Aggregate		Standard 1		Standard 2		Standard 3		Standard 4		Standard 5		Standard 6	
	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023	2017	2023
CD	14	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	7	N/A
M	79	1	5	0	6	1	6	0	25	0	1	0	36	N/A
B	79	6	8	0	12	1	10	1	9	1	0	3	40	N/A
A	443	18	51	2	69	3	39	2	61	5	4	6	219	N/A
D	22	78	5	8	0	6	5	7	2	9	1	48	9	N/A
P	96	53	9	6	7	2	7	7	23	7	1	31	49	N/A
TOTAL	733	156	79	16	94	13	69	17	124	22	7	88	360	N/A

GRAPH 3 provides a graphical representation of the most common criteria with identified areas needing development for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 accreditation cycles.

Graph 3



ACEN 2023 REPORT TO CONSTITUENTS: PART III

Presentation & Analysis of the ACEN Annual Report Data

2022–2023 REPORTING PERIOD

ANNUAL REPORT PURPOSE AND USE

Per ACEN Policy #24, all accredited nursing programs are required to submit an Annual Report. The information collected from the individual programs' Annual Reports are reviewed by ACEN staff to ensure that nursing programs continue to comply with policies and reporting requirements.

The ACEN Annual Report is used by the ACEN and our many stakeholders to monitor components essential to the educational quality of ACEN-accredited nursing programs. Additionally, the report facilitates the communication of trended, aggregated data to stakeholders.

This presentation addresses data generated from the 2022–2023 reporting period (July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023) except for enrollment and faculty information, which is based on data available on a single day (October 16, 2023). To facilitate the presentation, information in this annual report is presented in sections.

SECTION I

Substantive Change: addresses substantive changes within programs.

SECTION II

Program Outcomes: tracks achievement of licensure and certification examination results, rates of program completion, and rates of graduates' job placement of program graduates.

SECTION III

Program Operations: includes data related to student enrollment in the nursing programs, faculty headcounts, faculty-to-student ratios, and nursing degree demographics, the use of standardized tests, program length, and clinical hours.

The data from the three identified areas are collated, organized, analyzed, and presented here in aggregate.

POPULATION, RETURN RATE, AND SAMPLE SIZE

The return rate for the 2022–2023 Annual Report was 100% (N=1355, n=1355), based on the number of ACEN-accredited programs as of October 16, 2023. Submission of an annual report is a requirement for maintaining ACEN accreditation.

For the data presented, percentages are based on the sample size of each reporting program type, as presented in the table below:

ACEN 2023 Annual Report Population Breakdown by Program Type		
Program Type	N	n
Clinical Doctorate	24	24
Master's	79	79
Baccalaureate	218	218
Associate	814	814
Diploma	27	27
Practical	193	193

SECTION I. SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE

For the 2022–2023 reporting period, nursing education units reported 678 substantive changes. The most commonly reported change across all program types was a change in nurse administrator. Of the remaining substantive changes reported, TABLE 8 displays in aggregate the most commonly reported (e.g., the five listed account for approximately 82% of all substantive changes) changes by program type.

Table 8 Percentage of Most Commonly Reported Substantive Changes by Program Type for Fall 2022–Spring 2023										
Area of Change	Program Type						Total	% of Subchanges	% of Programs	
	CD	M	B	A	D	P				
Nurse Administrator Change	2	13	51	225	16	38	345	51%	26%	
Licensure/Certification Pass Rates	1	3	18	77	7	20	126	19%	9%	
Program Completion Rates	2	1	5	21	6	12	41	6%	3%	
Change in State Regulatory Agency Approval	0	0	3	25	1	4	33	5%	2%	
New Off-Campus Site*	0	0	0	10	0	4	14	2%	1%	
<i>Total</i>	5	17	77	358	24	78	559			
TOTAL Substantive Changes Implemented 7/1/22 - 6/30/2023	678									
% of Total Substantive Changes Reported	1%	3%	11%	53%	4%	12%				

*Can be an off-campus instructional site or a branch campus.

SECTION II. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

LICENSURE EXAMINATION PASS RATES

A review of the data reported by the nursing programs demonstrates that the mean NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® pass rates for graduates of ACEN-accredited programs exceed the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) published national mean for all program types for 2022. The ACEN-accredited programs were asked to report their first-time NCLEX® pass rates as reported by their state regulatory agency for nursing for 2022.

TABLE 9 presents NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN® pass rates as posted by the NCSBN for first-time, U.S.-educated candidates for years 2018–2022.

A review of the ACEN-accredited program data for NCLEX-RN® for reporting periods 2018–2022 demonstrates that the performance of graduates from ACEN-accredited programs is above the national mean for 2022.

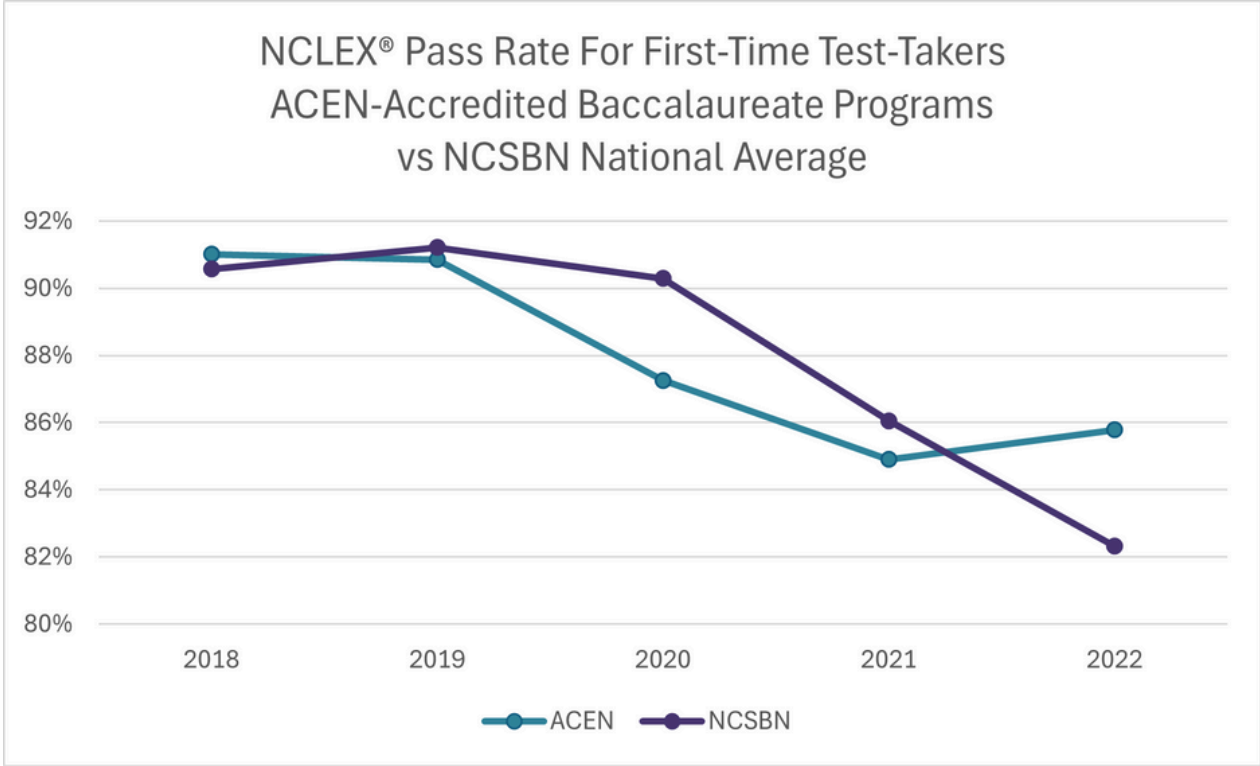
NCLEX® Mean Pass Rate Percentages for First-time Test-Takers As Reported by the NCSBN										
	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	ACEN	NCSBN	ACEN	NCSBN	ACEN	NCSBN	ACEN	NCSBN	ACEN	NCSBN
B	91.01%	90.57%	90.85%	91.22%	87.26%	90.29%	84.90%	86.06%	85.78%	82.32%
A	89.49%	85.11%	89.60%	85.17%	87.51%	82.80%	83.95%	78.78%	86.30%	77.91%
D	92.78%	88.62%	91.17%	87.89%	89.45%	86.33%	85.04%	79.53%	89.31%	78.31%
P	93.64%	85.91%	90.14%	85.63%	86.76%	83.08%	88.13%	79.60%	90.74%	79.93%

TABLE 10 demonstrates NCLEX® licensure data on ACEN-accredited Direct-Entry Master's programs. NCSBN does not publish data for Direct-Entry Master's Program, so a direct comparison between NCSBN Direct-Entry Master's program licensure pass rates and ACEN-accredited Direct-Entry Master's programs is not possible.

