

Nursing Education Trends Report

NOVEMBER 2023

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Introduction

Section 1004.015, *Florida Statutes*, requires that the Florida Talent Development Council provide information on 10-year trends in pre-licensure nursing education. The Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida (SUS), the Florida Department of Education (DOE), the Commission for Independent Education (CIE), and the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) collaborated to produce the following information with facilitation from the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Office.

Most of the data shown in this report is self-reported by institutions through surveys administered by their state-level governing and coordinating bodies. This third edition of the report presents revised data for the school district and CIE sectors. DOE staff conducted additional quality assurance and validity checks that resulted in changes in the historical figures for the school district institutions. CIE staff implemented a new survey of institutions to capture all required data with an improved response rate. Readers should use the school district and CIE data in this report in lieu of data presented in previous editions.

The report presents separate data for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and Registered Nurse (RN) programs including numbers of slots, applications, accepted students, accepted students enrolled, graduates, retention/graduation rates, and National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) first-time pass rates. The report also presents four-year data trends for the nursing student loan forgiveness program instituted in section 1009.66, *Florida Statutes*. Finally, the report presents information on the implementation of the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund and the Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund.

Nursing Programs Offered in Florida

As required in section 1004.015, *Florida Statutes*, this report sponsored by the Florida Talent Development Council presents 10-year data trends in prelicensure nursing education in Florida. There are three levels of nursing programs offered by postsecondary institutions in Florida: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Associate in Science in Nursing (ASN), and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). Degrees for RN's may be earned at the associate or baccalaureate level. Nursing education may be provided by local school districts, Florida College System (FCS) institutions, CIE institutions, state universities, and ICUF institutions as shown in the chart below.

Number of Programs by Education Sector 2021-22		
	Prelicensure LPN Programs	Prelicensure RN Programs
School Districts	27	-
FCS	13	28
CIE	76	114
ICUF	-	15
SUS	-	10

Nursing education is offered across several stages of a career pathway. Prelicensure nursing education is designed for students interested in the nursing profession but new to the field and not licensed to practice. Bridge programs are designed to upgrade the credentials of licensed practicing nurses from LPN to RN or ASN to BSN, for example. This report comprises data for prelicensure programs only. Bachelor's level nursing programs offered by FCS institutions are not considered prelicensure programs because they are intended and designed to bridge working ASNs to the bachelor's level, as such, they are excluded from the data in this report.

Nursing programs must be accredited by the Florida Board of Nursing. New programs may operate pending professional accreditation and train nursing students, who, upon graduation, are eligible to take the NCLEX licensure exam. These non-accredited programs must become accredited within five years after the date of enrolling the program's first students.¹ Legislation passed in the 2023 regular session (Chapter 2003-39, *Laws of Florida*) requires CIE institutions to earn institutional accreditation prior to obtaining approval from CIE to offer prelicensure professional nursing programs (i.e., registered nurse).

About the Data

Most of the data shown in this report is derived from surveys of institutions and school districts, not state-level administrative databases. The REACH Office provided a standardized reporting template to each sector partner to populate with survey data so the REACH Office could compile this report.

The Talent Development Council recognizes the importance of the legislative charge behind this report and is committed to developing quality data for decision makers. There are, however, some caveats to the interpretation of the trend data in this report involving CIE institutional reporting issues. First, it is important to note that in general, CIE institutions do not participate in state funding, grant, or performance-based incentive programs that would require administrative data reporting. Another issue is that data from CIE institutions for this report are based on a survey response rate below 100%.²

CIE's board and leadership have stated their commitment to improving data quality and undertook a comprehensive re-survey that generated the CIE data for this report, and the response rate was higher than that of previous surveys. HB 1000, passed in 2023, requires CIE to create rules requiring stronger reporting of accountability measures, which may further improve data quality.

However, there is a more systemic problem that is challenging to solve. While there have been some improvements in the response rates, CIE still suffers from additional missing data as institutions that closed at any time during the ten-year timeframe would not be represented in the figures. Consequently, there is an inherent statistical bias that underestimates actual figures for prior years because the historical data of defunct institutions are not being captured. The missing data produces steep increases in the trendlines when, in fact, the increase is probably more gradual.

¹ Section 464.019(11), *Florida Statutes*.

² For this report, CIE surveyed 40 institutions with accredited LPN programs, and 23 (58%) provided complete responses to the survey. CIE surveyed 36 institutions with non-accredited LPN programs, and 27 (75%) responded. CIE surveyed 75 institutions with accredited RN programs, and 67 (89%) provided complete responses to the survey. CIE surveyed 39 institutions with non-accredited RN programs, and 25 (64%) responded. This is a much better response rate than the previous edition of the report, and the gap between accredited and non-accredited programs is smaller.

CIE staff reported that private sector entry into the nursing education market began ramping up within the last decade, thus the upward trend in the data is likely accurate. Because of CIE’s unique data collection challenges and resulting missing data, CIE data are presented in a separate section of the report.

The school district data in this report revises the data presented in previous editions. DOE staff conducted additional quality assurance and validity checks that resulted in changes in the historical figures for the school district institutions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because the CIE data is drawn from a new baseline survey, readers should use the CIE data in this report and not the data presented in previous editions. Because the school district data has been revised, readers should use the district data in this report and not the data presented in previous editions.

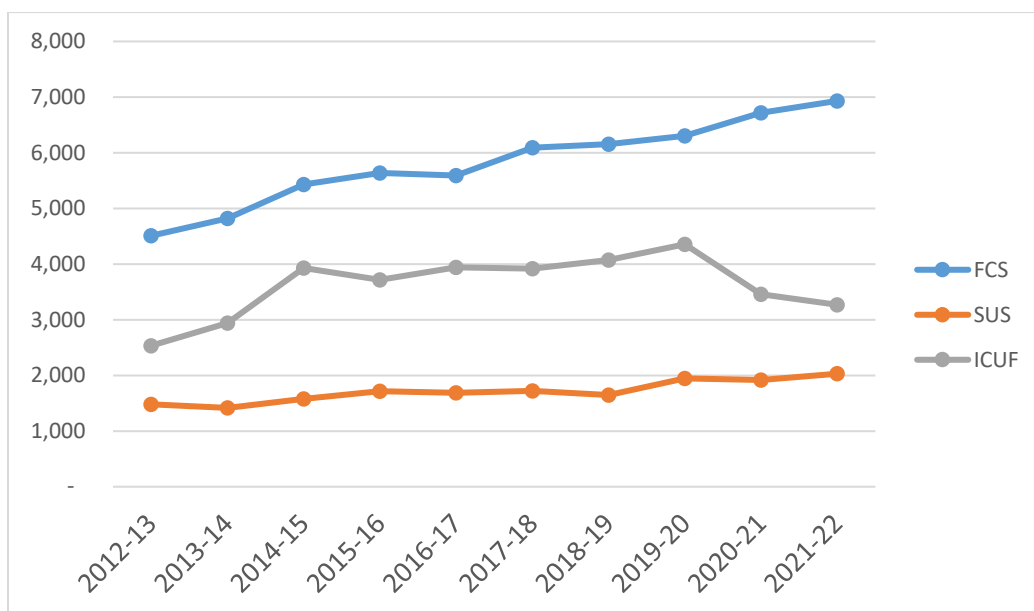
Registered Nurse Programs

This section of the report analyzes the 10-year trend data in RN (both ASN and BSN levels) education programs for the academic years of 2012-13 through 2021-22. The data include the number of student slots, application and acceptance data, accepted students enrolled, number of graduates, retention/graduation rates, and licensure exam pass rates.

RN Student Slots

During the review period, the overall number of student nursing slots increased from 8,521 slots to 12,230, an increase of 43.5%.³ Exhibit 1 displays the trend for each sector, with FCS showing the most growth over the ten years at 54% followed by SUS at 37%, and ICUF at 29%.

