



JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Acting Secretary

CECILIA ABUNDIS
Director

Illinois Nursing Workforce Center Pre-licensure School of Nursing SARS-2 COVID-19 2021 Survey Report

Background: Completion of the IDFPR Board of Nursing (BON) annual mandatory pre-licensure report is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined in the Illinois Nurse Practice Act Rules, Section 1300.230 (LPN) / 1300.340 (RN) Approval of Programs. Failure to complete the annual report could result in the withdrawal of Board of Nursing approval of the pre-licensure nursing education program by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing (BON). This annual report is routinely distributed early Fall semester. In 2021, most education programs completed the survey and responded by the end of October; all responses were received by early December 2021.

Illinois Pre-licensure Nursing Education Programs: <https://www.idfpr.com/Forms/DPR/NurseSchools.pdf>
There are 131 pre-licensure nursing education programs in Illinois. Thirty-four (34) LPN programs, eleven (11) Ladder and Option Approved and Designated programs (an RN approved only program with an LPN “option-out” program; these schools have no corresponding “stand-alone” LPN program); one (1) hospital program; forty-four (44) Associate Degree RN programs in community colleges; thirty-four (34) Baccalaureate degree programs, which includes the BSN-ACCL programs, but the seven (7) programs that have both a BSN-RN and an MSN-RN program are reported separately as the BSN-RN and Master’s Entry Level programs; seven (7) Master’s Entry Level programs. In general, schools completed one survey for all programs; for example, at a community college with both an RN education program and an LPN education program, the school submitted one survey response.

Definitions of abbreviations:

- ADN-RN: associate degree in nursing, at a 2-year community college, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- BSN-RN: baccalaureate degree in nursing at a 4-year college or university, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- MSN entry level: master-of-science degree in nursing at a 4-year college or university, eligible for RN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- ADN-LPN: 1 year of education at a community college, eligible for LPN licensure exam at the end of the program.
- LPN PBVS: private vocational business school (PVBS) with LPN nursing education programs; 2 of the schools included in this category are independent LPN education programs that are not PBVS.
- LPN: licensed practical nurse.
- RN: registered professional nurse.

Survey: the 2021 Illinois Nursing Workforce Center COVID-19 pandemic impact survey was included as the final one-page addition to the Board of Nursing (BON) annual pre-licensure nursing education program mandatory report. The BON annual pre-licensure nursing education evaluation report includes information regarding curriculum, faculty and students and other information deemed appropriate by the Division of Professional

Regulation. The Board of Nursing annual pre-licensure nursing education program report includes the minimum data set recommended by the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers <https://nursingworkforcecenters.org/dataset/> A SARS-2 COVID-19 survey was included as a final one-page addition with the 2020 Illinois Board of Nursing annual pre-licensure nursing education program survey report. In 2021 there was an expansion of the question and answer options from the 2020 survey. Instructions included that results would only be reported in the aggregate.

Results Reporting: to facilitate viewing responses, education programs were combined into categories. The LPN education programs were divided into two categories: ADN-LPN, the LPN programs located in community colleges that reported separately from the ADN-RN program; and LPN-PBVS, the LPN programs in private business vocational schools and the two LPN NFP schools. The community college associate degree ADN-RN and associate degree ladder programs are included together in the ADN-RN category. The one hospital school of nursing program responses were included with the ADN-RN program responses. The baccalaureate RN and master's entry level-RN program responses were listed separately. Not all questions were answered, some questions with more than one option – sometimes both or multiple responses were chosen as answers. On average, there were 98-100 responses per question.

Comments: comments are included with the question, for example, how often students are required by clinical sites to be tested. Most of the other comments were not included in this report.

Comparisons to 2020 : there were a limited number of questions that were the same as the 2020 survey.