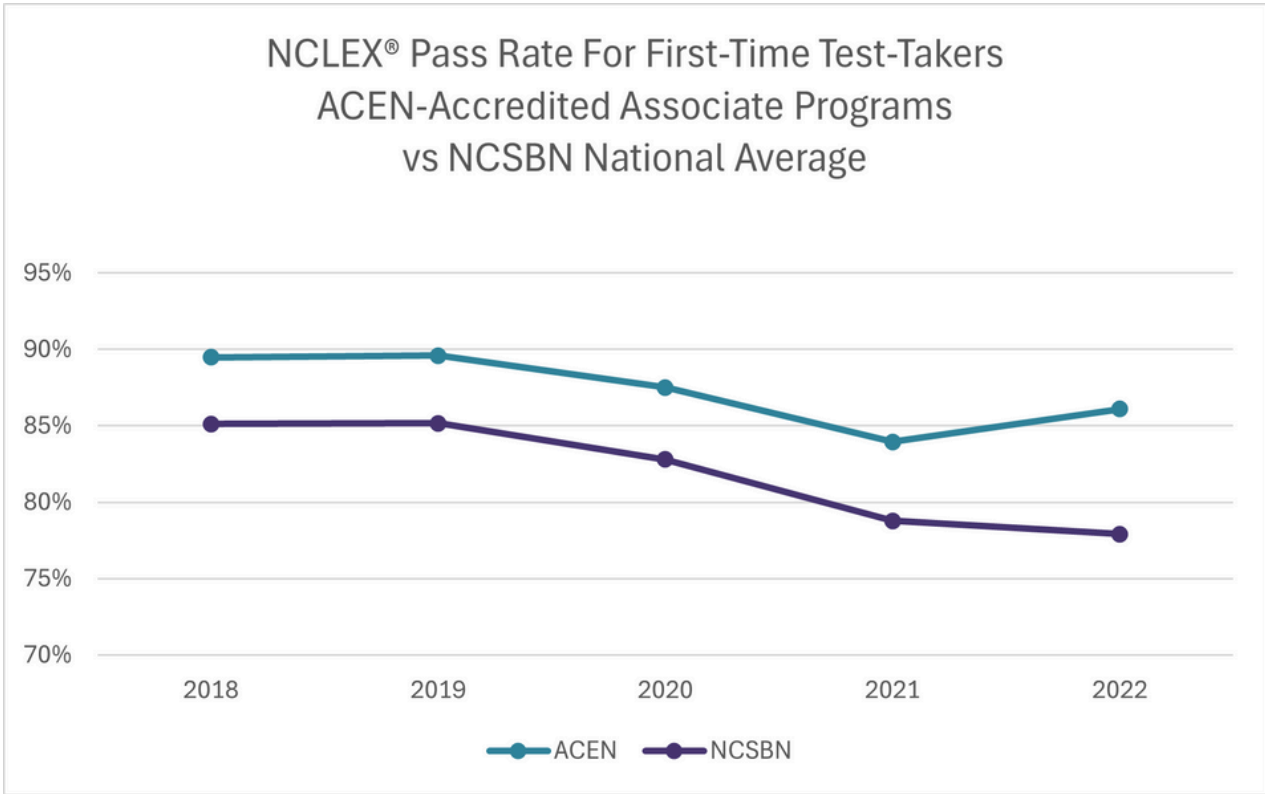
Table 10 NCLEX® Mean Pass Rate Percentages for First-Time Test-Takers Reported by ACEN-accredited Direct-Entry Master's Programs					
	Direct-Entry Master's				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ACEN	90.74%	90.36%	84.84%	88.48%	82.54%
NCSBN	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

GRAPHS 4–7 provide a comparison of NCLEX® pass rate data between ACEN-accredited programs and NCSBN pass rates for first-time U.S.-educated candidates by program type.

