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THE EXAMINER

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National Insights: Key Takeaways from the 2026 NCSBN Midyear Meeting
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Mission

To safeguard the life and health of the citizens of Louisiana by assuring persons practicing as registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are competent and safe.

Vision

LSBN will be a nationally recognized leader and trend-setter in regulatory excellence that advances nursing education, practice, and workforce.

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National Insights: Key Takeaways from the 2026 NCSBN MIDYEAR MEETING

Amie C. Bulliard
MSN, RN, CPHQ
PRESIDENT

2026 has already proven to be a very busy year. Following Dr. Lyon's retirement, we are now in the final stages of our CEO search.

Although I was unable to attend the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Midyear Meeting, I am sincerely thankful to Board members, Deborah Spann, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, FAEN; Ann Carruth, DNS; Paul Molbert; Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl; Teresita McNabb, RN, MHA; and Frederick Pinkney, Ed.D., along with the LSBN staff, for representing us so well.

The Midyear Meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Board members in attendance submitted summaries of their key takeaways to the full Board. Below are insights and reflections from Executive Committee members Deborah Spann and Ann Carruth.

Deborah Spann:

Attendance at the 2026 **National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Midyear Meeting** afforded board members valuable insight into how they can best support the mission of LSBN. This meeting serves as a premier gathering of nursing regulatory leaders from across the country, offering an unparalleled opportunity for collaboration, learning, and strategic insight.

Participation allowed members to **network directly with leaders from other boards of nursing**, fostering valuable relationships and facilitating the exchange of innovative ideas, best practices, and emerging approaches to regulatory challenges. These interactions strengthen both interstate and intrastate cooperation—and increasingly critical components such as mobility, multistate licensure, and evolving models of care continue to expand.

The Midyear Meeting in Phoenix also provided focused forums to **address complex regulatory and disciplinary issues** that influence protection of the public. Through structured discussions, expert-led sessions, and case-based presentations, board members deepened their understanding of issues affecting student nursing, workforce development, disciplinary trends, due process considerations, enforcement frameworks, and evolving threats to public safety. Exposure to national perspectives enhanced each member's ability to interpret policy, evaluate regulatory options, and make informed,consistent decisions.

Melissa Nunn, DNP, APRN, CPNP-PC/AC, CNE, NEA-BC, CNEcl; Fredrick Pinkney, Ed.D; Teresita McNabb, RN, MHA; Deborah Spann, MSN, RN-BC, CEN, FAEN; Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC; Whitney Peltier, APRN, FNP-BC; Paul Molbert

By attending, board members reinforced their commitment to excellence in nursing regulation and ensuring that our state's regulatory practices remain current, evidence-informed, and responsive to the rapidly changing health care environment. The insights gained at the NCSBN Midyear Meeting directly support sound governance, stronger policy development, and more effective oversight of the nursing profession in Louisiana.

Dr. Ann Carruth:

One of many roles of the NSCBN's Midyear Meeting was to provide evidence-based research that informs policy. Sessions presented research conducted that informed changes in the rules and regulations in various states. These presentations raised several observations about LSBN.

The Louisiana Center for Nursing needs to have a strong presence in driving workforce data and evidence-based research to inform changes in rules and regulation of the LSBN. Several sessions presented trended data and how it is used by boards to make decisions.

One wish for our board is to have access to consultation and networking opportunities with boards in other states. I am hopeful the annual meeting provides opportunities for sharing and learning from each other.

Amie C Bulliard

Amie C. Bulliard, MSN, RN, CPHQ
PRESIDENT, LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annual Continuing Education Audit

by Monique Calmes, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC
CHIEF CREDENTIALING OFFICER

The Nursing Division is preparing to begin the annual continuing education (CE) audit. RNs and APRNs must ensure that their email addresses are current, as we send notifications to individuals selected for the random audit to the email address of record. Details regarding CE requirements for RN and APRN license renewal were published in the October 2025 edition of The Examiner, which can be viewed through LSBN's website or from page 3 of the following link: ExaminerOct2025.