Exhibit 1: Pre-Licensure Student RN Slots



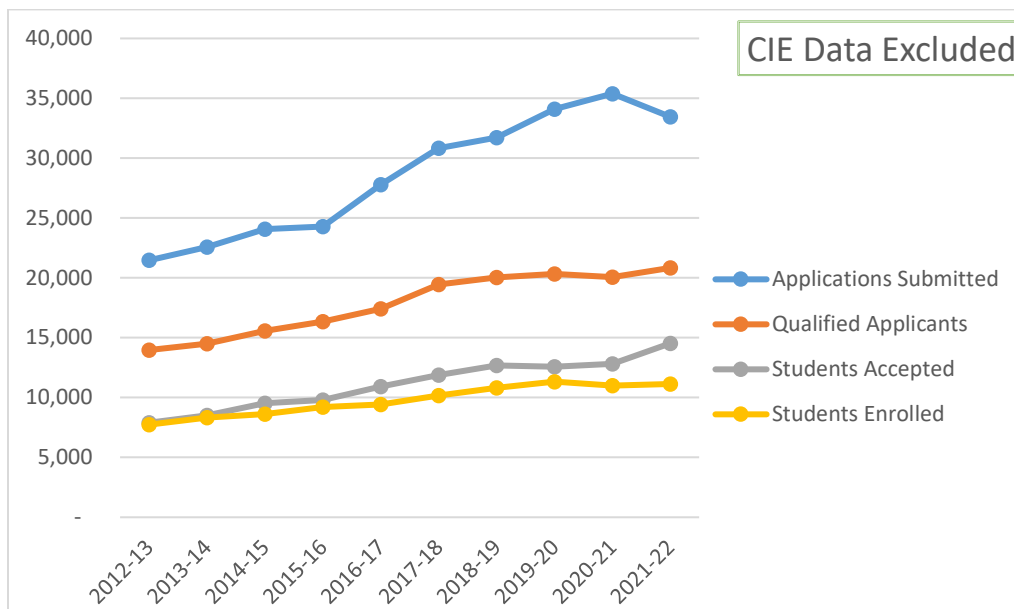
Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

³ For the 2020-21 academic year, there were 2 ICUF institutions that did not report slot numbers. For those cases, we used the number enrolled as a proxy for slots.

RN Applications and Admission

As shown in Exhibit 2 below, between 2012-13 and 2021-22 across all postsecondary sectors, the number of RN program applications, qualified applicants, accepted students, and enrollees has increased.⁴ The gap between the number of all applicants and students accepted increased by 40% over the ten-year period, but the gap between qualified applicants and students accepted increased by only 4%. The gap between applications submitted and qualified applicants has grown by 69%. Of those qualified applicants, almost 70% were accepted into nursing programs in 2021-22 compared to 57% in 2012-13. The number of accepted students enrolled is up 44% during the review period, but the gap between the number of students accepted into a program and the number of students enrolled has grown significantly from 191 in 2012-13 to 3,380 in 2021-22.

Exhibit 2: RN Program Applications, Qualified Applicants, Accepted Students across All Sectors: *CIE Data Excluded*

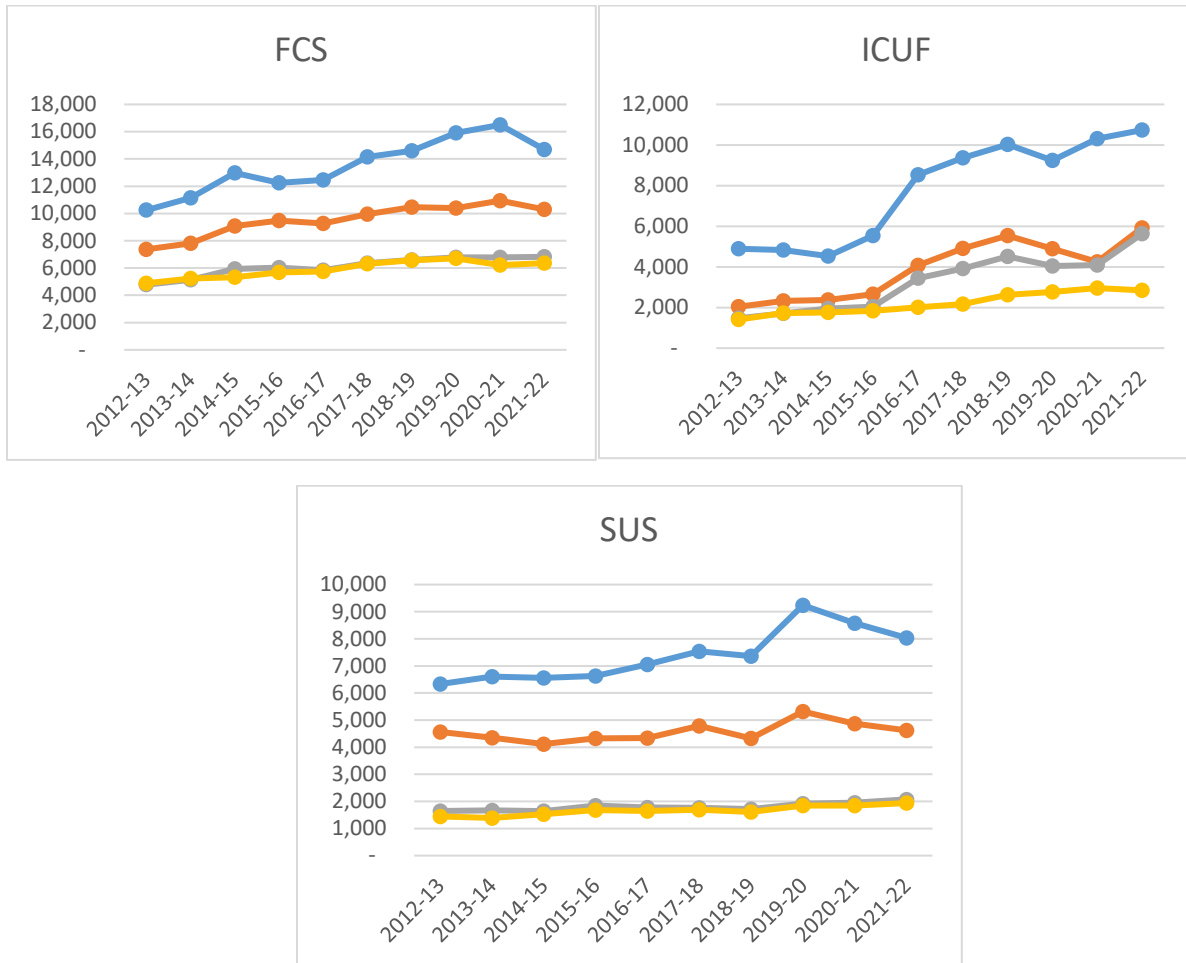


Source: Analysis of data from the Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

⁴ The ten-year trend in the number of accepted students who enroll (in both RN and LPN programs) is a new feature in this edition of the report.

Exhibit 3 shows these trends by postsecondary education sector. All sectors show large and growing gaps between applications and accepted students, but the gap between qualified applicants and accepted students is pronounced in the FCS and SUS sectors, suggesting that demand for these state-supported programs has been outstripping supply.

Exhibit 3: RN Program Applications (blue), Qualified Applicants (red), Accepted Students (gray), Enrolled Students (yellow) by Education Sector

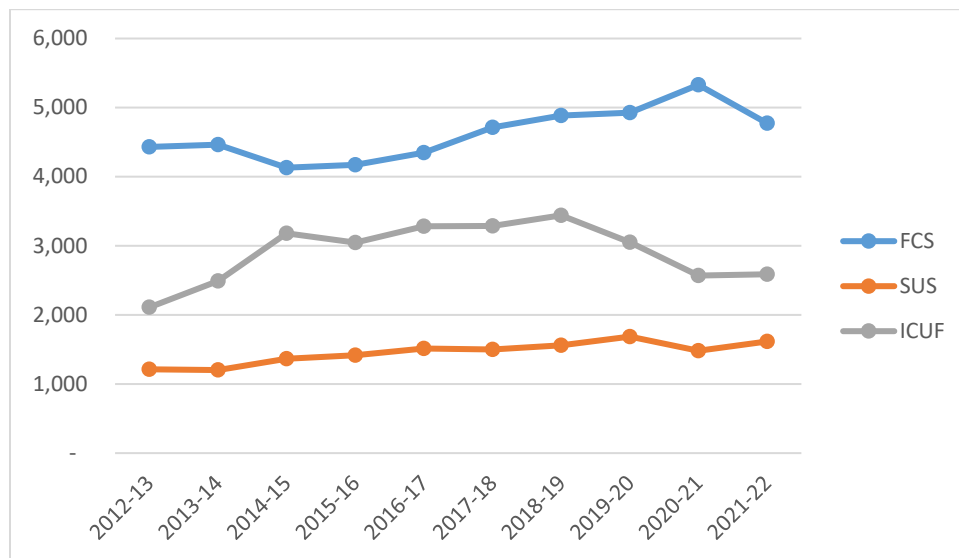


Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

RN Graduates

Across all education sectors the total number of pre-licensure nursing program graduates increased from 7,753 to 8,980 (16%) between 2012-13 and 2021-22. Exhibit 4 below shows the trends for each postsecondary education sector. ICUF graduates have declined from 2018-19 through 2020-21, almost reaching its 2013-14 level. The growth of FCS and SUS graduates has been relatively modest over the ten-year period.

