

The PhD Pipeline

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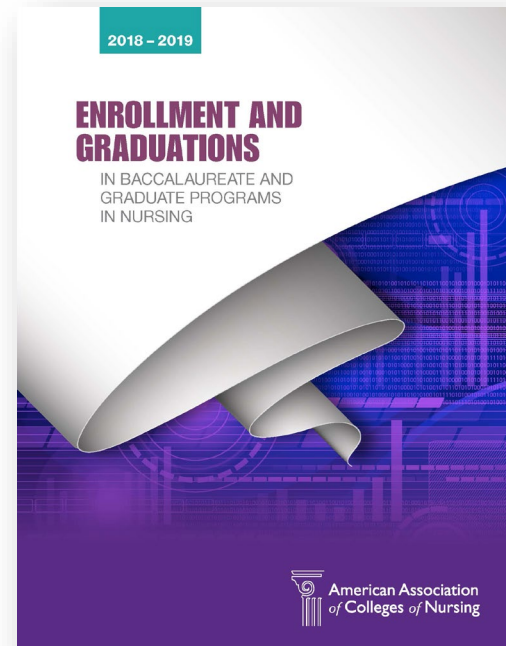


American Association *of* Colleges *of* Nursing

The Voice of Academic Nursing

AACN Trend Data Fall 2018 Annual Survey

- » **Enrollment Increases Since 2017**
- » DNP Programs **+12.3%**
- » Entry-Level BSN Programs **+5.7%**
- » MSN Programs **+5.4%**
- » **PhD Programs** **+0.7%**
- » RN to BSN Programs **+0.6%**
- » **Survey Response Rate: 88.9%**
- » Learn more at www.aacnnursing.org/data



The PhD in Nursing at a Glance

Data is based on AACN's latest survey on Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing.

PROGRAMS

135 PhD

4 Doctor of Nursing Science

4 EdD (Doctor of Education)

1 PhD/DNP

ENROLLMENT

 **4,698**

GRADUATIONS

 **802**

APPLICATIONS

2,356 Completed Applications

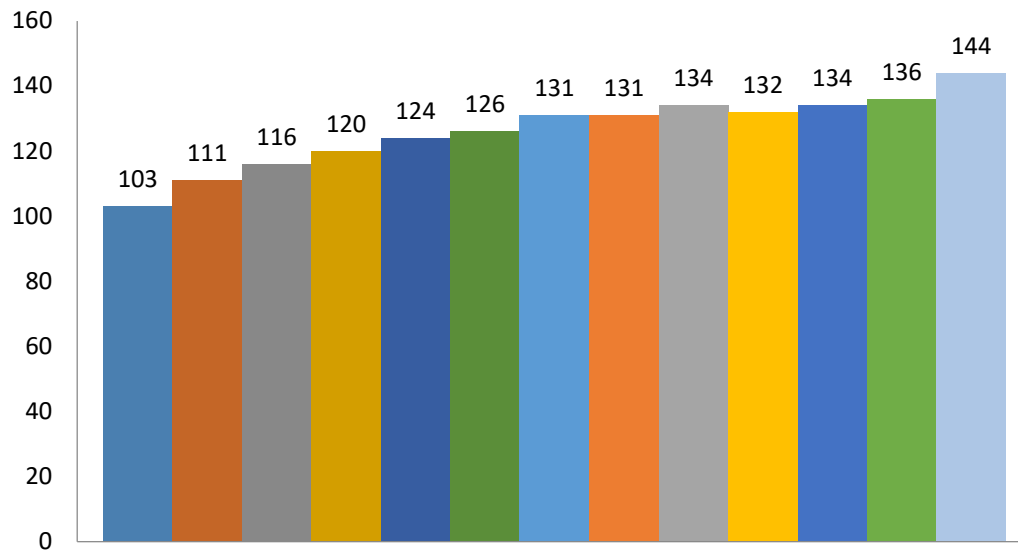
1,648 Applications Meeting Admission Requirements