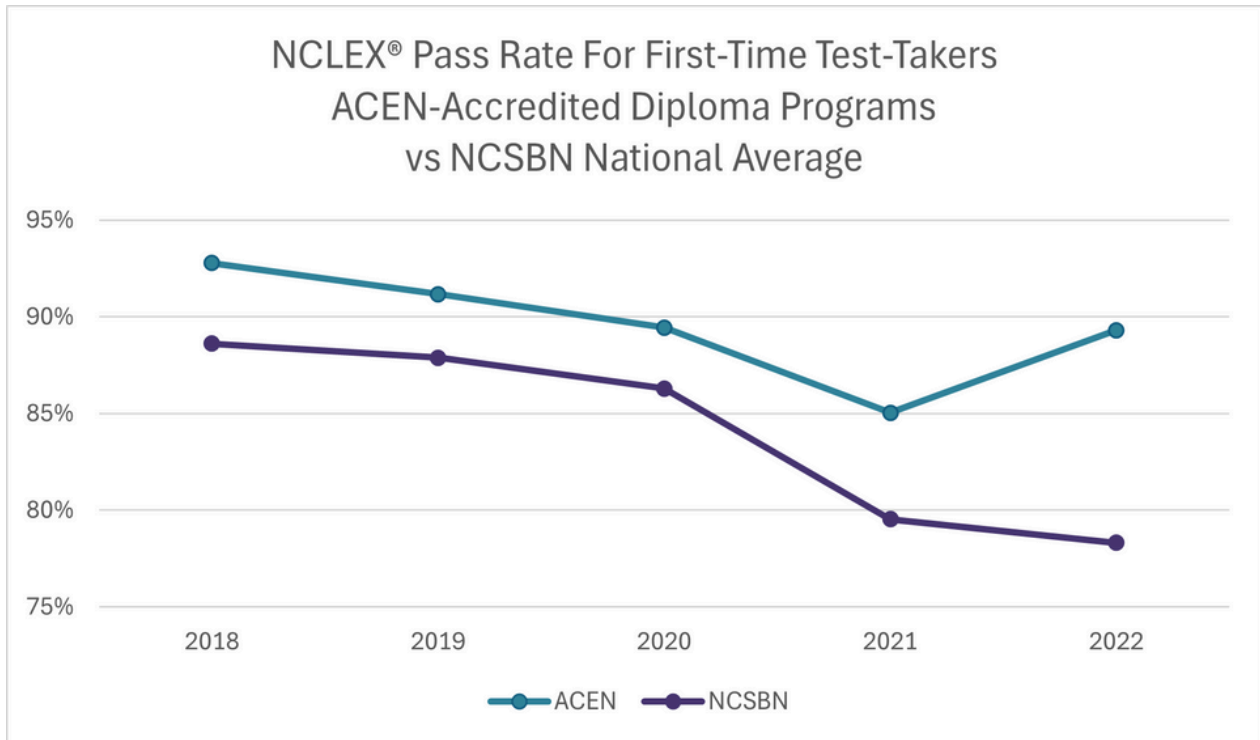
Graph 4



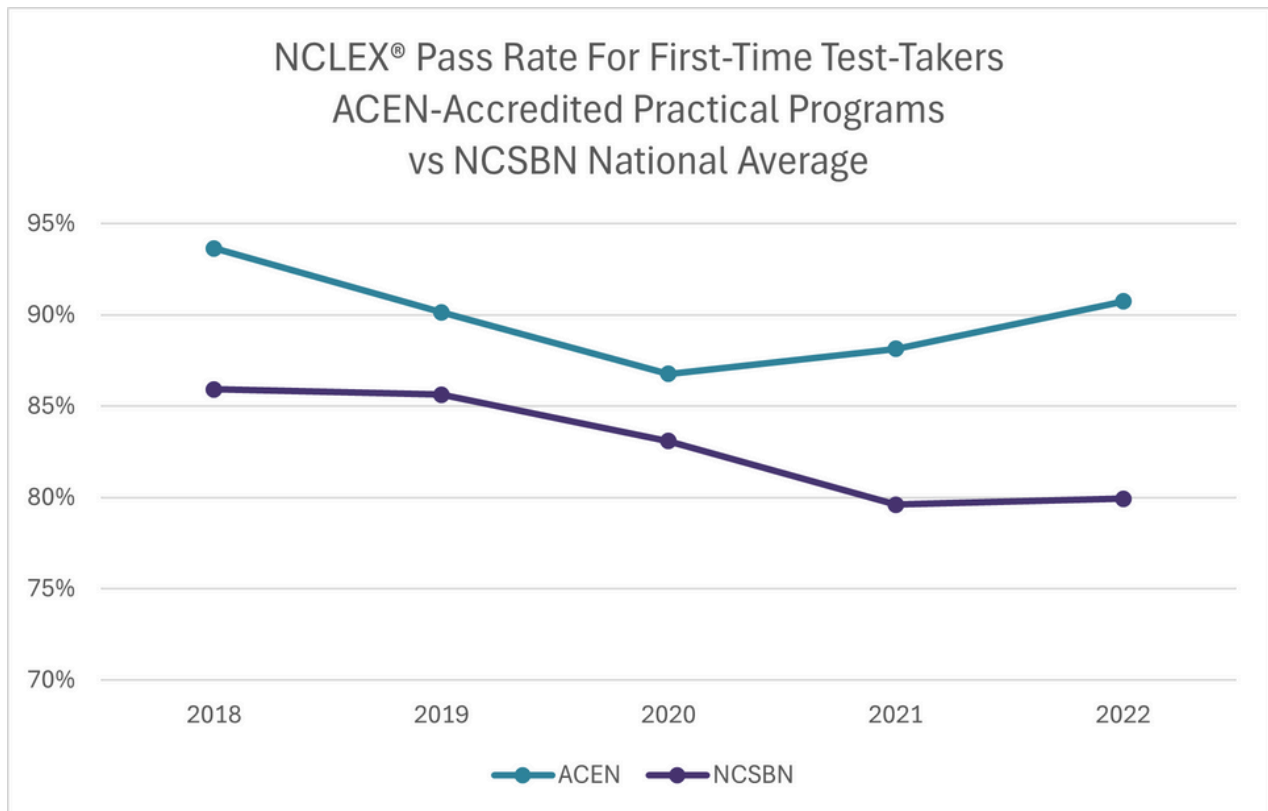
Graph 5



Graph 6

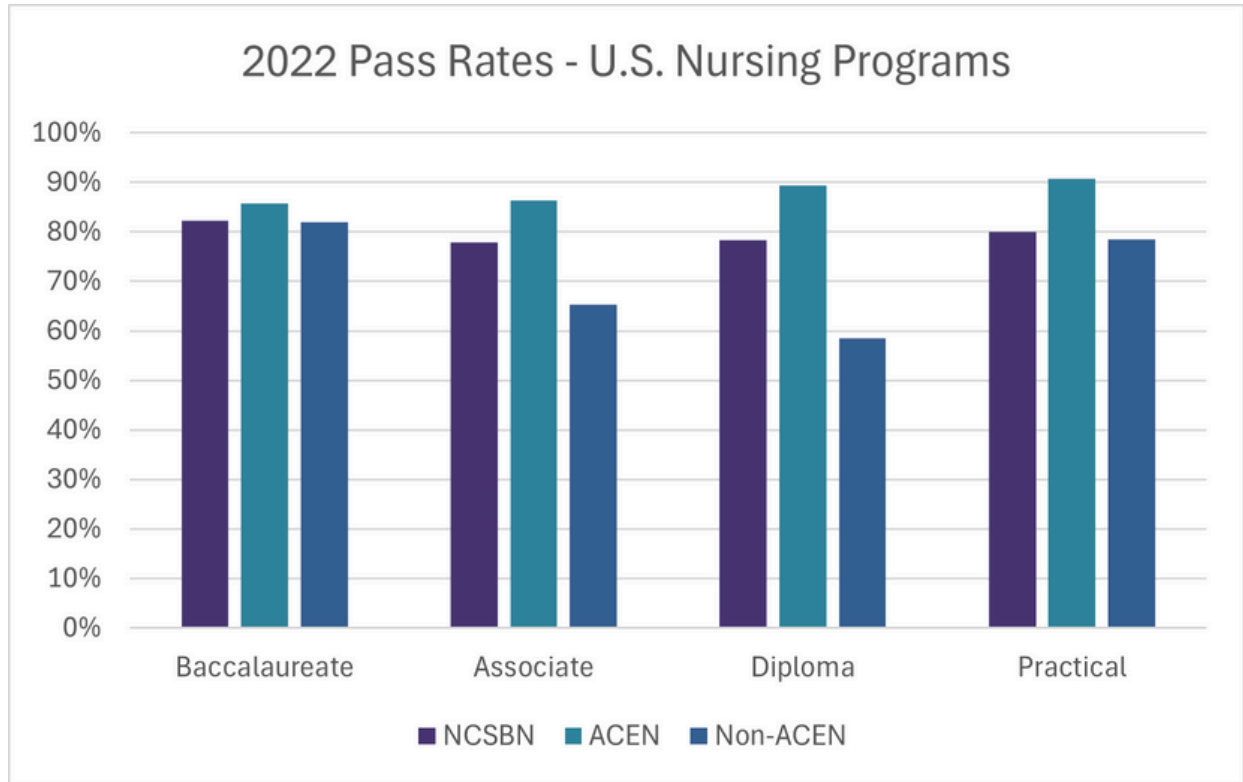


Graph 7



GRAPH 8 shows the aggregate pass rates by program type based on the distinctions above.

Graph 8

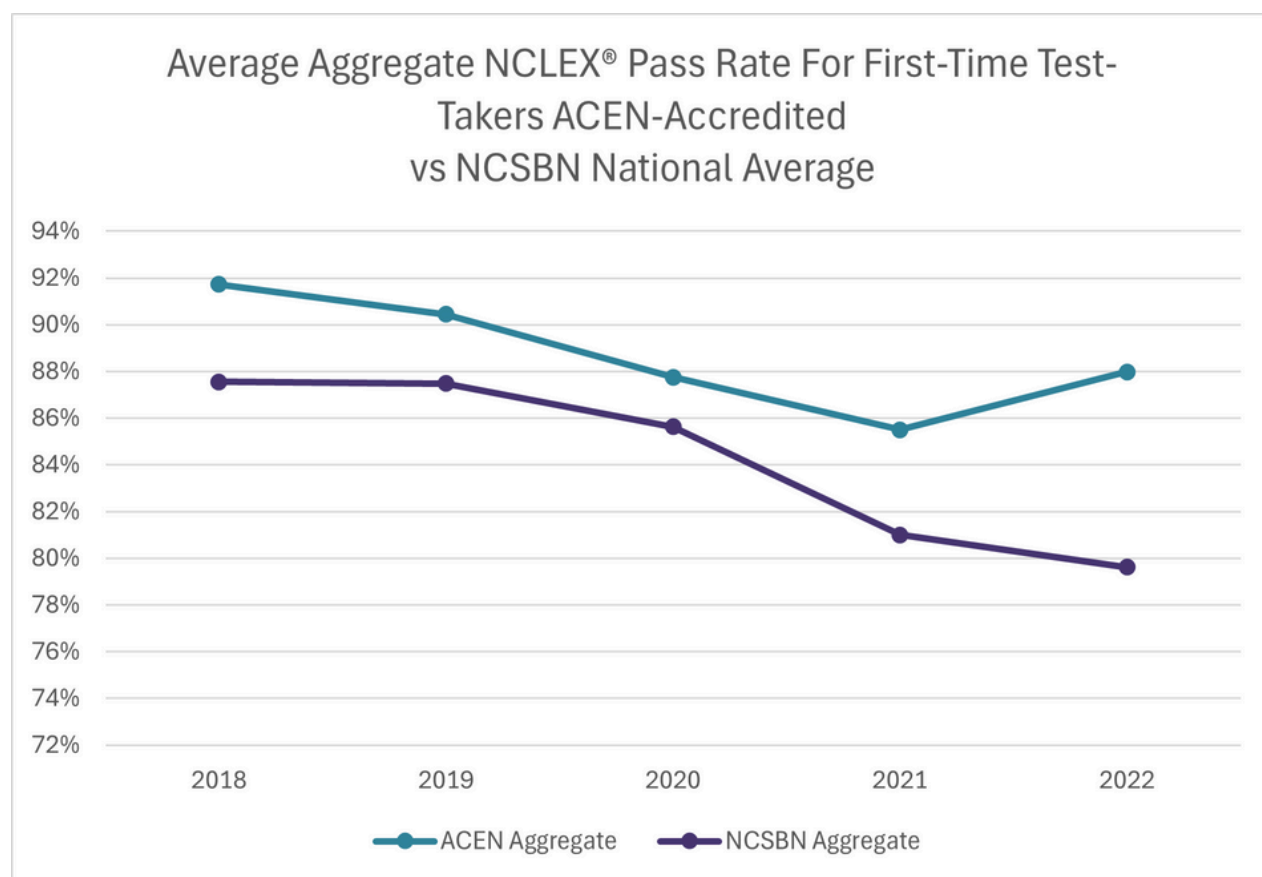


For the 2022–2023 Annual Report (as begun in the 2021-2022 Annual Report), the raw counts of first-time NCLEX® test-takers are presented from ACEN-accredited programs. Doing so allows for disaggregation of NCSBN-provided data to show ACEN-accredited programs vs. NCSBN (the national average) vs. non-ACEN-accredited programs.

GRAPH 8b presents a comparison of the aggregate averages of NCLEX® pass rate(s) for first-time test-takers at ACEN-accredited programs against NCSBN national averages for all undergraduate program types inclusive of both RN and PN nursing licenses (within the United States and its territories) for the years 2018–2022.



Graph 8b



CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION PASS RATES

ACEN-accredited graduate programs report the pass rate for the certification examinations taken by graduates of master’s and clinical doctorate programs. As a variety of certifying agencies offer certification examinations for various nursing specialties, a comparison with any reference group is not feasible. Graduate APRN nursing programs are required to collect and analyze data related to the certification examination pass rates for all APRN program options.

TABLE 11 presents the data for the certification examination pass rates for all APRN roles as reported by ACEN-accredited programs.

Table 11 Certification Mean Pass Rate Percentages for First-time Test-takers Reported by Accredited Programs by Pass Rate		
Year	APRN Program Type	
	CD	M
2018–2019	93.55%	89.80%
2019–2020	93.55%	92.26%
2020–2021	96.46%	95.21%
2021–2022	94.56%	89.90%
2022–2023	94.34%	89.45%

COMPLETION RATES

Based on the ACEN definition, the completion rate is the percentage of students who graduate on time, beginning with the first day of the first nursing course, which can vary based upon a nursing program option.

The recommended method for calculating program completion rate is to start with each entering cohort beginning with the first nursing course, then follow each individual student throughout the program of study until graduation. As an example, a program with 10 students on the first day of the first nursing course of a four-semester nursing program: six students from the admission cohort graduate in four semesters (100% timeframe). The applicable program completion rate would be 60% on-time graduates.

The program completion rate calculation beginning with this Annual Report cycle is based on on-time program completion.