Remember that APRNs can meet the CE requirement to renew their Louisiana RN licenses by holding current national certifications. In addition, APRNs with prescriptive authority must obtain six (6) contact/credit hours of CEs in pharmacotherapeutics (pharmacology) each year to maintain the prescriptive authority credential. The prescriptive authority credential renews automatically with licensure renewal.

The Nurse Practice Act and LSBN's rules provide for license renewal and audit. The board shall randomly select no less than three percent of the licensees for audit of compliance with the requirements for renewal. Additionally, the board has the right to audit any questionable documentation of activities to ensure compliance with the rules. Additional options and exceptions are listed in LSBN's CE Brochure.

Here are a few of the most popular FAQ's.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FAQ'S

1. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO RENEW A LOUISIANA RN LICENSE?

You must complete one of the following during each 2-year licensure period:

- 30 CE contact hours, or
- 900 nursing practice hours (employer-verified)

Requirements must be completed before renewal. Documentation is only required if selected for audit. RNs who meet the licensure requirement by having practiced as a nurse for a minimum of 900 practice hours during the 2-year licensure period, which can be verified by the employer, do not need to complete CE contact hours.

2. HOW DO I SUBMIT DOCUMENTS IF SELECTED FOR AUDIT?

Audit documents must be mailed in one envelope and received by the deadline.

- No fax, email, or uploads accepted
- Original signature required on the audit attestation form

3. DO OUT-OF-STATE PRACTICE HOURS COUNT?

Yes. Practice hours completed in another state count toward the LSBN requirements.

What APRNs Need to Know:

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, CHRONIC PAIN, AND OBESITY

by Whitney Peltier, APRN, FNP-BC
APRN COMPLIANCE OFFICER

The Louisiana State Board of Nursing frequently receives inquiries about prescribing controlled substances for chronic pain and obesity. APRNs are encouraged to remain familiar with current rules to ensure safe, compliant, and evidence-based practice.

Under current regulations in LAC 46:XLVII:4513, APRNs are prohibited from prescribing controlled substances for chronic pain (as defined in LAC 46:XLV:6915–6923) or for obesity (as defined in LAC 46:XLV.6901–6913). Inquiries have been received regarding a proposed rule change to remove these prohibitions; however, the proposal did not pass during the 2023 legislative oversight hearing. As a result, the current rule remains in effect.

The Board defines chronic pain as "pain which persists beyond the usual course of a disease, beyond the expected time for healing from bodily trauma, or pain associated with a long-term incurable or intractable medical illness or disease." Understanding this definition helps APRNs align prescribing practices with regulations and the standard of care.

APRNs are expected to practice safely and competently, using therapies grounded in evidence-based standards. For chronic weight management, APRNs may prescribe FDA-approved medications for obesity that are not controlled substances, provided they follow clinical guidelines, the collaborative practice agreement, and their individual scope of practice.