144 Qualified Applicants Turned Away

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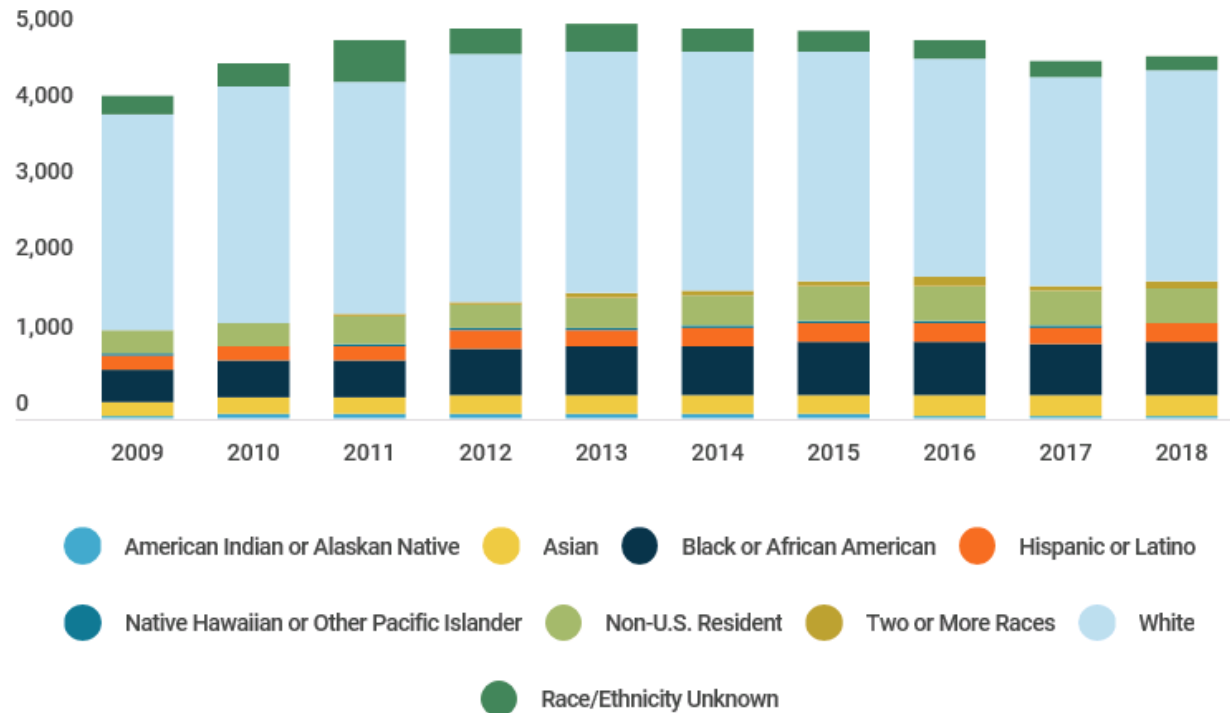
*As of 2019, there are four PhD/DNP programs.