Exhibit 4: Pre-licensure RN Program Graduates

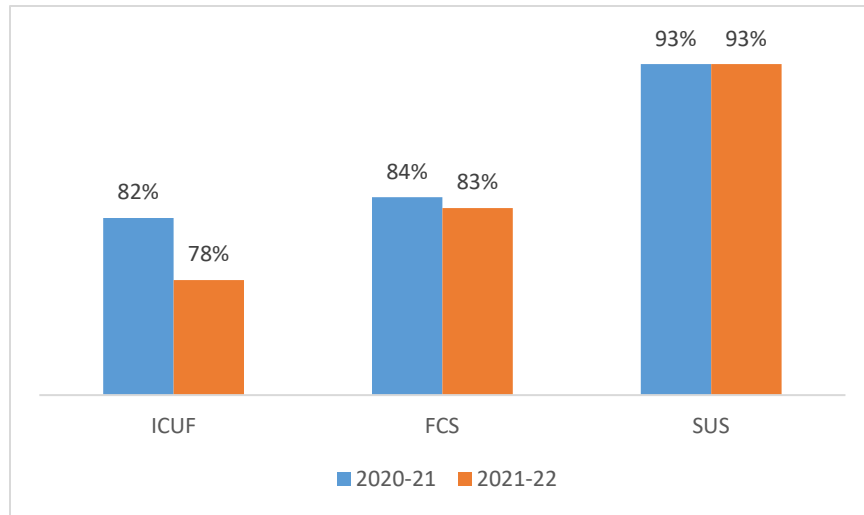


Source: Analysis of data from Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

RN Program Retention/Graduation Rates

Section 1004.015, *Florida Statutes*, requires reporting on program retention rates of students tracked from program entry to graduation. Because of variation in program lengths and when students start programs during their postsecondary career, calculation of this data is challenging. As a solution, the REACH Office, along with staff from each sector, formulated a standardized proxy measure beginning with the 2020-21 program year. The measure calculates the rate of retention or graduation among all enrolled students from the previous year, what percentage either graduated or were continuously enrolled by the summer of the following academic year. Exhibit 5 shows the 2020-21 and 2021-22 retention or graduation rates for each sector. Results for 2021-22 ranged from 93% (SUS) to 78% (ICUF), with FCS in between at 83%.

Exhibit 5: Retention/Graduation Rates of RN Students

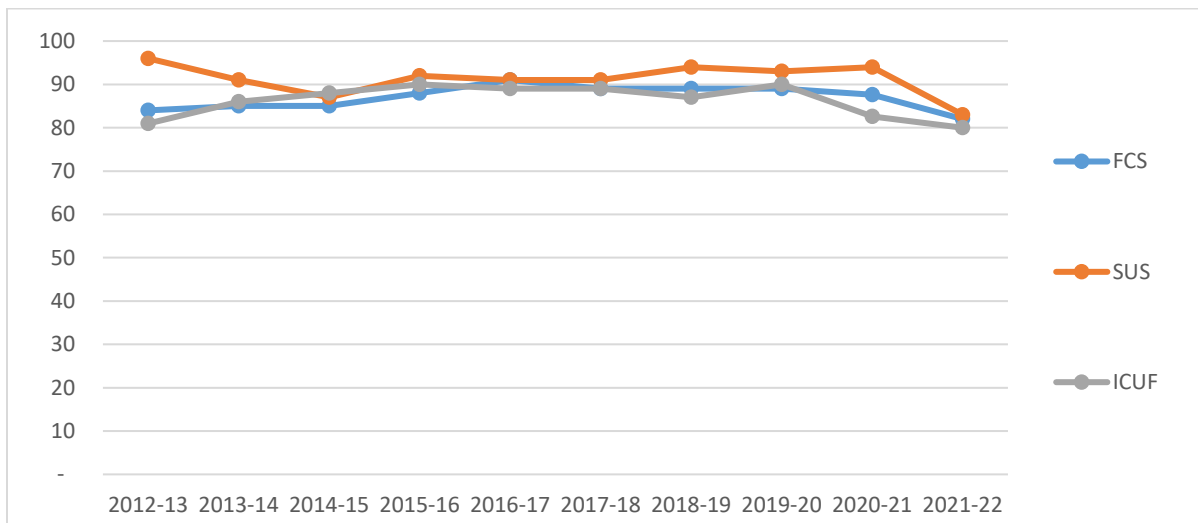


Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) Pass Rates

Exhibit 6 shows the trend in NCLEX pass rates for each education sector. The NCLEX pass rate among education sectors varied over the 10-year period ranging from 80% to 96% with SUS institutions having the highest pass rates for nine of the ten years.

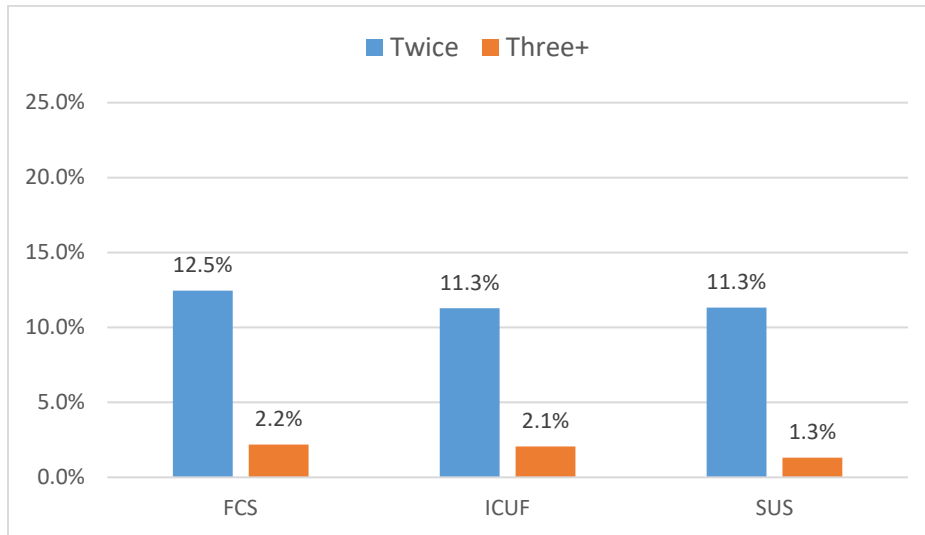
Exhibit 6: RN Program NCLEX Pass Rates



Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

Among RN students who graduated in 2021-22 and took the NCLEX exam within a year of graduation, most took the exam one time, 11.9% took the exam a second time, and 2% took the exam a total of three or more times. Exhibit 7 shows the percentages of 2021-22 graduate test takers who took the exam multiple times by education sector.

Exhibit 7: NCLEX Retakes Among RN Program 2021-22 Graduates



Source: Analysis of data provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

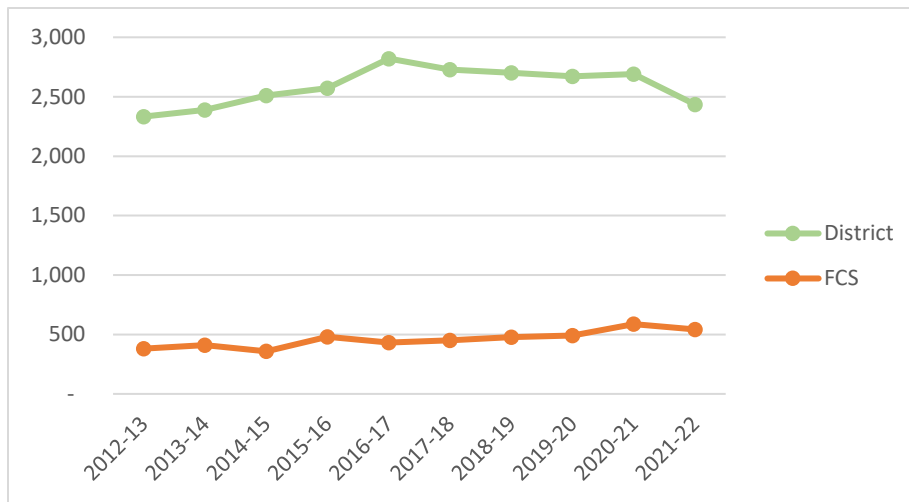
Licensed Practical Nurse Programs

This section of the report analyses the 10-year trend data in LPN education programs for the academic years of 2012-13 through 2021-22. The data include the number of student slots, application and acceptance data, enrollment, number of graduates, retention/graduation rates, and licensure exam pass rates of school districts and FCS institutions offering LPN programs.