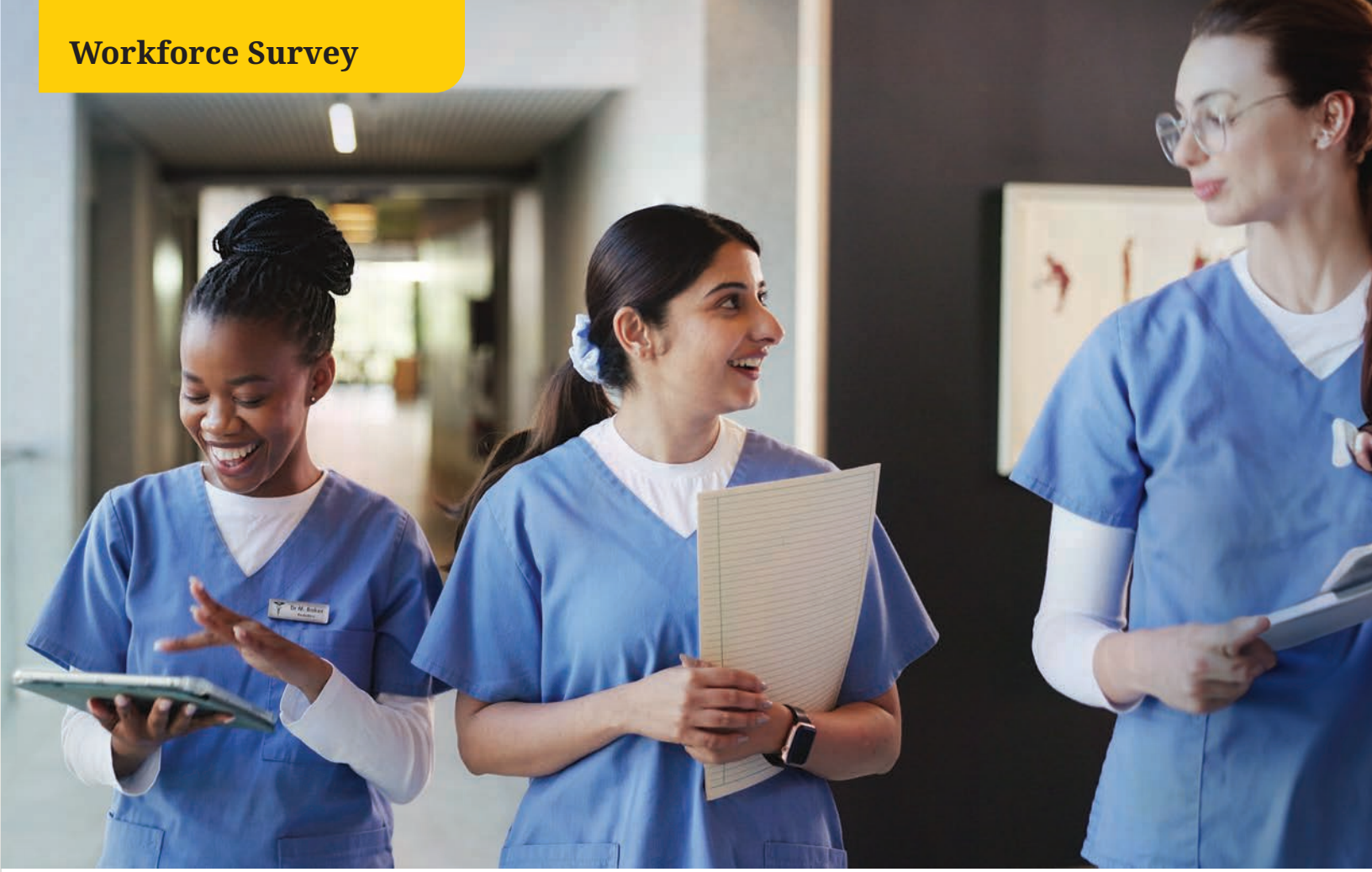
To maintain compliance, APRNs should regularly consult LSBN resources, including scope of practice guidance and applicable statutes. Following current rules and evidence-based standards is essential for safe and effective patient care.

Learn More: licensees and applicants scope of practice

...practice safely and competently, using therapies grounded in evidence-based standards.

“I love being a nurse — it truly feels like my dream career. Helping people brings me so much fulfillment, and each day offers a new opportunity to learn and grow in this profession.”

(2025 LOUISIANA SNAPSHOT OF NEWLY LICENSED REGISTERED NURSES (NLRNS) SURVEY RESULTS)



U.S. Nurses Encouraged to Contribute to 2026 Workforce Study

NCSBN
(APRIL 10, 2026)

Every two years, NCSBN partners with the National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers to conduct the only national-level survey specifically focused on the U.S. nursing workforce. The National Nursing Workforce Survey generates information on the supply of nurses, which is critical to workforce planning and to ensure a safe and effective health care system.