Growth in Research-Focused Nursing Programs: 2006-2018



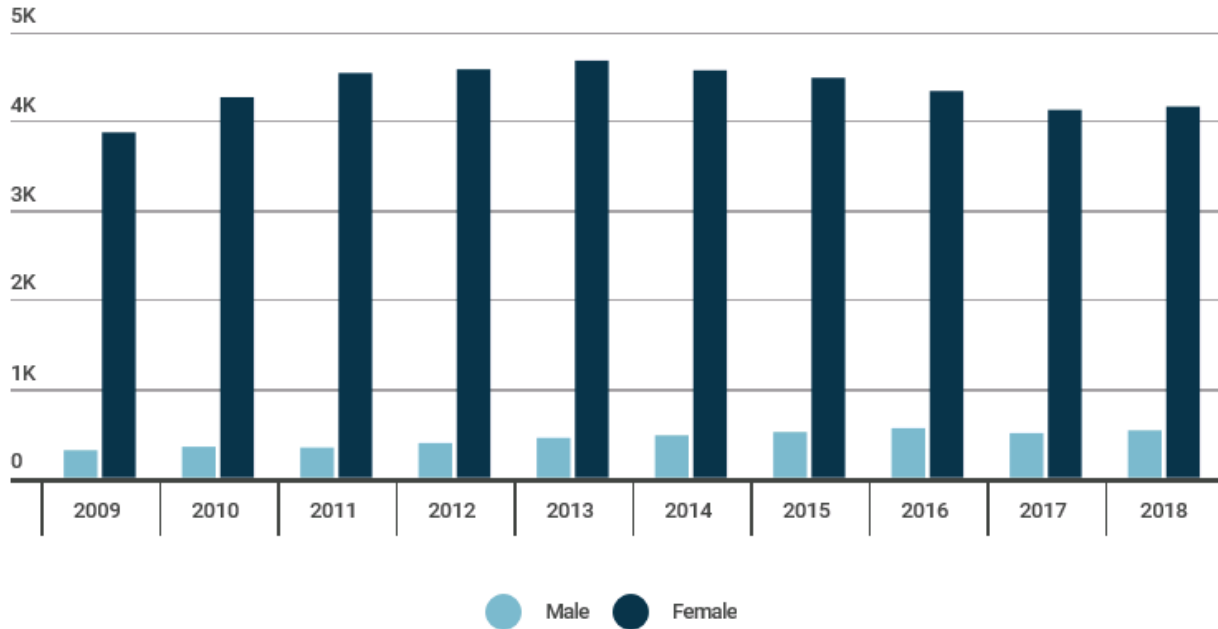
PhD Student Race/Ethnicity

The number of PhD students from underrepresented groups* in nursing has increased from 1,359 in 2009 to 1,974 in 2018 (a 45% increase). In contrast, the number of white PhD students has decreased by 3%, from 2,806 in 2009 to 2,724 in 2018.



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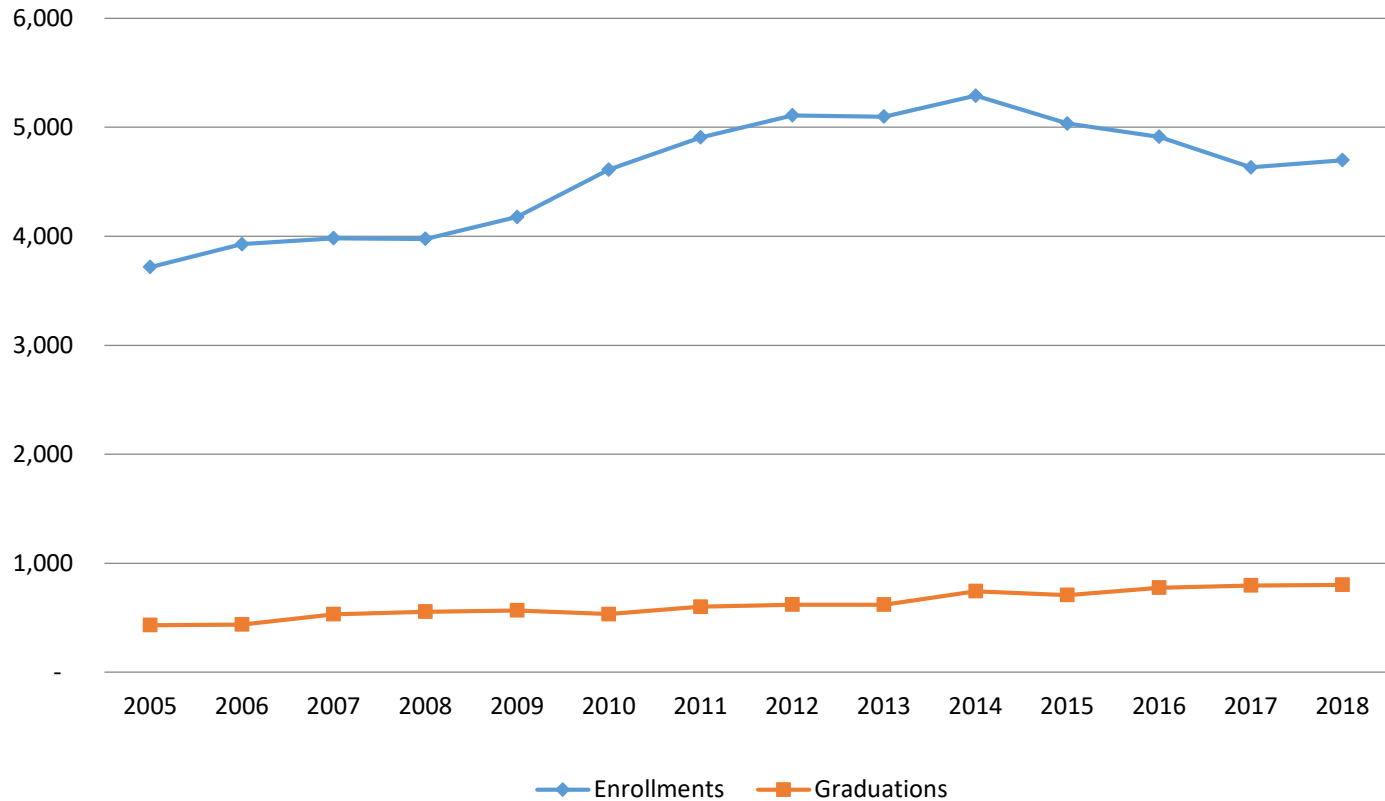
PhD Student Gender



In the last ten years, the number of male students enrolled in PhD nursing programs has steadily increased from 306 in 2009 to 528 in 2018, an overall increase of 73%. However, the number of male students dropped by 10% between 2016 and 2017. In comparison, female enrollments in PhD in nursing programs increased by 21% between 2009 and 2013. Over the last five years, the number of females enrolled in PhD in nursing programs decreased by 9%, dropping from 4,568 in 2014 to 4,163 in 2018.