The expected level of achievement (ELA) for program completion (e.g., 70% within four academic terms) is determined by the nursing program's faculty and should reflect student demographics and quality education. The program must provide a rationale for the specified ELA. In setting the ELA for the program completion rate, the program may consider factors such as the historical completion rate for the program, the governing organization's completion rate for all students, state completion rate for similar programs, group of peer programs, ACEN data, or similar. The ELA should be realistic and encourage continuous improvement but not so high as to be idealistic (and thus unachievable). Peer evaluators make a professional judgment regarding the appropriateness of the program's ELA.

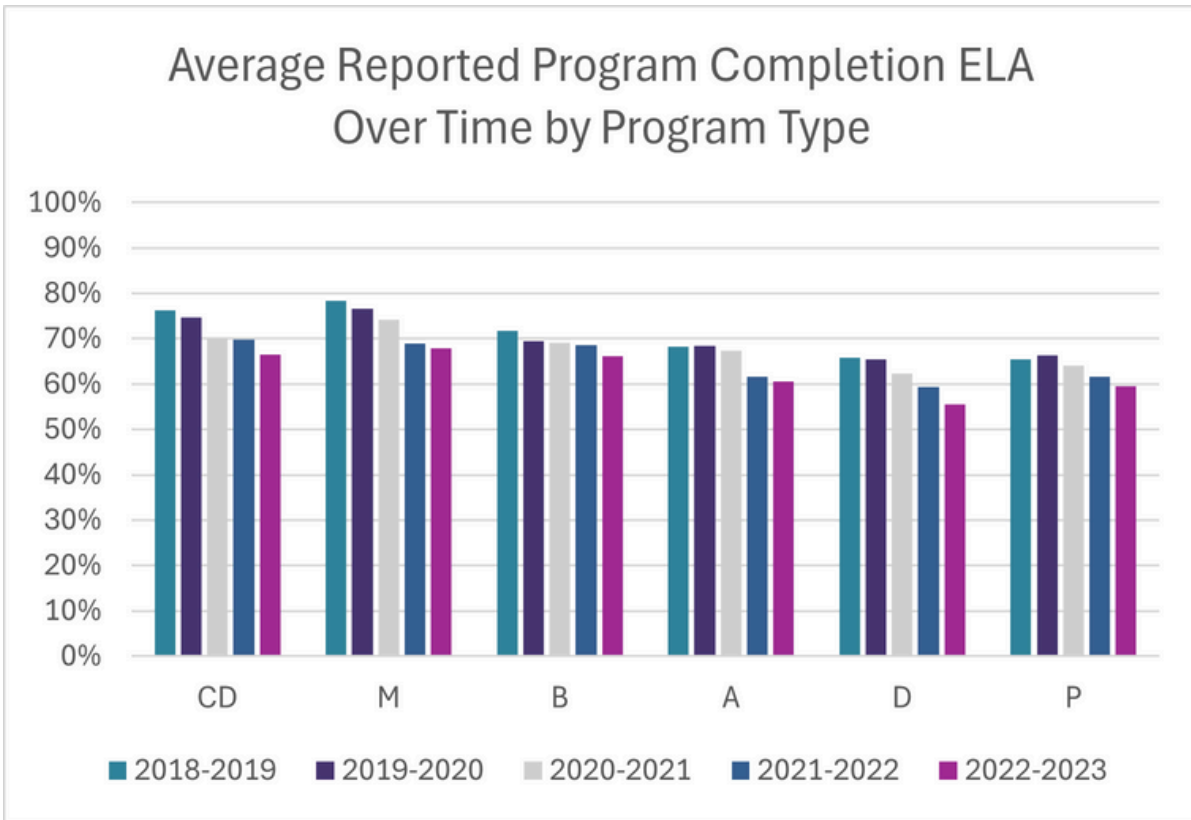
Overall, 64.76% of ACEN-accredited programs reported meeting or exceeding their ELA for program completion rate.

TABLE 12 below provides a year-over-year breakdown of average completion rate ELA and average completion rate reported by program type with GRAPHS 9 and 10 showing the same data separated.

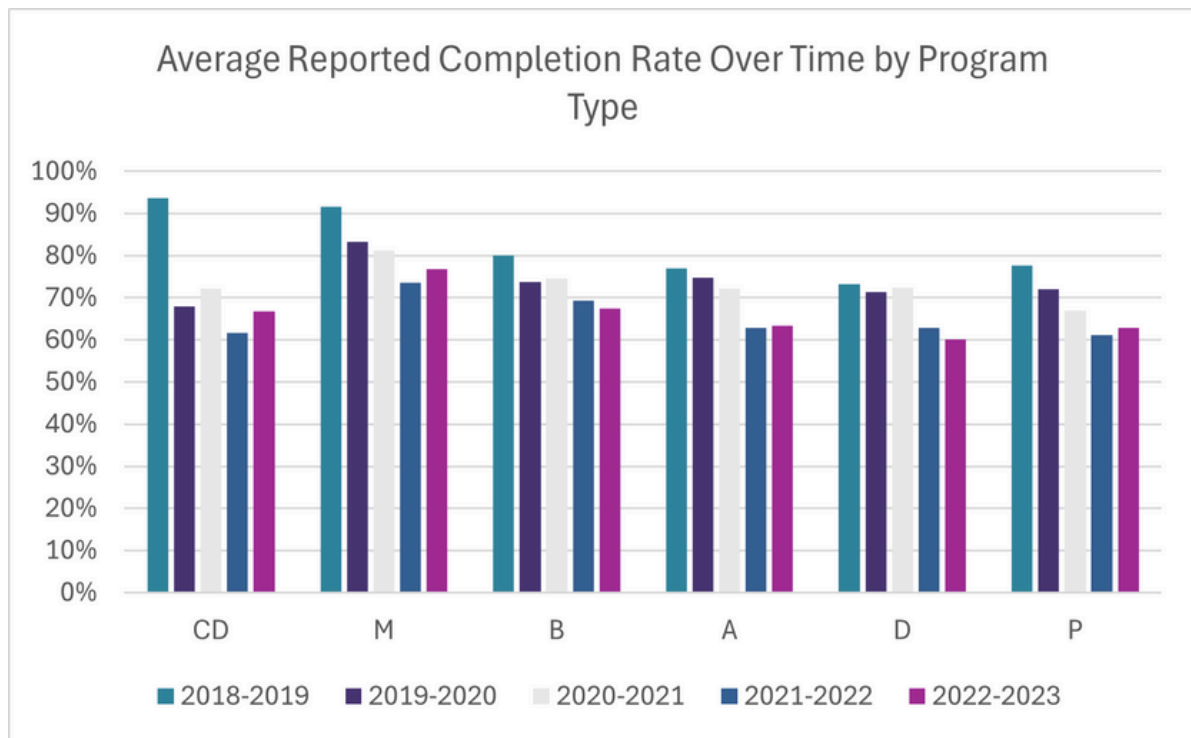
Table 12 Average Reported ELA and Completion Rate over Time by Program Type						
Program Type	Averages					
	2020-2021*		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	ELA	Completion Rate	ELA	Completion Rate	ELA	Completion Rate
CD	70%	72%	70%	62%	66%	67%
M	74%	81%	75%	69%	68%	77%
B	69%	75%	69%	69%	66%	67%
A	67%	72%	62%	63%	61%	63%
D	62%	72%	59%	63%	56%	60%
P	64%	67%	62%	61%	59%	63%

**It should be noted that prior to July 2021, the ACEN Annual Report required programs to provide their completion rate based on a 150% timeframe. For the 2020-2021 Annual Report, programs were given a choice between reporting completion rates based on a 150% timeframe or based on 100%, on-time basis. Beginning with the 2021-2022 Annual Report, completion rates were collected for on-time completion.*