LPN Student Slots

Between 2012-13 and 2021-22, the number of student LPN slots increased from 2,714 to 2,977, an increase of 10%. Both sectors experienced a slight downtick between 2020-21 and 2021-22. Exhibit 8 displays the ten-year trend for each education sector.

Exhibit 8: Student LPN Slots

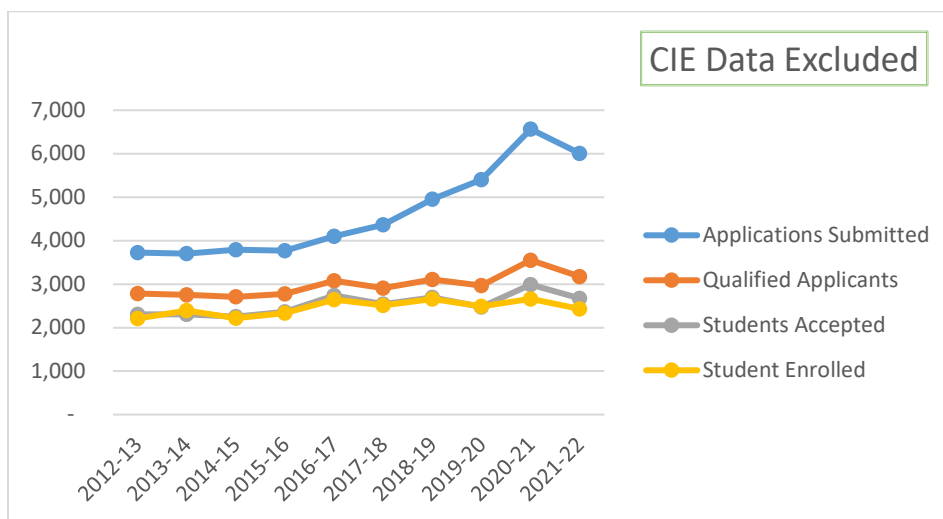


Source: Florida Department of Education.

LPN Applications and Admission

As shown in Exhibit 9, between 2012-13 and 2021-22 across both postsecondary sectors, the number of LPN program applications increased. The gap between the number of applicants and students accepted increased by 135% over the ten-year period, but the gap between qualified applicants and students accepted increased by only 4%. The gap between all applications submitted and qualified applicants has grown by 201%. Of those qualified applicants, almost 84% were accepted into nursing programs in 2021-22 compared to 83% in 2012-13. The number of accepted students enrolled is up 16% during the review period, and the gap between the number of students accepted into a program and the number of students enrolled has grown from 62 in 2012-13 to 245 in 2021-22.

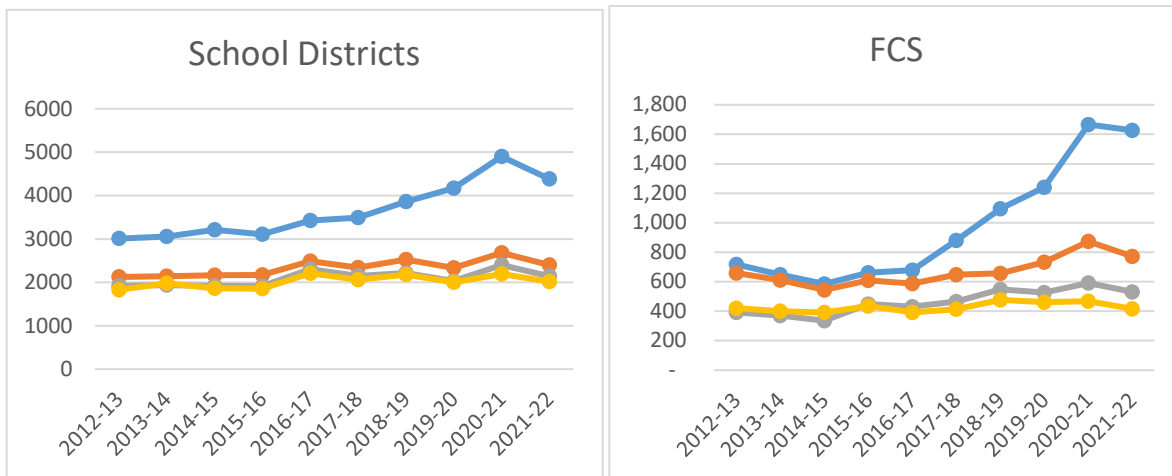
Exhibit 9: LPN Program Applications, Qualified Applicants, Accepted Students, Enrolled Students across All Sectors: CIE Data Excluded



Source: Analysis of data from the Florida Department of Education.

Exhibit 10 shows these trends by postsecondary education sector. Both sectors show large and growing gaps between total applications and accepted students, but the gap between qualified applicants and accepted students is small and relatively stable.

Exhibit 10: LPN Program Applications (blue), Qualified Applicants (orange), Accepted Students (gray), Enrolled Students (yellow) by Education Sector

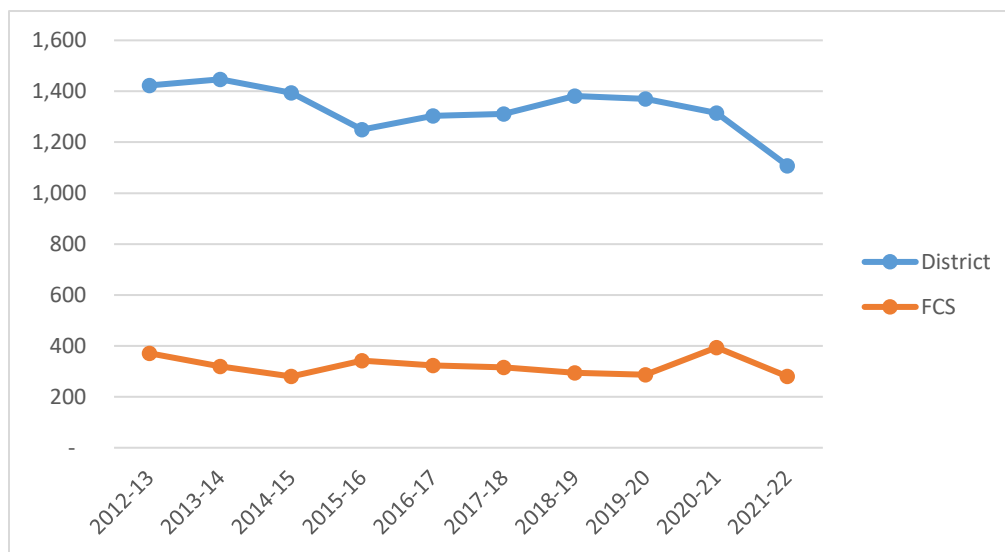


Source: Florida Department of Education.

LPN Graduates

The total number of pre-licensure LPN program graduates decreased from 1,794 to 1,388 (23%) between 2012-13 and 2021-22. Exhibit 11 below shows the trends for both postsecondary education sectors. Over this timeframe both school districts and FCS institutions saw a decrease in the number of LPN graduates by 22% and 25%, respectively, and the numbers trend downward at the end of the time series.

Exhibit 11: LPN Program Graduates

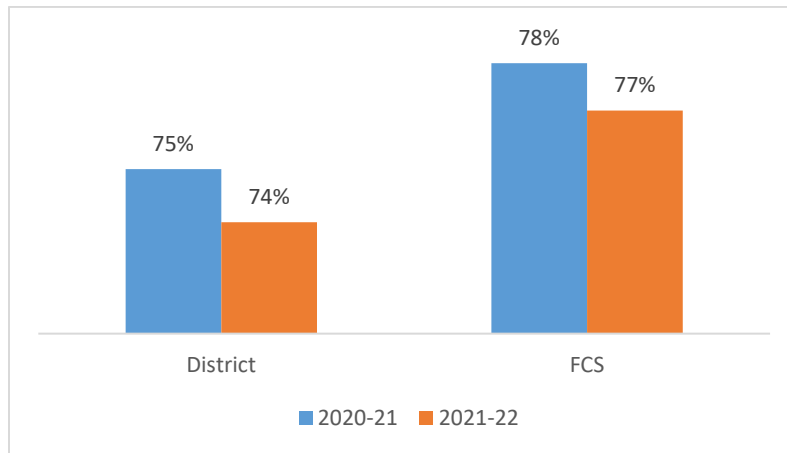


Source: Analysis of data from Florida Department of Education.