Participation is critical! If you are randomly selected to participate, it is vitally important for you to respond since you are representing your colleagues. Nurses' input in the 2024 National Nursing Workforce Survey raised a new level of awareness of issues essential to nursing, and revealed that the U.S. nursing workforce showed some signs of recovery post the COVID-19 pandemic, but long-term stability remained uncertain.

About the 2026 Survey:

When: March - September 2026

Who: A nationally-representative sample of licensed registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs) from across the U.S.

How: Surveys will be sent via email and U.S. mail. Responses returned via mail or survey platform.

Results: Aggregated responses will comprise the national nursing workforce dataset. Responses will be analyzed by NCSBN and the National Forum and will be published in the Journal of Nursing Regulation.

Learn more: https://www.ncsbn.org/research/recent-research/workforce.page

NCLEX-RN®:
IMPLICATIONS OF PASS RATES FOR LOUISIANA AND THE NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Chance Fontenot, MSN, RN
RN PROGRAM CONSULTANT

A nursing education program is one whose purpose is to prepare graduates eligible to write the licensing examination and to practice as competent entry-level registered nurses. Boards of Nursing approve pre-licensure nursing educational programs that meet their educational standards and assure the protection of the public through evaluation and enforcement of those standards. In accordance with LAC 46:XLVII.3535.B, the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) has legal authority over pre-licensure programs and statutory authority to close programs that are not meeting those standards, which include 80% first-time pass rate annually on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®). Nursing education programs in Louisiana are reviewed annually at the February or April Board meeting for compliance with the rules and regulations related to the preparation of registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses.

Table 1. Pre-licensure nursing education programs approved in Louisiana for report year 2025.

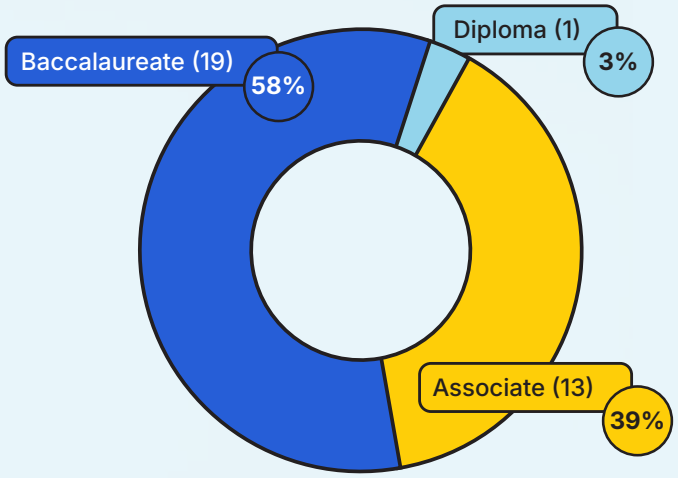
NURSING PROGRAM *Associate*	**APPROVAL STATUS**
Baton Rouge Community College	**FULL**
Bossier Parish Community College	**FULL**
Delgado Community College	**FULL**
Fletcher Technical Community College	**FULL**
Louisiana Delta Community College	**FULL**
LSU at Alexandria	**FULL**
LSU at Eunice	**FULL**
Louisiana Tech University	**FULL**
Northshore Technical Community College	**FULL**
Northwestern State University	**FULL**
South Louisiana Community College	**FULL**
Southern University at Shreveport	**FULL**
SOWELA Technical Community College	**FULL**

The approved pre-licensure undergraduate programs in Louisiana for the reporting year 2025 are listed in Table 1. Nineteen (58%) of the pre-licensure registered nurse education programs in Louisiana lead to a baccalaureate degree, thirteen (39%) lead to an associate degree in nursing, and one (3%) is a diploma program (Figure 1). Programs leading to an associate or bachelor's degree in nursing are conducted by an educational unit, department, division, college, or school that is an integral part of a college or university. A program leading to a diploma in nursing is conducted by an educational unit that is an integral part of a hospital.