- What is the access to clinical sites? In 2020 more education programs (84) reported that they had less access than pre COVID-19 pandemic to clinical sites, only 11 programs reported that access to clinical sites was unchanged. Now, in 2021, it is approximately even the number of programs that report less access to clinical sites (53), or access to clinical sites is the same as last year (47).
- Is there a decrease number of students allowed per clinical site? In 2020: 77 programs reported a decreased number of students are allowed per clinical site compared to 18 programs reporting that the number allowed was unchanged. Now, in 2021, it is approximately even, the number of programs that report a decreased number of students are allowed per clinical site (51) to those that report the same number are allowed as in 2020 (48).
- How are classes taught? The programs could choose more than one option. In 2020: 78 programs reported in-person, 75 programs used simulation and 90 programs used remote education. In 2021, 95 programs report teaching in person, 53 programs taught by remote/virtual, 62 programs reported simulation/in-person and 23 programs reported simulation-virtual.
- Is your program required to provide PPE for each student to attend the clinical? In 2020, the majority of programs (50) responded that “some, not others”, required the program to provide PPE for students; the remainder of the programs said yes (25), no (20) to providing PPE for students. In 2021: it is about even that the requirement to provide PPE for students varies by site (44), no (38), and some indicate (20) yes.

Illinois Nursing Workforce Center SARS-2 COVID-19 Survey: the questions were included as the final page to the IDFPR Board of Nursing 2021 annual mandatory Illinois pre-licensure nursing education program survey. The page was identified as originating from the Nursing Workforce Center, and included the following instructions at the top of the page prior to the questions:

We are requesting approximately 5 minutes of your time. The purpose of this survey is to learn how pre-licensure education has adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. All data will be reported in the aggregate, individual responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The information will be used in determining nursing workforce projections and needs in Illinois.

Each survey began with the nursing school program identification. Below are the responses to the survey questions; questions are clumped together based on similarity of topic, not necessarily in the order that the question appeared in the survey. The survey questions are at the end of the report.

Brief Summary Overview of Responses: the majority of pre-licensure nursing education programs (87) are required to provide proof of completion of the COVID-19 vaccination series; eleven (11) programs are not required to provide proof of vaccination, for one (1) program the requirement varies by site. The majority of programs, sixty-five (65) are required to provide proof of COVID testing prior to the student attending clinical; eleven (11) are not required, and one (1) it varies by site. How often the COVID-19 testing is required, for most programs, the clinical sites require weekly testing.

Since the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the nursing education programs have hired additional:

- adjunct faculty (95)
- clinical preceptors (48)

or purchased additional:

- simulation equipment (66)
- simulation programs (30)

The number of nursing education programs that have experienced a decrease in the number of applicants in 2021 is almost even, fifty-six (56) yes and forty-three (43) no. So slightly more programs have seen a decrease in the number of applicants since 2020. Regarding the enrollment of students, slightly more have seen a decrease in the numbers enrolled, fifty-four (54) yes, and forty-five (45) no.

Has your program seen an increase in the number of faculty “early” retirement, yes twenty-eight (28) and seventy (70) no. The overwhelming majority have not seen an increase in the number of early retirements from nursing faculty.

Below is a grid of the responses to the 2021 questions about SARS-2 COVID-19 and the Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs.

Has your program experienced a reduction in access to the usual number of clinical sites for Fall 2021 semester?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	4	15	22	5	7	53
No	4	15	8	12	8	47
Has your program experienced a reduction in the number of students allowed at the clinical sites for Fall 2021 semester compared to Fall 2020 semester?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	3	19	20	4	5	51
No	5	11	9	13	10	48
For FY22, is your program required to provide PPE for each student in order for the student to attend the clinical site?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	1	5	7	4	3	20
No	2	11	10	6	9	38
Varies by site	5	12	18	7	2	44