LPN Program Retention/Graduation Rates

As shown in Exhibit 12 below, in 2021-22, the retention/graduation rate was 74% for districts and 77% for FCS. Both sectors showed small declines in their retention/graduation rates between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Exhibit 12: Retention/Graduation Rates of LPN Students

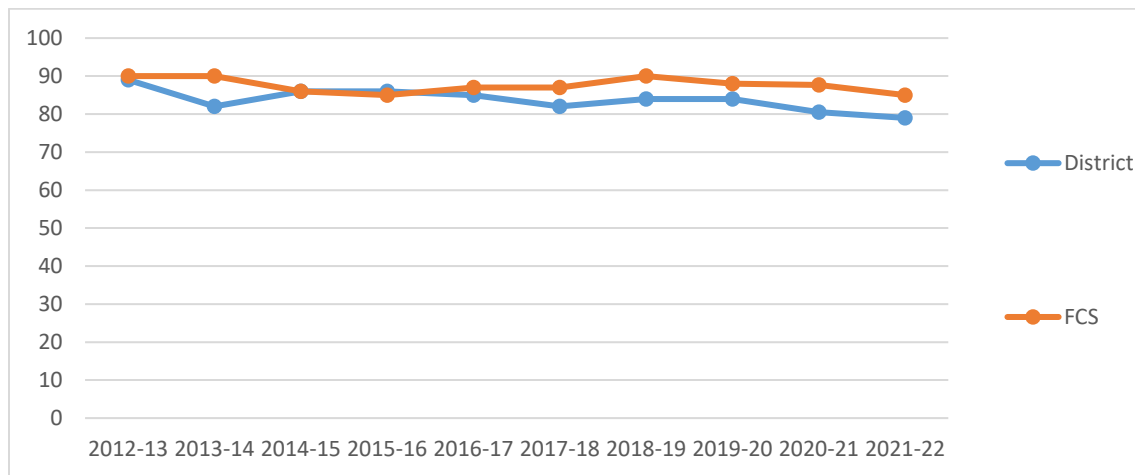


Source: Florida Department of Education.

LPN National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination Pass Rates

Exhibit 13 shows the NCLEX pass rate trends for both education sectors. Pass rates ranged from a low of 79% to a high of 90% across sectors. Pass rates have seen a gradual but steady decline.

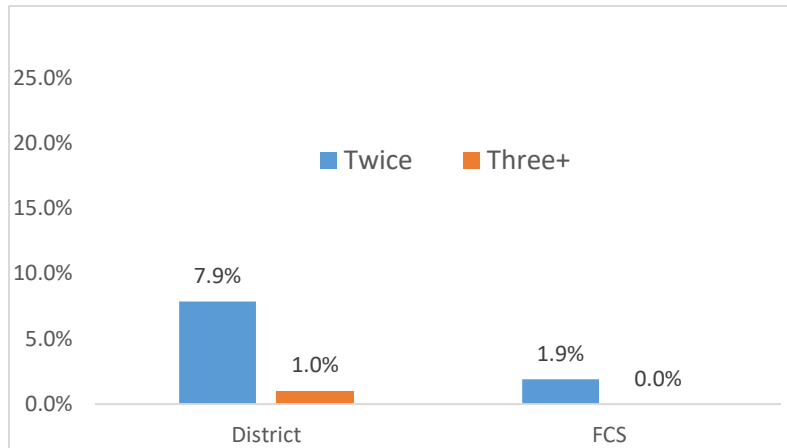
Exhibit 13: LPN Program NCLEX Pass Rates



Source: Florida Department of Education.

Among LPN students who graduated in 2021-22 and took the NCLEX exam within a year of graduation, 7.0% took the exam a second time and 0.8% took the exam a total of three or more times. Exhibit 14 shows the percentages of 2021-22 graduate test takers who took the exam multiple times by education sector. Graduates from school district institutions had a higher retake percentage than graduates of FCS institutions.

Exhibit 14: NCLEX Retakes Among LPN Program 2021-22 Graduates



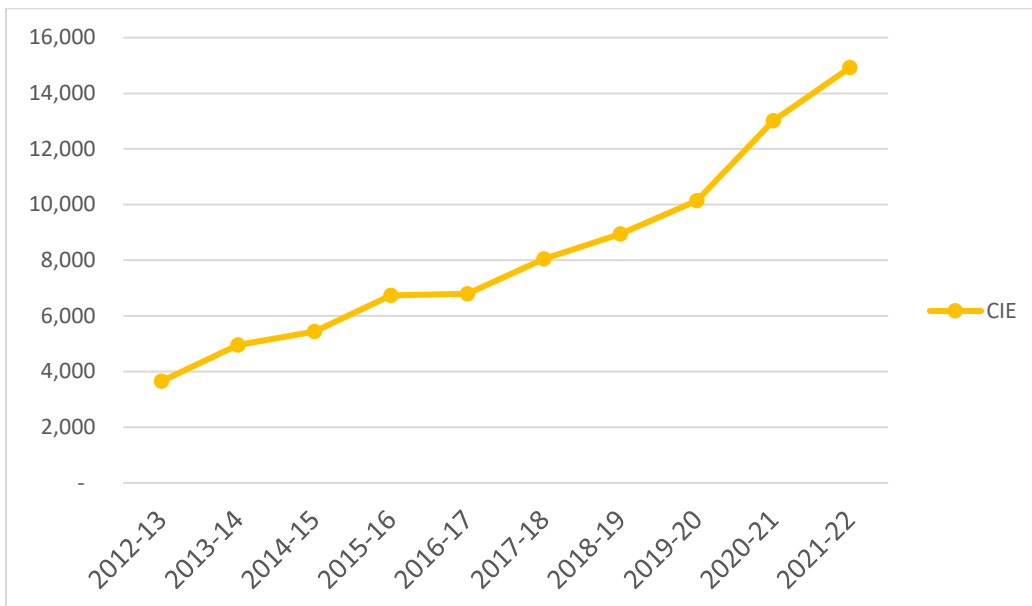
Source: Analysis of data provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

CIE Registered Nurse Programs

CIE RN Student Slots

As shown in Exhibit 15 below, during the review period, the overall number of CIE student RN slots increased from 3,653 slots to 14,922, an increase of 309%. *As noted previously, the rapid growth rate for the CIE sector may be overstated due to missing data from institutions that closed before the 2023 survey, and this caveat applies to all the CIE data below related to headcounts over the ten-year period.*

Exhibit 15: CIE Pre-Licensure Student RN Slots

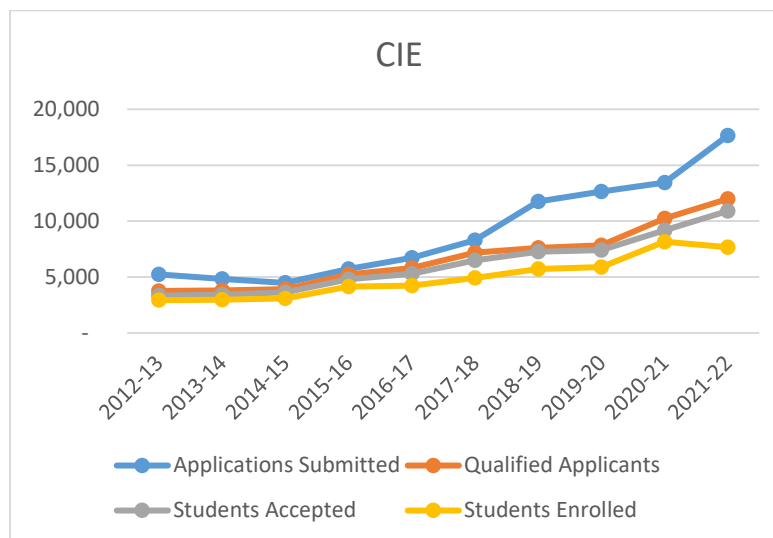


Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

CIE RN Applications and Admission

As shown in Exhibit 16 below, between 2012-13 and 2021-22, the number of CIE RN program applications, qualified applicants, accepted students, and accepted students enrolled has increased.⁵ The gap between the number of all applicants and students accepted increased by 253% over the ten-year period, but the gap between qualified applicants and students accepted increased by 156%. The gap between applications submitted and qualified applicants has grown by 281%. Of those qualified applicants, almost 91% were accepted into nursing programs in 2021-22 compared to 89% in 2012-13. The number of accepted students enrolled is up 227% during the review period, but the gap between the number of students accepted into a program and the number of students enrolled has grown significantly from 405 in 2012-13 to 3,225 in 2021-22.