NURSING PROGRAM *Baccalaureate*	**APPROVAL STATUS**
Chamberlain University	**FULL**
Dillard University	**PROBATION**
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University	**FULL**
Grambling State University	**FULL**
Herzing University	**FULL**
Louisiana Christian University	**INITIAL**
LSU Health Science Center	**FULL**
Loyola University	**INITIAL**
McNeese State University	**FULL**
Nicholls State University	**FULL**
Northwestern State University	**FULL**
Southeastern Louisiana University	**FULL**
Southern University Baton Rouge	**FULL**
Southern University at New Orleans	**INITIAL**
Tulane University	**INITIAL**
University of Holy Cross	**FULL**
University of Louisiana Lafayette	**FULL**
University of Louisiana Monroe	**FULL**
William Carey University	**FULL**
NURSING PROGRAM *Diploma*	**APPROVAL STATUS**
Baton Rouge General Medical Center	**FULL**

Louisiana Undergraduate Pre-licensure Nursing Education Programs

Figure 1- Breakdown by percentage and number of the thirty-three (33) pre-licensure nursing education program approved in Louisiana



Approval status is based on performance of each program and compliance with the standards identified in the rules and regulations. There are three levels of approval of nursing education programs in Louisiana identified as:

1. Initial Approval: Institutions receiving approval to initiate a program are placed on initial approval. They may petition for approval after the first cohort of students graduate and take the NCLEX-RN®.
2. Full approval: The program meets all the education standards set forth by the Board in the rules and regulations.
3. Probation: A program has failed to meet one or more educational standards set forth by the Board in the rules and regulations.

One standard measured in the regulation of undergraduate nursing education programs leading to licensure is the passage rate of first-time testers on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX-RN®. The NCLEX-RN® has been administered as a computerized adaptive test (CAT) since April 1994. A CAT makes the test challenging for everyone by providing varying difficulty levels and lengths based on the individual tester. The NCLEX-RN® is designed to test knowledge, skills, and abilities reflecting entry-level practice. The focus is on the delivery of safe competent care by the generalist registered nurse. Every three years, NCSBN conducts a practice analysis for entry-level registered nurses. The analysis results are utilized to establish the passing standard and make necessary changes to the test blueprint. On April 1, 2023, the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) was enacted, and the passing standard was improved as noted in Table 2. The passing standard for NCLEX-RN® reflects the minimum ability required to practice nursing safely and effectively at the entry level.

The pass rate measured from January to December of the previous year is reviewed for compliance with the standard. Programs achieving less than an 80% pass rate are not in compliance with the standard and will receive a warning letter. After two consecutive years of not meeting the 80% NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate standard or two years out of the last three years of not meeting the 80% NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate standard, the undergraduate nursing education degree program will be placed on probation. Correction of the deficiency must be demonstrated for the entire year to have restoration of full approval.

NCSBN reports the national pass rate for January to December 2025 as 86.71%. Louisiana exceeded this with a pass rate of 89.51% for first-time test takers. The pass rates for the Louisiana schools of nursing are as follows (Table 2):

Table 2: 2025 NCLEX-RN® Pass rates for Louisiana Educational Programs **(see page 9)**

References and Additional Resources

Louisiana State Board of Nursing:

- Title 46, professional and occupational standards, part XLVII. http://www.lsbn.state.la.us
- RN Students Education and Exam - Louisiana State Board of Nursing
- Schools of Nursing Microsoft Word - LSBN approved programs - 2.26.2026 - FINAL.docx (state.la.us)

National Council of State Boards of Nursing:

- National Council State Board of Nursing http://www.ncsbn.org

Performance of First Time Candidates of Nursing Education Programs in Louisiana on NCLEX-RN, regardless of where candidates took the examination, January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025.