For FY22, is your program required to provide proof of completion of COVID-19 vaccination series?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	6	27	27	16	11	87
No	1	3	3	1	3	11
Varies by site	1	0	0	0	0	1
For FY22, is your program required to provide COVID-19 testing prior to the student attending clinical?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	3	18	21	11	12	65
No	5	12	8	4	2	31
Varies by site	0	0	0	0	0	0
If your program is required by clinical sites to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to the student attending clinical, how often is this testing required?						
School type	Weekly	NA	Comments			
MSN-RN	3	2	Weekly; weekly for students with approved exemption			
BSN-RN	17	2	Varies (1); once prior to clinical rotation starting			
ADN-RN	19	1	New state mandate weekly testing; monthly (1)			
ADN-LPN	15	2	Varies (2); twice weekly if unvaccinated; weekly until 2 weeks post vaccination; must vaccinate prior to starting clinical			
LPN-PBVS	8		Every clinical (2); unknown (1); varies (1)			
How are classes being taught Fall 2021 (may choose more than one option)?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
In person	8	30	30	16	11	95
Remote/Virtual	6	13	18	5	11	53
Simulation-in person	4	23	17	8	10	62
Simulation-virtual	2	1	9	3	8	23
Was the campus closed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic this past 2020 year?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	2	16	19	12	7	56
No	6	13	12	5	8	44
When in 2021 did your school's campus(es) reopen to a partial or full complement of students?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
January	2	12	17	5	1	56
March	0	0	1	0	1	2
April	0	0	0	0	1	1
May	1	1	0	1	2	5
June	2	1	1	3	6	13
July	0	3	0	2	0	5
August	0	0	4	4	0	8
Fall	0	6	5	0	0	11

NA: did not close or completely close	3	4	2	0	2	11
---------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	----

Since the initial stages of COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020, has your program:						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Hired add. adjunct Faculty	8	30	30	16	11	95
Hired add. clinical preceptors	4	13	16	5	10	48
Purchased additional Simulation equipment	6	23	18	8	11	66
Purchased additional Simulation programs	2	8	9	3	8	30
Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses for faculty this past 2021 year?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	7	20	12	6	3	48
No	1	8	18	11	12	50
Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses for students this past 2021 year?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	7	24	18	10	4	63
No	1	6	12	7	11	37
Does your University or parent organization require proof of vaccination for:						
School type	Students Yes	Students No	Employee Yes	Employee No	Subcontract Yes	Subcontract No or NA
MSN-RN	8	0	8	0	5	3
BSN-RN	26	3	26	4	19	9
ADN-RN	25	3	25	4	15	12
ADN-LPN	13	5	12	6	10	6
LPN-PBVS	6	9	8	7	7	8

Is the number of applicants of the Fall 2021 student cohort less than it was with the Fall 2020 student cohort?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	2	16	19	12	7	56
No	5	13	12	5	8	43
Has enrollment of students declined for Fall 2021 semester?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	2	16	17	11	8	54
No	6	13	14	6	6	45

Has your program experienced more early retirements than anticipated for Fall 2021?						
School type	MSN-RN	BSN-RN	ADN-RN	ADN-LPN	LPN-PBVS	Summary total
Yes	4	8	10	4	2	28
No	4	22	19	13	12	70

Summary: The SARS-2 COVID-19 survey questions were included at the end of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) Board of Nursing (BON) annual mandatory pre-licensure nursing education program survey. Though there are 131 pre-licensure nursing education programs in Illinois, there are approximately 98-100 responses to each question. If, for example, there was both an LPN and an RN tract in the nursing education programs, the program only provided one response. The Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs have successfully worked to provide education to nursing students.

Since 2020, the overwhelming number of nursing education programs have hired additional faculty, adjunct faculty and preceptors and have purchased additional simulation equipment and programs/scenarios. Though approximately half the education programs have less applications than in the previous year, the survey did not ask if student enrollment was decreased. The survey also did not ask if the program budget was increased even though the number of staff and additional clinical simulation resources were purchased.

The overwhelming majority (95) of pre-licensure nursing education programs continue in person, which could be a reflection of the fact that pre-licensure students are in clinicals with patients or simulation patients. The majority (87) of the programs indicate that the clinical sites require proof that the pre-licensure nursing education student is vaccinated prior to beginning clinical. If the student has an exemption, the majority (65) require weekly COVID-19 testing. The majority (77) of nursing education programs also indicate that clinical sites allow less students per site than were allowed in previous year.