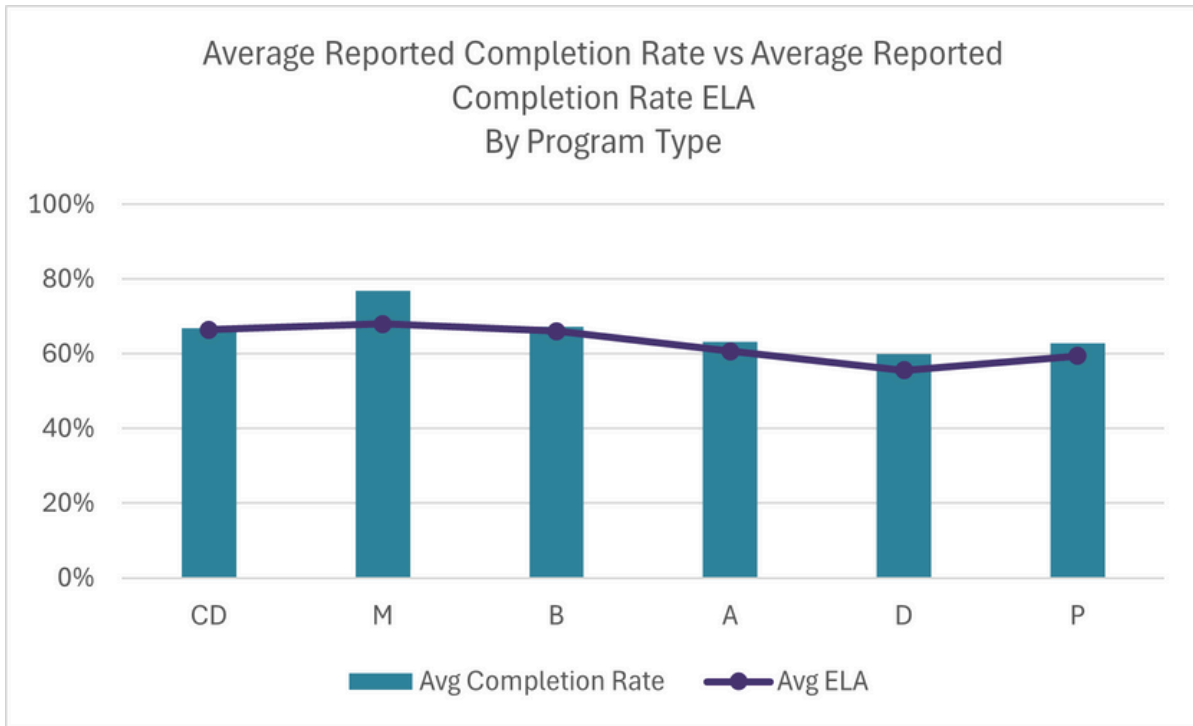
Graph 9



Graph 10



Graph 11



JOB PLACEMENT RATES

The aggregate job placement rate is the percentage of all graduates (typically within one year of graduation), who are employed in a position for which a nursing program prepared them (e.g., PN, RN, FNP).

Programs should attempt to contact all graduates and include all graduate responses in the calculation of the job placement rate, regardless of licensure status. The method for calculating the job placement rate is to divide the number of graduates reporting having secured employment in a position for which the nursing program prepared them by the number of those successfully contacted. As an example, if a program had 100 graduates, successfully contacted 80 of them (80% response/contact rate), and 79 reported employment in a position for which the nursing program prepared them, the applicable job placement rate would be 98.75% ($=79/80$).

ACEN data related to aggregate job placement rate show an increase across all program types except associate for the 2022–2023 reporting period. Based on reported data, the job placement rates range from 87.28—97.56% for all program types (TABLE 13).

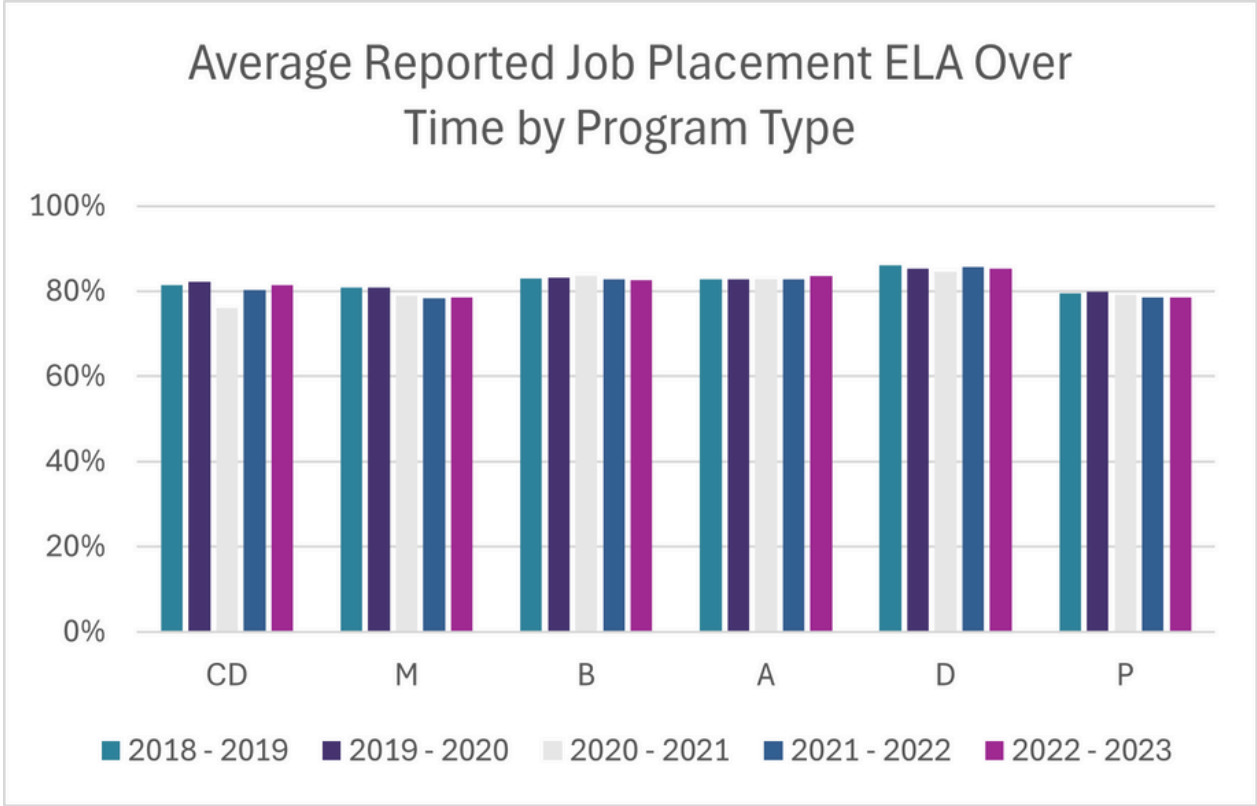
Overall, programs reported that 88.32% of 2022–2023 program graduates reported employment in a position for which the nursing program prepared them. Prelicensure program types reflect an aggregate average increase of 3.88% during this latest reporting period (2022–2023) from the previous reporting period (2021–2022). Aggregate average job placement rates for graduate-level programs increased by 12.30%.



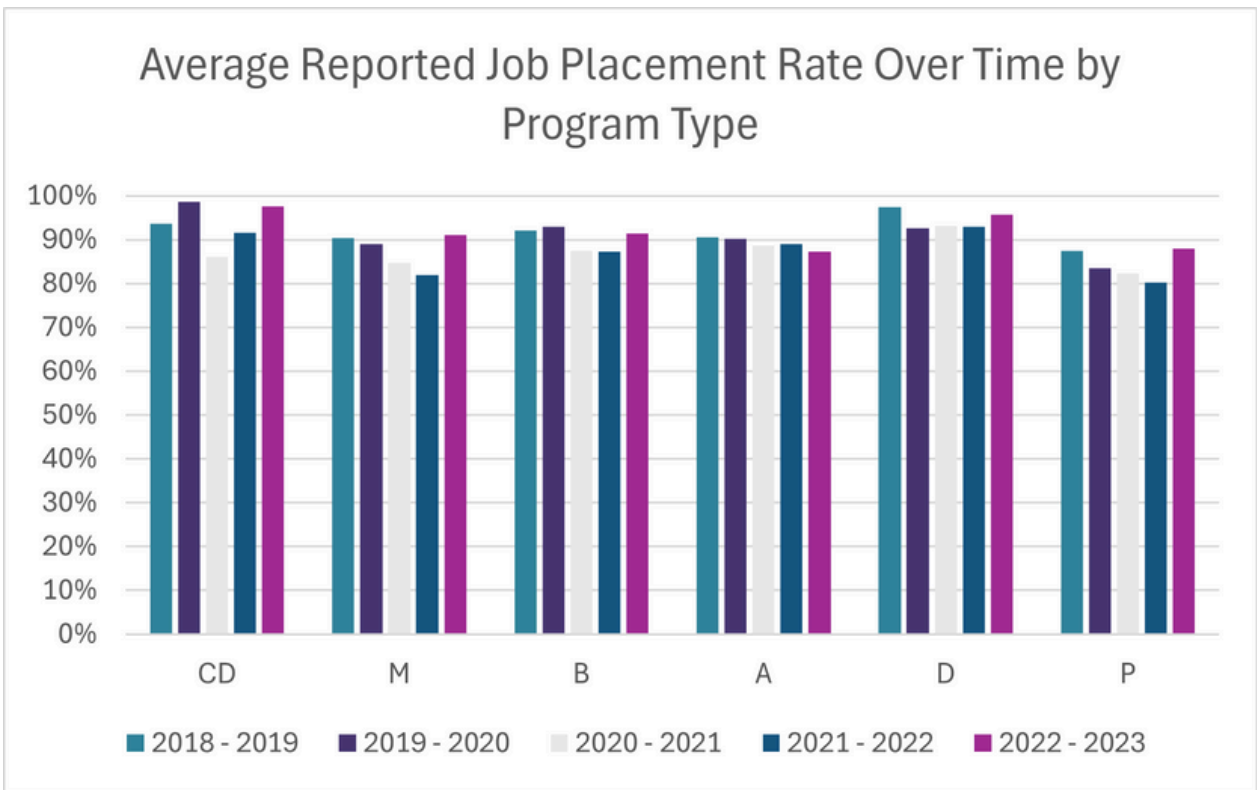
Program Type	Averages					
	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023	
	ELA	Job Placement Rate	ELA	Job Placement Rate	ELA	Job Placement Rate
CD	76%	86%	80%	92%	82%	98%
M	79%	85%	78%	82%	79%	91%
B	84%	87%	83%	87%	83%	91%
A	83%	89%	83%	89%	84%	87%
D	85%	93%	86%	93%	85%	96%
P	79%	82%	79%	80%	79%	88%

GRAPHS 12 and 13 shows all average reported job placement ELAs over time by program type (GRAPH 12) and the average reported job placement rate over time by program type (GRAPH 13).