Table 2: 2025 NCLEX-RN® Pass rates for Louisiana Educational Programs

NURSING PROGRAM *Associate*	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	NUMBER PASSING	PERCENTAGE PASSING
Baton Rouge Community College	131	103	78.63
Bossier Parish Community College	80	79	98.75
Delgado Community College	201	180	89.55
Fletcher Technical Community College	48	45	93.75
Louisiana Delta Community College	74	57	77.03
LSU at Alexandria	83	67	80.72
LSU at Eunice	87	77	88.51
Louisiana Tech University	76	69	90.79
Northshore Technical Community College	18	17	94.44
Northwestern State University	176	168	95.45
Southern University at Shreveport	29	26	89.66
South Louisiana Community College	76	68	89.47
SOWELA Technical Community College	48	45	93.75
TOTAL	**1127**	**1001**	**88.82**
Baccalaureate			
Chamberlain University	131	107	81.68
Dillard University	26	20	76.92
Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University	88	88	100.00
Grambling State University	10	10	100.00
Herzing University	32	27	84.38
LSU Health New Orleans	227	206	90.75
Loyola University	35	26	74.29
McNeese State University	72	72	100.00
Nicholls State University	114	112	98.25
Northwestern State University	123	112	91.06
Southeastern Louisiana University	144	140	97.22
Southern University Baton Rouge	114	79	69.30
Southern University at New Orleans	9	6	66.67
University of Holy Cross	36	31	86.11
University of Louisiana Lafayette	139	135	97.12
University of Louisiana Monroe	70	67	95.71
William Carey University	17	16	94.12
TOTAL	**1387**	**1254**	**90.41**
Diploma			
Baton Rouge General Medical Center	79	66	83.54
GRAND TOTAL	**2593**	**2321**	**89.51**

Illuminating The Future:

SOLUTIONS FOR TOMORROW'S NURSING WORKFORCE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers is excited to host their 2026 Annual Conference, "Illuminating the Future: Solutions for Tomorrow's Nursing Workforce" on June 22-24, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

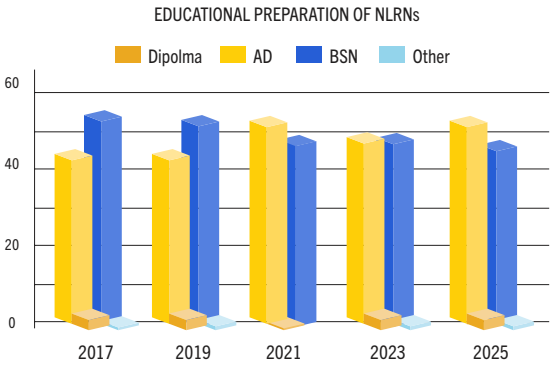
Nurses and healthcare leaders will come together to share creative models of practice, workforce data analysis and interpretation along with innovations in nursing education to change the nursing workforce game and address the critical workforce development issues facing our nation. The National Forum of Nursing Workforce Centers conference will explore strategies to strengthen a diverse nursing workforce.

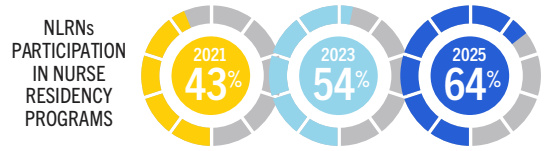
The National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers is a national network of 45+ nursing workforce entities reaching more than 4 million nurses across the nation. Each unique center focuses on addressing the nursing shortage, support the advancement of nurse workforce initiatives, and share best practices in nursing workforce research, planning, development, and formulation of policy.

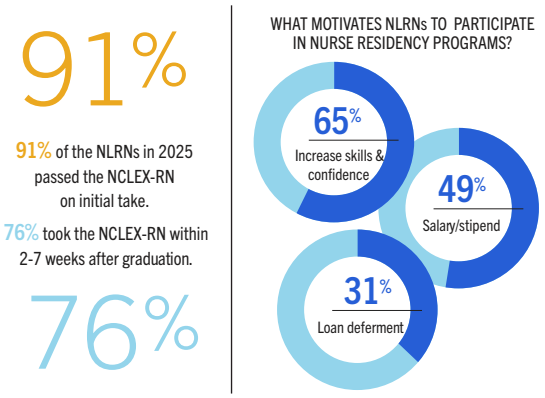
For more information on the conference, visit Annual Conference – National Forum of State Nursing Workforce Centers