Exhibit 16: CIE RN Program Applications (blue), Qualified Applicants (red), Accepted Students (gray), Enrolled Students (yellow)



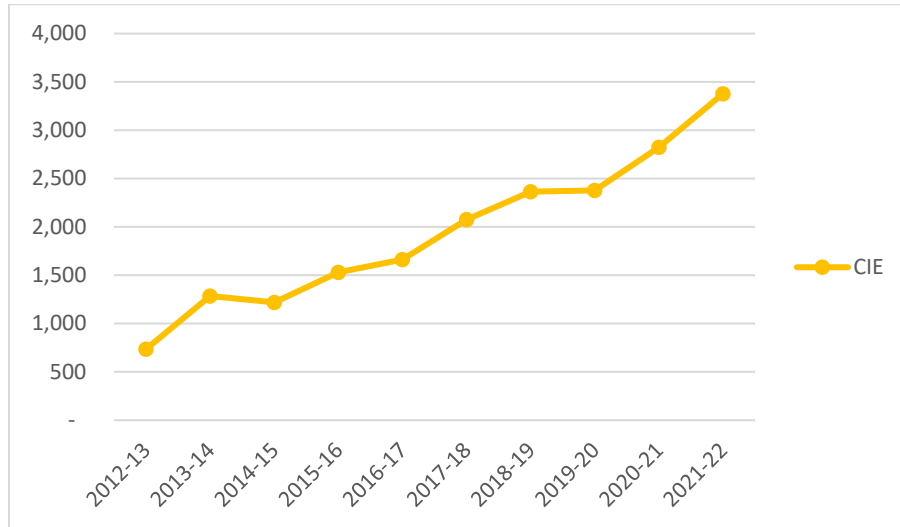
Source: Florida Department of Education.

⁵ The ten-year trend in the number of accepted students who actually enroll (in both RN and LPN programs) is a new feature in this edition of the report.

CIE RN Graduates

The total number of CIE pre-licensure nursing program graduates increased from 736 to 3,379 between 2012-13 and 2021-22. Exhibit 17 below shows the ten-year trend.

Exhibit 17: CIE Pre-licensure RN Program Graduates

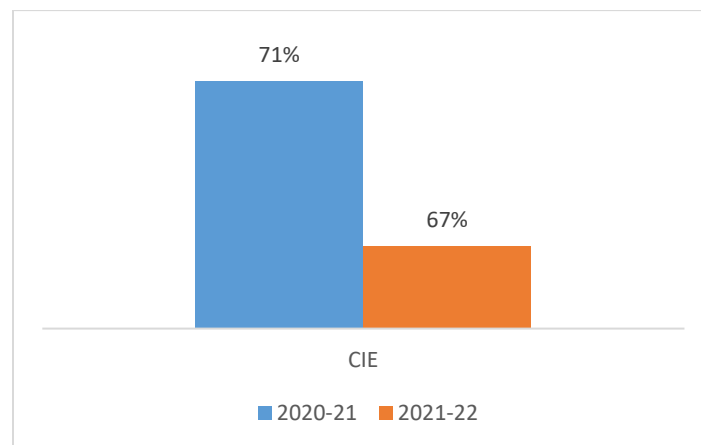


Source: Analysis of data from Florida Department of Education.

CIE RN Program Retention/Graduation Rates

Exhibit 18 shows the 2020-21 and 2021-22 retention or graduation rates for CIE. There was a drop from 71% in 2020-21 to 67% in 2021-22.

Exhibit 18: CIE Retention/Graduation Rates of RN Students



Source: Florida Department of Education.

CIE National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) Pass Rates

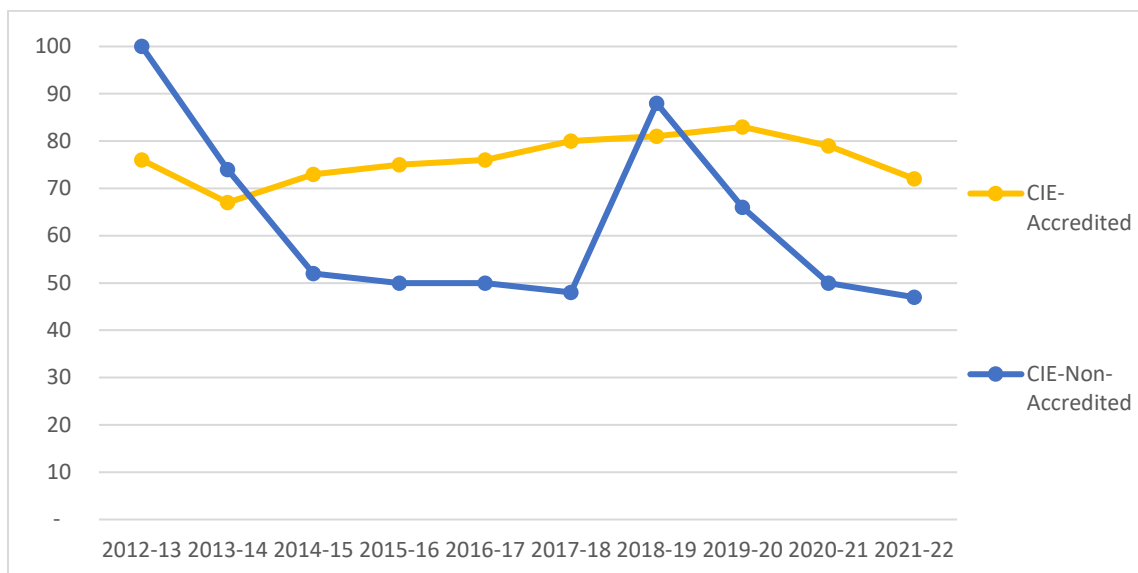
Exhibit 19 shows the trend in NCLEX pass rates for CIE programs, which are sub-divided into two groups: those with professional program accreditation and those pending professional accreditation.

Pass rates for non-accredited CIE programs were volatile, ranging from 100% to 47% with a predominately downward trend. The volatility may be attributed to the relatively low number and wide range of reported tests for non-accredited programs. For the ten-year period, the number of total reported tests for non-accredited programs ranged from 1 in 2012-13, the only year with 100% pass rate, to 234 in 2021-22. In contrast, the number of reported tests for accredited CIE programs ranged from 520 in 2012-13 to 3,114 in 2020-21.

Across the ten-year timeframe, there were 19,688 reported first-time tests administered, and 790 or 4.0% of these tests were administered by non-accredited programs. In comparison, across the time series, 53,891 new students were enrolled, of which 9,066 or 16.8% were enrolled at non-accredited programs. Therefore, the number of reported tests among non-accredited programs appears disproportionately low compared to accredited institutions. Some of this difference may be explained by a higher proportion of new programs among the non-accredited programs compared to the accredited programs. Students enrolled in new programs need time to complete their credentials before they can take the NCLEX.

Despite the volatility and relatively low numbers of tests reported by non-accredited programs, the data suggests that overall, the test scores of non-accredited CIE programs lag those of accredited programs. For the reasons described above, readers should use caution when interpreting the data from the non-accredited programs.

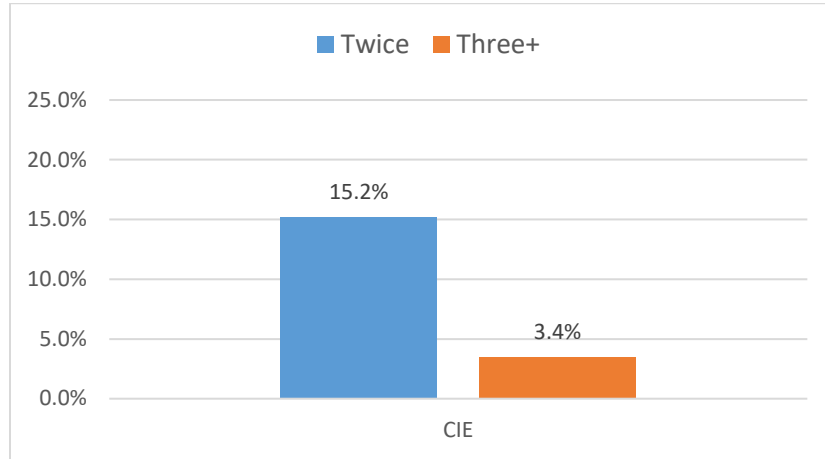
Exhibit 19: CIE RN Program NCLEX Pass Rates



Source: Board of Governors, Florida Department of Education, and Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida.