Graph 12

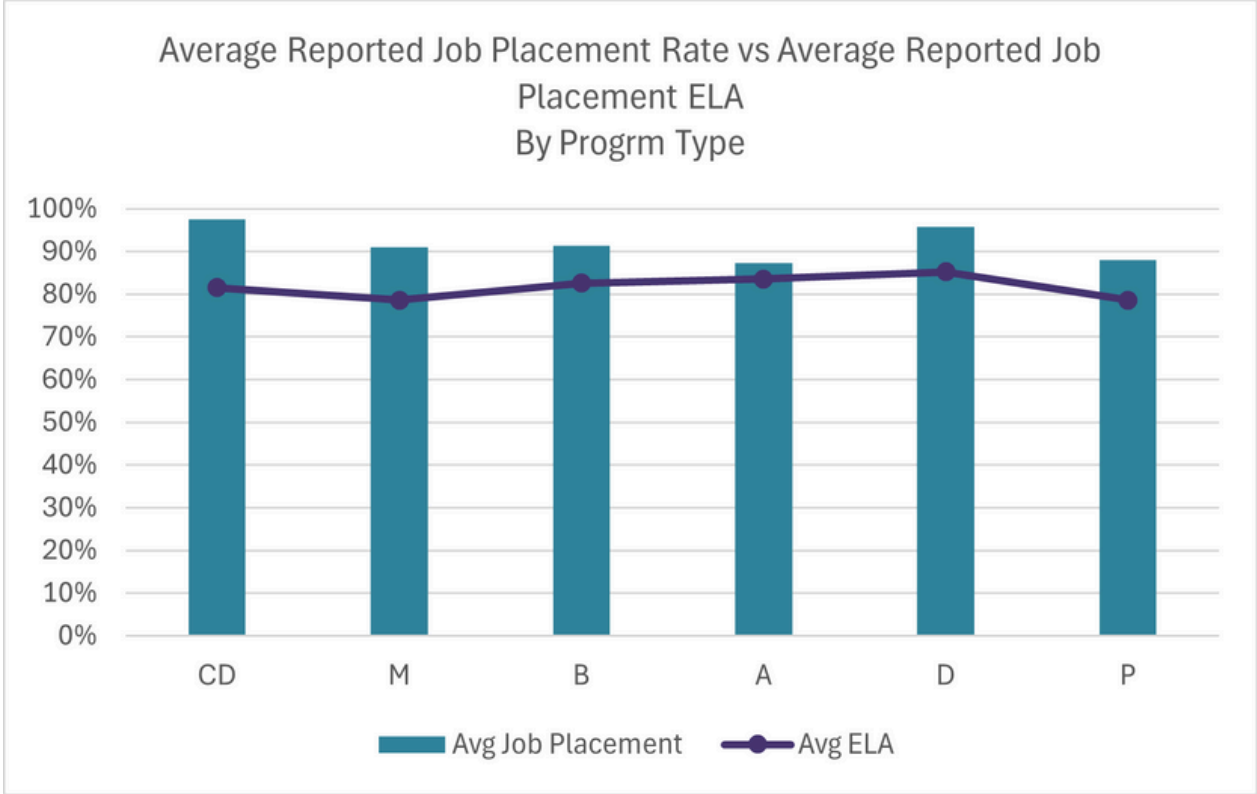


Graph 13



The number of programs reporting that they have met and/or exceeded their ELA for job placement remains high, with individual program types reporting job placement of 85% or greater; and the overall aggregate percentage of ACEN-accredited programs reporting meeting their ELA for job placement is 91%.

Graph 14



SECTION III. PROGRAM OPERATIONS

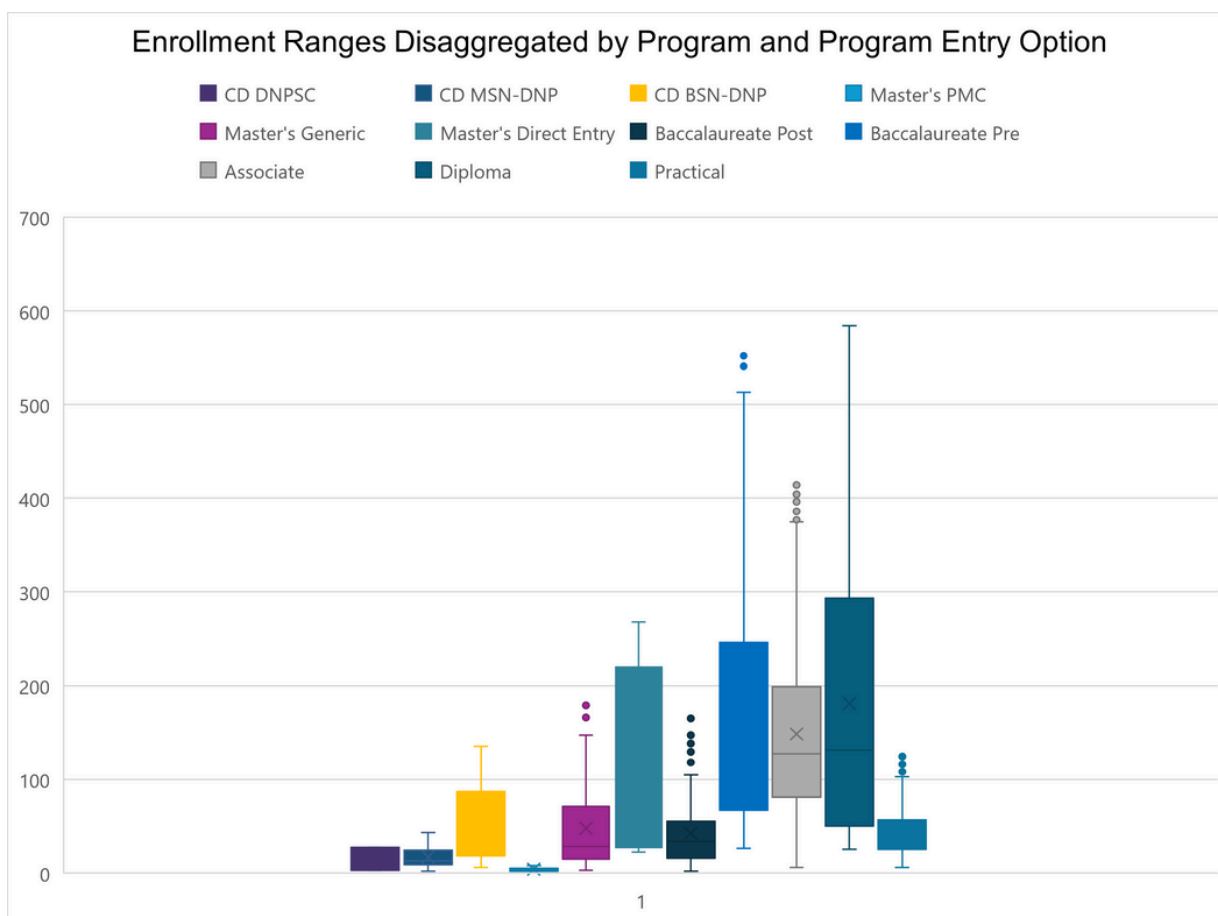
STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enrollment data were gathered on October 16, 2023 to ensure as much uniformity as possible in the data collected. TABLE 14 presents enrollment statistics for ACEN-accredited programs by program type.

Enrollment Statistics ACEN-Accredited Programs as of 10/16/2023				
	Min	Mean	Median	Max
CD	2	32	22	135
M	2	48	27	268
B	2	101	58	552
A	6	148	127	417
D	25	181	131	584
P	6	43	36	126

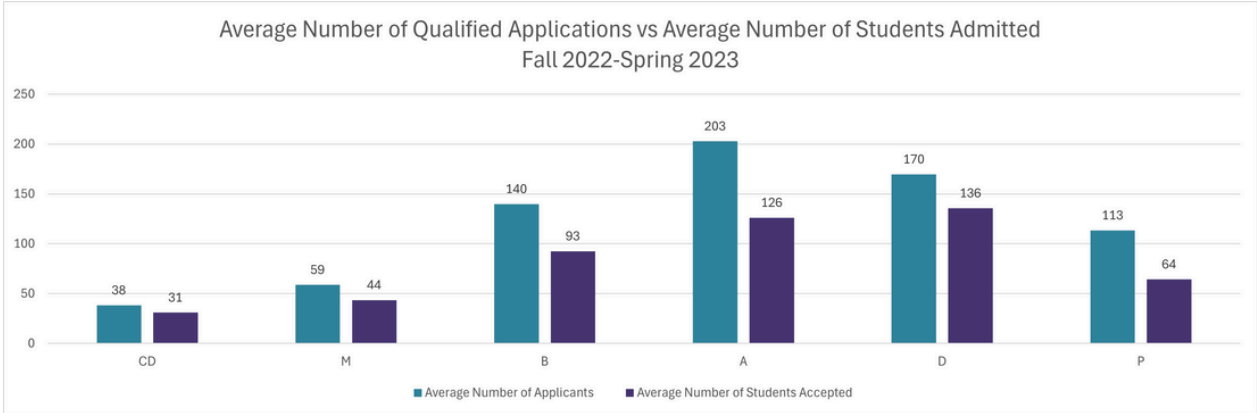
GRAPH 15 illustrates that for the 2022–2023 reporting period, most programs had 100-200 students enrolled in Fall 2023.