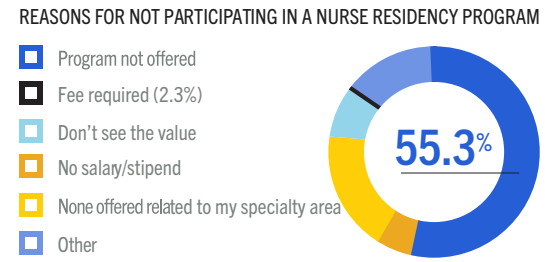
Louisiana Center for Nursing

by Sarah Luneau
PUBLIC INFORMATION DIRECTOR









Newly licensed registered nurses (NLRNs) face significant challenges that impact successful transition into the workforce. Finding employment begins either before graduation or sometime soon thereafter for most new graduates. Once employed, they are exposed to a world that may often time overwhelm them. It is no secret that new nurses feel stressed and fatigued during the transition from academia to practice. They must learn to manage patients, families, caregivers, relationships with their healthcare team, as well as their personal lives, and in some situations, they may be placed in managerial or supervisory positions they have not been adequately prepared to handle. If not given the proper support during this very critical time, NLRNs may experience anxiety, frustration, and burnout which could lead to attrition (Hofler & Thomas, 2016).

The 2025 NLRN Survey and accompanying infographic provide findings from the Louisiana Center for Nursing's eighth biennial survey of NLRNs. Conducting the NLRN survey every two years allows the Center for Nursing to monitor employment trends and challenges reported by NLRNs in Louisiana. Employers of NLRNs use information from the survey to aide them in creating work environments that will enhance recruitment and retention of NLRNs and nurse educators use findings to prepare students for the transition into practice.

The 2025 NLRN Survey Infographic illustrates major findings from the survey in a visually compelling manner that is easy to read, easy to interpret and extremely informative. The 2025 NLRN Survey Report and Infographic can be found at the following links:

Finding Employment as a Newly Licensed Registered Nurse in Louisiana

2025 Louisiana Snapshot of Newly Licensed Registered Nurses Survey Results

References

Hofler, L. & Thomas, K. (2016). Transition of new graduate nurses to the workforce: Challenges and solutions in the changing health care environment. North Carolina Medical Journal, 77(2), 133-136.

Attention Nurses:

PARTICIPATE IN THE NSSRN

Invitations to complete the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses (NSSRN) were recently sent by mail to select nurses across the country. This is the longest-running survey and primary source of data on the nursing workforce in the US. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) who conducts the survey needs your help to achieve a strong response rate.

What You Can Do

Watch for a letter in the mail from the US Census Bureau

If you received one, complete the survey

Encourage your peers to complete the survey if they received one

Thank you for supporting the NSSRN.

Your assistance helps ensure accurate, comprehensive data to guide the future of the nursing workforce.

VIEW NURSING WORKFORCE DASHBOARD

2026 Calendar

STATE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

JULY 3	Independence Day Observed
SEPTEMBER 7	Labor Day
NOVEMBER 3	Election Day
NOVEMBER 11	Veterans Day
NOVEMBER 26	Thanksgiving Day
DECEMBER 25	Christmas Day

BOARD MEETING DATES

- **JUNE 25, 2026**
- **AUGUST 27, 2026**
- **OCTOBER 22, 2026**
- **DECEMBER 3, 2026**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- DECEMBER 4, 2025
- FEBRUARY 26, 2026

SPECIAL CALL MEETING MINUTES

- JANUARY 22, 2026
- FEBRUARY 2, 2026
- FEBRUARY 26, 2026

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- DECEMBER 3, 2025

Thank you for all that you do.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we join the Louisiana State Board of Nursing in celebrating and thanking our staff and licensees during National Nurses Week and Louisiana State Employee Recognition Week. We are grateful for your passionate contributions, clarity of purpose, and commitment to protecting our friends, neighbors, and the great State of Louisiana.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

Advancing Regulatory Excellence

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