The Illinois pre-licensure nursing education programs have successfully worked to provide education to nursing students. In 2021, the programs graduated approximately the same number of students as in previous years. In 2021 the Illinois state RN pass rate was 82%, the same as national standard; a total of 7,298 RNs, similar to previous years. In 2021, the Illinois state LPN pass rate was 83%, which is above the 80% national standard pass rate for LPNs; a total of 1,272 LPNs, similar to previous years.

<http://nursing.illinois.gov/PDF/ILApNursingEdProgPassRates.PDF>

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center, formerly the Illinois Center for Nursing, was created in 2007. The Workforce Center's mission is to advocate and ensure for the appropriate nursing resources necessary to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Illinois. The Nursing Workforce Center works with state agencies, nurses' associations, nursing education programs, employers and state and national foundations to focus efforts on the nursing workforce. As part of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), it is the only health policy board within this state regulatory agency. The Nursing workforce Center website has links to Illinois graduate and undergraduate nursing education programs, license renewal resources such as CE FAQ sheets, as well as data and reports from IDFPR licensure database and the biennial voluntary on-line LPN, RN, APRN and FPA-APRN license renewal surveys <http://nursing.illinois.gov/>

Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) COVID-19 Survey Questions
Included with annual mandatory pre-licensure nursing education survey August 2021

We are requesting approximately 5 minutes of your time. The purpose of this survey is to learn how pre-licensure education has adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic. All data will be reported in the aggregate, individual responses will remain anonymous and confidential. The information will be used in determining nursing workforce projections and needs in Illinois.

1. Provide facility name and city location. If the school has multiple campuses, please include the city where each campus is located.
2. Identify/highlight the type of pre-licensure nursing education program:
 - a. Master's entry level program, RN
 - b. Baccalaureate degree program, RN
 - c. Hospital diploma program, RN
 - d. Associate degree program, RN
 - e. Practical nursing degree program, community college, LPN
 - f. Practical nursing degree program, independent institution, LPN
3. Is the number of applicants of the Fall 2021 student cohort less than it was in Fall 2020?
 Yes No
4. Has the enrollment of students declined for the Fall 2021 semester? Yes No
5. Was the campus closed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020? Yes No
 - a. If this program has more than one campus, did all campuses close? Yes No
6. When in 2021 did your school's campus(es) reopen to a partial or full complement of students?

a. January	b. February	c. March
d. April	e. May	f. June
g. July	h. August	i. September
h. Other: _____		
7. For FY22, has your program experienced a reduction in access to the number of clinical sites compared to FY21? Yes No
8. For FY22, has your program experienced a reduction in the number of students allowed at clinical sites compared FY21? Yes No
9. For FY22, is your program required to provide:
 - a. PPE for each student in order for the student to attend the clinical site Yes No
 some sites, but not others, require student provide PPE
 - b. Proof of completion of COVID-19 vaccination series Yes No
 - c. COVID-19 testing prior to the student attending clinical Yes No
 - d. If your program is required by clinical sites to provide a negative COVID-19 test prior to the student attending clinical, how often is this testing required? _____
10. For FY22, how are classes being taught – please highlight all options that are being used:
 - a. In person
 - b. Remote/virtual
 - c. Simulation – in person
 - d. Simulation - virtual
11. Since the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020, has your program:
 - a. Hired additional adjunct faculty Yes No
 - b. Hired additional clinical preceptors Yes No
 - c. Purchased additional simulation equipment Yes No

- d. Purchased additional simulation programs Yes No
 - e. Other: _____
12. Does your University or parent organization require proof of vaccination for
- a. Students Yes No
 - b. Employees Yes No
 - c. Sub-contracted employees Yes No
13. Has your program experienced more early retirements than anticipated? Yes No
14. Has your program provided additional mental health services supporting coping with COVID-19 stresses?
- For faculty Yes No
- For students? Yes No
15. Do you believe that the mental health support services are adequate?
- For faculty Yes No
- For students? Yes No

Thank you.