Graph 15

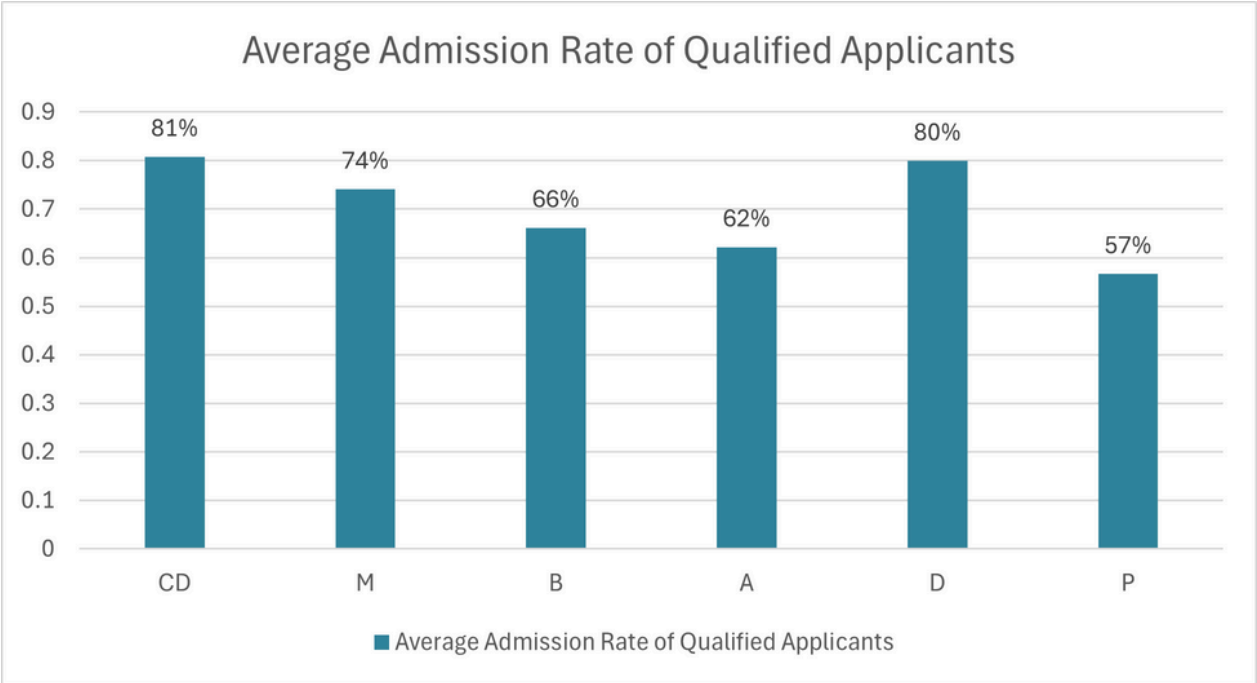


GRAPH 16 and GRAPH 17 illustrate applicant-to-admission ratios. Overall, applicant-to-admission ratios range from 57-81% with prelicensure programs accepting approximately 60% of qualified applicants.

Graph 16



Graph 17



FACULTY TABLES

In the 2022–2023 Annual Report, the ACEN requested faculty degree demographics as of October 16, 2023. These demographics included total full- and part-time faculty (both [exclusive and shared](#)) teaching in ACEN-accredited nursing programs (not including the nurse administrator). Nursing faculty are nurses who teach and evaluate nursing students, are academically qualified, and have experience in the content areas in which they teach. Additionally, the ACEN requested information regarding the highest degree earned for each program’s faculty.

TABLE 15 shows the total faculty counts for ACEN-accredited programs as well as the percentage of faculty (full- and part-time) exclusive to those programs. Along with those statistics, TABLE 16 also includes the nursing credential distribution for faculty.

Program Type	Average Total Faculty per Program	Total Faculty				Highest Degree					
		Exclusive, Shared, FT, & PT	For All Programs		% FT & PT Exclusive Faculty per Program Type	Doctorate	Masters	B	A	D	Practical Certificate
			FT	PT							
CD	50	1197	652	545	19%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
M	33	2616	1519	1097	33%	52%	17%	0%	0%	0%	0%
B	29	6325	3436	2889	63%	38%	41%	6%	0%	0%	0%
A	28	22384	9892	12492	85%	13%	62%	21%	1%	0%	0%
D	31	837	419	418	70%	13%	80%	4%	0%	0%	0%
P	20	3841	1759	2082	44%	8%	51%	28%	2%	0%	0%

FACULTY-TO-STUDENT RATIOS

TABLE 16 details the number of students enrolled in ACEN-accredited programs (by program type) as of October 16, 2023, as well as full-time faculty for those programs as indicated.

The 2023 ACEN Annual Report Survey asked for faculty numbers disaggregated by program type, and was collected in such a way so as to increase accuracy of data for interpretive and analytical purposes.

Program Type	Average		FT-Faculty-to-Student Ratio
	Single Program Enrollment	FT Exclusive	
CD	44	5	1:9
M	73	6	1:12
B	146	10	1:14
A	183	10	1:18
D	181	15	1:12
P	60	4	1:15



STANDARDIZED TESTING

Data confirms the use of standardized testing across program types. Use of standardized testing has remained essentially flat year-over-year; use remains higher than 90% for associate, diploma, and practical programs.

If a program uses standardized testing, the ACEN believes that any standardized test should only be used for the purpose for which it was developed. The use of high-stakes testing for students' progression or completion of a nursing program is not a best educational practice, which is discussed further here:

<https://www.acenursing.org/bridges/the-use-of-high-stakes-testing-in-an-acen-accredited-program>.

TABLE 17 provides an overview of the use of standardized testing across all program types.

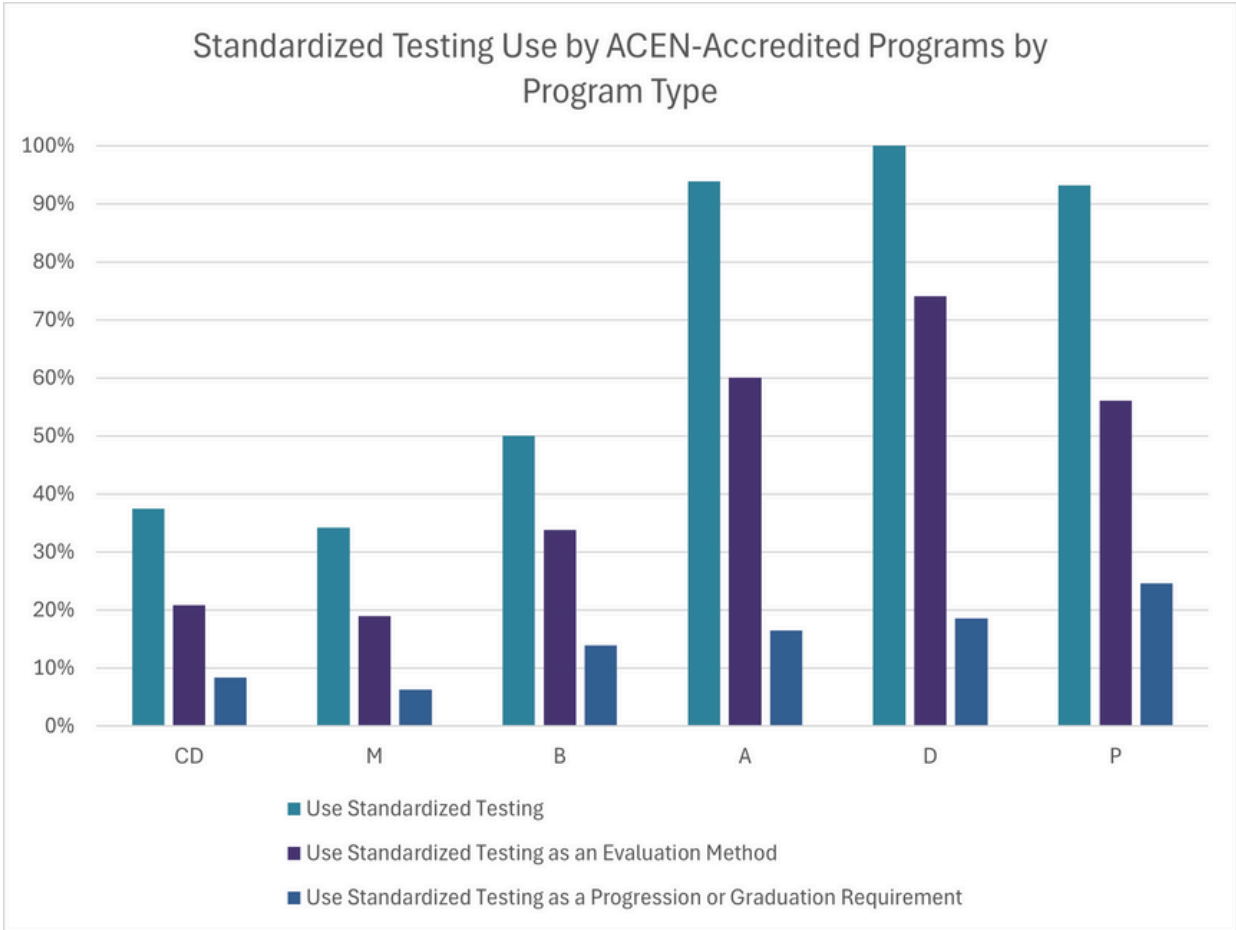
Program Type	Use of Standardized Testing by ACEN-accredited Programs				
	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022	2022–2023
CD	27%	25%	17%	19%	38%
M	36%	40%	42%	44%	34%
B	58%	59 %	54%	54%	50%
A	95%	96%	95%	94%	94%
D	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%
P	95%	94%	95%	94%	93%

For those programs that indicated they use standardized testing as a progression or graduation requirement, TABLE 18 provides the percentage of students (based on average program enrollment) that are either delayed or prevented either progression or graduation, respectively.