As shown in Exhibit 20, among CIE RN students who graduated in 2021-22 and took the NCLEX exam within a year of graduation, most took the exam one time, 15.2% took the exam a second time, and 3.4% took the exam a total of three or more times.

Exhibit 20: CIE NCLEX Retakes Among RN Program 2021-22 Graduates



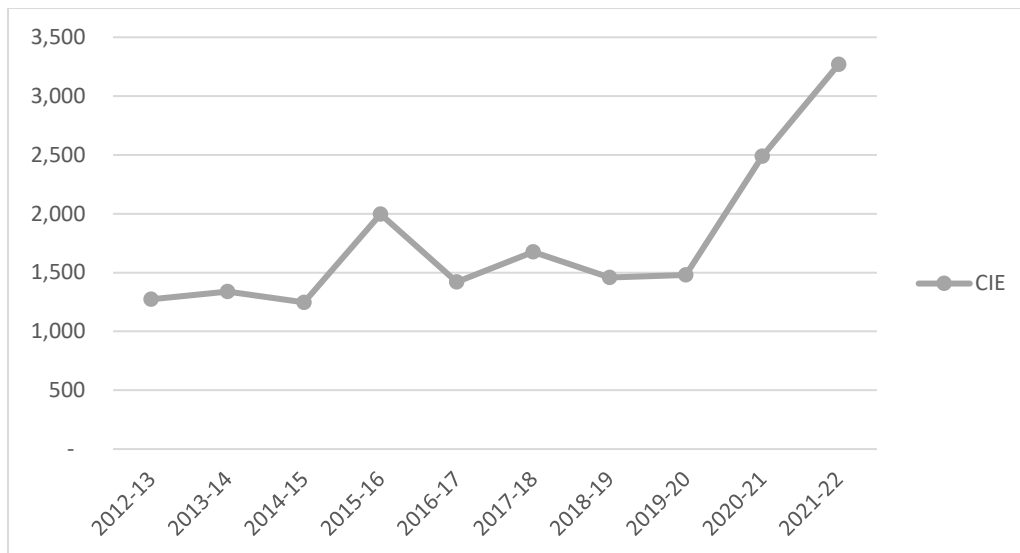
Source: Analysis of data provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

CIE Licensed Practical Nurse Programs

CIE LPN Student Slots

Between 2012-13 and 2021-22, the number of CIE student LPN slots increased from 1,274 slots to 3,270, an increase of 157%. CIE institutions experienced rapid growth starting in 2019-20. Exhibit 21 displays the ten-year trend for CIE.

Exhibit 21: CIE Student LPN Slots

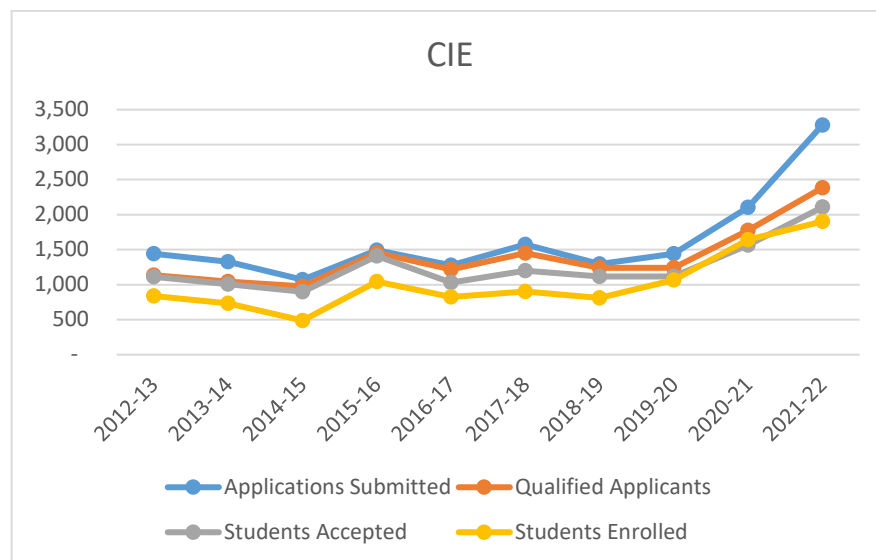


Source: Florida Department of Education.

CIE LPN Applications and Admission

As shown in Exhibit 22, below, between 2012-13 and 2021-22, the number of CIE LPN program applications increased. The gap between the number of applicants and students accepted increased by 194% over the ten-year period, and the gap between qualified applicants and students accepted increased from 23 in 2012-13 to 278 in 2021-22. The gap between applications submitted and qualified applicants has grown by 194%. Of those qualified applicants, almost 88% were accepted into nursing programs in 2021-22 compared to 98% in 2012-13. The number of accepted students enrolled is up 89% during the review period, and the gap between the number of students accepted into a program and the number of students enrolled has declined from 273 in 2012-13 to 204 in 2021-22.

Exhibit 22: CIE LPN Program Applications (blue), Qualified Applicants (orange), Accepted Students (gray), Enrolled Students (yellow) by Education Sector

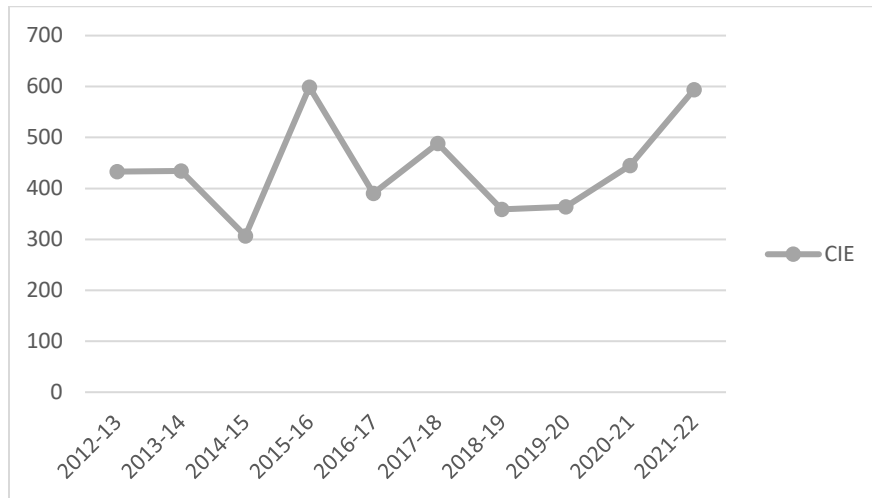


Source: Florida Department of Education.

CIE LPN Graduates

The total number of pre-licensure CIE LPN program graduates increased from 433 to 594 (37%) between 2012-13 and 2021-22. Exhibit 23 below shows the ten-year trend.

Exhibit 23: CIE LPN Program Graduates

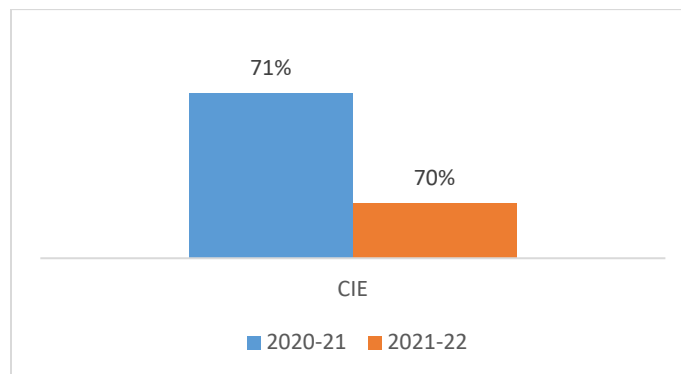


Source: Analysis of data from Florida Department of Education.

CIE LPN Program Retention/Graduation Rates

As shown in Exhibit 24 below, in 2021-22, the CIE retention/graduation rate was 71% in 2020-21 and 70% in 2021-22.

Exhibit 24: CIE Retention/Graduation Rates of LPN Students



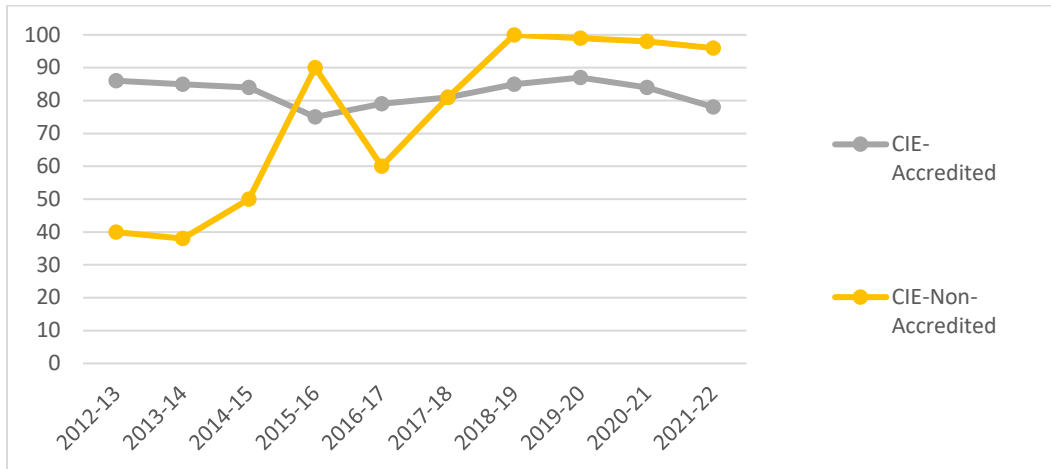
Source: Florida Department of Education.

CIE LPN National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination Pass Rates

Exhibit 25 shows the NCLEX pass rate trends for the CIE sector, disaggregating the rates of accredited and non-accredited programs. As seen in the RN NCLEX pass rates, the rates for non-accredited CIE programs are volatile across the time series. This could be attributed to the variation in the annual number of tests reported throughout the ten-year period, which ranged from 5 to 249. By comparison, the number of administered tests annually ranged from 301 to 483 among accredited programs. Non-accredited programs represented 41.3% of all reported first-time tests administered and 30.3% of all newly enrolled

students, so there was not the same disparity in these figures compared to RN programs. This could be due to the shorter program length of LPN programs and relatively lower attrition rate, i.e., a higher percentage of students enrolled in new LPN programs take tests sooner compared to their RN counterparts. While there is a clear upward trend in the data of non-accredited CIE programs, readers should use caution interpreting the data.

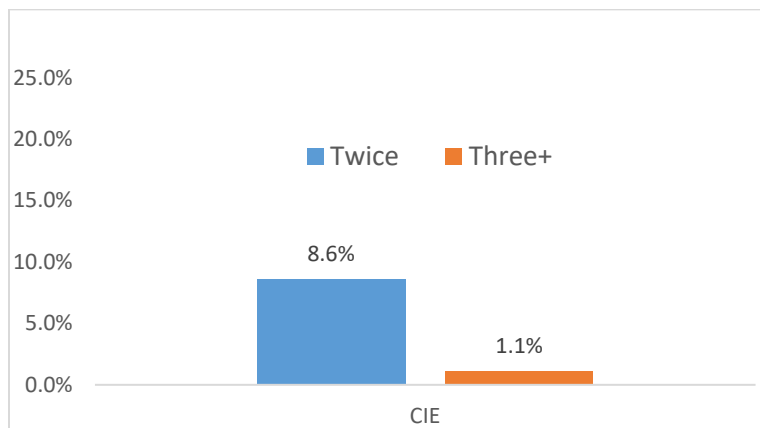
Exhibit 25: CIE LPN Program NCLEX Pass Rates



Source: Florida Department of Education.

As shown in Exhibit 26, among CIE LPN students who graduated in 2021-22 and took the NCLEX exam within a year of graduation, 8.6% took the exam a second time and 1.1% took the exam a total of three or more times.

Exhibit 26: NCLEX Retakes Among CIE LPN Program 2021-22 Graduates



Source: Analysis of data provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Loan Forgiveness Program

The nursing student loan forgiveness program instituted in section 1009.66, *Florida Statutes*, allows the Florida DOE to repay loan principal of up to \$4,000 a year for up to four years for selected graduates of accredited or approved nursing programs. In 2022, a total of 296 graduates received a total of \$1.1 million, which averages to \$3,832 per graduate. Of these graduates across all nursing programs, 217 were from bachelor’s level RN programs. On average, graduates receiving support were with the same employer for over seven years. Exhibit 27 below summarizes repayment details from the last four years.

Exhibit 27: Nursing Loan Forgiveness Repayment Data, 2019-20 – 2022-23

Loan Repayment Detail	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Graduates Receiving Payments (All Credential Levels)	436	401	322	296
Bachelor’s in Nursing	365	319	242	217
Associate in Nursing	53	64	64	70
Licensed Practical Nurse	16	16	15	9
Not Reported	2	2	1	0
Average Years with Employer	7.2	7.3	7.6	7.9
Total Amount Paid	\$1,220,815.08	\$1,221,588.51	\$1,200,895.54	\$1,134,215.20
Average Amount Paid	\$2,800.03	\$3,046.36	\$3,729.49	\$3831.81

Source: Analysis of data provided by the Florida Department of Education.

As shown in Exhibit 28, most of the graduates receiving loan repayment assistance over the last four years were employed at teaching hospitals.

Exhibit 28: Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program Employers, 2019-20 – 2022-23

Employer Type	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Teaching Hospital	343	311	250	224
Public School	13	15	19	18
Community Health Center	11	18	16	13
County Health Department	21	25	16	17
State Medical Facility	17	15	15	11
Hospital for Children	24	14	5	8
Family Practice Teaching Hospital	7	3	1	5
Total	436	401	322	296

Source: Analysis of data provided by the Florida Department of Education.

LINE and PIPELINE Implementation⁶

LINE

The LINE Fund, instituted in section 1009.8962, *Florida Statutes*, provides matching funds, on a dollar-to-dollar basis, to participating agencies that partner with health care providers. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, \$19 million was awarded to 26 institutions (16 FCS institutions, 9 ICUF institutions, and one school district). The 2023 General Appropriations Act maintained \$19 million in LINE funding for the following eligible institutions:

- Florida College System institutions
- School district postsecondary technical career centers
- Charter technical career centers
- Accredited independent nonprofit colleges or universities located and chartered in Florida.

The department hosted a webinar on June 30, 2023, and, at the time of this report's publication, was planning to release a request for proposals for FY 2023-24 awards.

In addition, the State University System was provided \$6 million in LINE funding for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24. As of September 2023, the Board of Governors received 22 funding proposals from 8 institutions totaling \$4.3 million.

All eligible applicants must meet performance metrics set forth in statute, including:

- For a certified nursing assistant (CNA) program, data supporting a completion rate of at least 70% for the prior year.
- For a licensed practical nurse, associate of science in nursing, and Bachelor of Science in nursing program (pre-licensure), data supporting a first-time passage rate on the NCLEX of at least 70% for the prior year.

Funds may be used to award scholarships to students who meet the residency for tuition purposes requirements, recruit additional faculty, purchase equipment, and support simulation centers to advance high-quality nursing education programs throughout the state. Funds may not be used for the construction of new buildings.

PIPELINE

The PIPELINE program, instituted in section 1009.897, *Florida Statutes*, provides for performance funds, subject to appropriation, based upon the following:

- The number of nursing education program completers, by program.
- The first-time National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensing Examination (NCLEX) passage rate of the institution's nursing education program completers, by program.
- Excellence among nursing education programs with an average first-time NCLEX passage rate above the national average.

⁶ Source: <https://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/funding-opportunities/>. Up-to-date information on DOE-administered funding is available at this site.

Florida College System institutions, school district postsecondary technical career centers, charter technical career centers, and state universities are eligible to receive funds. For FY 2022-23, \$20 was provided to eligible district programs, \$40 million for FCS institutions, and \$40 for SUS institutions.

The 2023 General Appropriations Act provided the following 2023-24 allocations to school districts, FCS institutions, and state universities:

- \$20 million in funds to 27 of Florida’s 67 school districts with licensed practical nursing programs based upon 2021-22 data sources for completion and 2021 licensure data.
- \$40 million in funds to all 28 FCS institutions based upon 2021-22 data sources for completion and 2021 licensure data.
- \$40 million in funds to 10 state universities.

Next Steps

We will continue to focus on improving the quality of the CIE data for this report. As implementation of the LINE and PIPELINE programs progresses, future reports will include data on their outcomes. For post-graduation follow-up, surveys of newly licensed nurses conducted by the University of South Florida’s Center for Nursing will generate data on the number of graduates who become employed as practical or professional nurses, and surveys of mid-career nurses will provide insight on advancement of through nursing career pathways.

For more information on the supply of and demand for nurses in Florida based on licensure data, please refer to [The State of the Nursing Workforce in Florida, 2023](#), published by the Florida Center for Nursing headquartered at the University of South Florida. This report includes statewide and regional data on the demographics and practice characteristics of Florida nurses as well as demand trends by specialty.