Table 18 Students Delayed or Prevented from Progression or Graduation Due to Standardized Test Performance from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023						
Program Enrollment						
Enrollment Scenario	Program Type					
	CD	M	B	A	D	P
Average Enrollment	44	73	146	183	181	60
Number of Students Delayed or Prevented from Progression						
Progression						
Delayed	0%	0%	2%	3%	0%	6%
Prevented	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	3%
Graduation						
Delayed	0%	0%	2%	2%	0%	5%
Prevented	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	2%

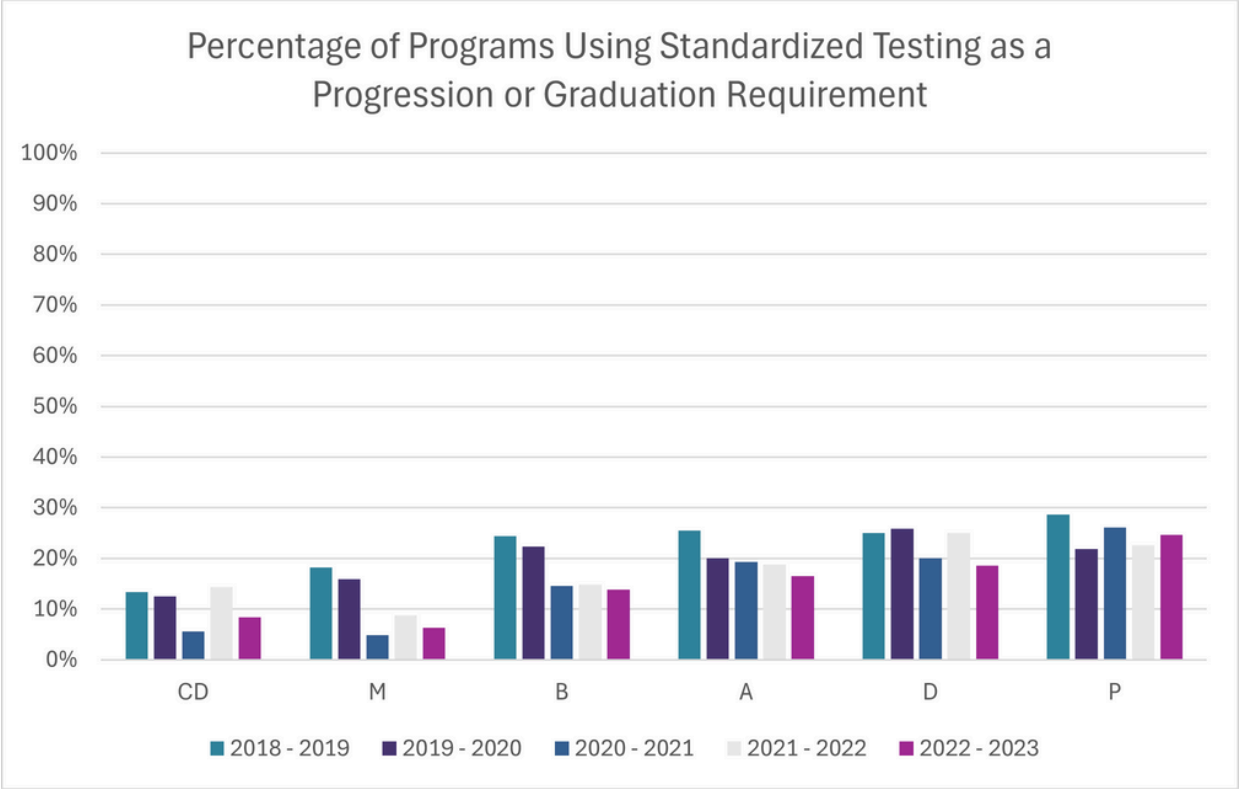
GRAPH 18 presents overall standardized testing use by ACEN-accredited programs disaggregated by program type as well as how many programs use standardized testing as an evaluation method and/or a progression or graduation requirement.

Graph 18



GRAPH 19 shows a year-over-year representation of the use of standardized testing as either a progression or graduation requirement. As the graph illustrates, of the ACEN-accredited programs that do report using standardized testing, the percentage that report the use of testing as a progression and/or graduation requirement has, by and large, decreased.

Graph 19



PROGRAM LENGTH

The three most common types of academic terms (semesters, quarters, and trimesters) are represented in ACEN-accredited programs. Respondents provided data regarding the length of their programs from the beginning of the nursing program (including prerequisites) to completion.

Average program length:

- Practical programs require 3-4 semesters.
- Diploma programs require 5–6 semesters.
- Associate programs require 5–6 semesters.
- Baccalaureate programs require 8 semesters with the notable exception of post-licensure program options, which are typically 4-6 semesters.
- Master’s programs average 6–8 semesters depending on program option.
- PMC programs average 4–5 semesters depending on program option.
- Clinical doctorate programs average 4-12 semesters depending on which entry-option and advanced-practice type is taken into consideration.

TABLE 19 shows the most common average program length in semesters and credit hours by program type (and option where applicable) for ACEN-accredited programs; semesters are the most common type of academic term.

Table 19				
Average Program Length in Semester Credits for ACEN-accredited Programs				
Graduate Program Type				
	Semesters		Credit Hours	
	APRN	Non-APRN	APRN	Non-APRN
DNP Specialist Certificate	8	5	39	35
MSN-to-DNP	10	7	52	36
BSN-to-DNP	11	12	88	70
Post-Master's Certificate	4	3	31	19
Master's	7	7	45	36
Direct Entry Master's	N/A	6	N/A	65
Undergraduate Program Type				
Baccalaureate Post-Licensure	6		121	
Baccalaureate Pre-Licensure	8		123	
Associate	6		68	
Diploma	6		75	
Practical	3		43	

CLINICAL/PRACTICUM, SKILLS LAB, SIMULATION HOURS

To be accredited by the ACEN, a program is required to have clinical/practicum hours as defined by the ACEN and part of the curriculum. As part of the 2022–2023 ACEN Annual Report, programs were asked to provide the number of clinical/practicum hours they required as well as any skills laboratory and simulation hours (if applicable).

TABLE 20 illustrates the average number of clinical, skills lab, and simulation hours (respectively) required by ACEN-accredited programs based on the program options offered.

Table 20			
Average Reported Clinical Hours, Skills Lab, and Simulation Requirement for ACEN-Accredited Programs			
	Clinical Hours	Skills Lab	Sim Lab
Clinical Doctorate - DNPSC - APRN	1016	36	0
Clinical Doctorate - DNPSC - Non APRN	500	0	0
Clinical Doctorate - MSN-DNP - APRN	1010	35	0
Clinical Doctorate - MSN-DNP - Non APRN	750	0	3
Clinical Doctorate - BSN-DNP - APRN	1153	39	6
Clinical Doctorate - BSN-DNP - Non APRN	889	0	0
Master's - PMC - APRN	601	35	11
Master's - PMC - Non APRN	172	28	3
Master's - Generic - APRN	668	38	14
Master's - Generic - Non APRN	156	102	21
Master's - Direct Entry	684	82	70
Baccalaureate - Post Licensure	109	85	49
Baccalaureate - Pre Licensure	665	127	95
Associate	541	124	70
Diploma	828	86	59
Practical	420	110	40

TABLE 21 presents a trended look at the average direct, hands-on clinical hours required by ACEN-accredited programs from 2020—2023. GRAPH 20 provides a graphical presentation of that same data.

Table 21 Average Reported Clinical/Practicum Hours Over Time			
Program Type & Option	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
CD DNPSC APRN	1053	1034	1016
CD DNPSC Non-APRN	776	400	500
CD MSN-DNP APRN	1260	1040	1010
CD MSN-DNP Non-APRN	729	868	750
CD BSN-DNP APRN	1067	1036	1153
CD BSN-DNP Non-APRN	612	830	889
M PMC APRN	607	599	601
M PMC Non-APRN	231	176	172
M Generic APRN	635	614	668
M Generic Non-APRN	247	201	156
M Direct Entry	1064	887	684
B Post-Licensure	146	154	109
B Pre-Licensure	705	714	665
A	592	528	541
D	791	791	828
P	417	422	420

Graph 20