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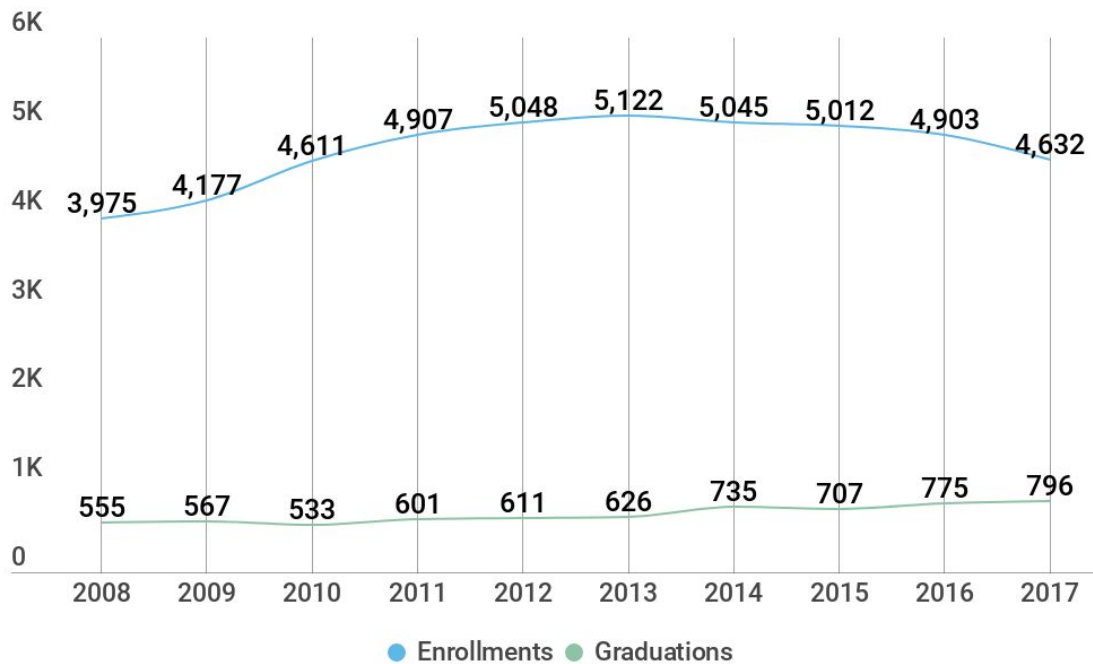
Enrollment and Graduations in PhD/DNS Programs: 2005-2018



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Sustaining PhD Enrollments

Enrollments & Graduations



Following a six-year increase in PhD enrollments, a downward trend began in 2014, marking a 9.6% decline. From 2008 to 2017, PhD graduations increased by 43%.

Challenges

The Next Generation of Biomedical and Behavioral Sciences Researchers: Breaking Through (2018)

- **Gulf between the number of qualified scientists and the elusive opportunities to establish careers**
- **Belief in long and growing amount of time before researcher can reasonably secure support (ROI)**
- **Career information currently available focuses almost exclusively on academic careers although majority employment opportunities outside of academia**
- **Prolonged postdoc positions, low salaries, inadequate training and mentorship, and few opportunities for professional advancement**

A Vision for Engagement



The Changing World

- **Recommendations to Research Institutions**
- **Recommendations to Principal Investigators**
- **Recommendations to NIH**
- **Recommendations to Policymakers**



Sustaining the PhD Pipeline

1

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION

AACN will continue the conversation with internal and external stakeholders at the upcoming PhD Pre-Conference and Doctoral Conference in January, 2020.

2

ENHANCE PHD MARKETING

Expanding upon AACN's *Nursing Science Is* campaign, a focus will be placed on sharing the impact of nursing research in the community and elevate in the degree through social media and outreach to future students.

3

IDENTIFY DATA GAPS

Consideration will be placed on identifying additional data points that are needed to diagnose the decline.

4

ENGAGE ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

Support of nursing science extends beyond the academic infrastructure to the practice community, the public, and federal agencies. Identify key leaders for additional convenings.



Continuing The Conversation

“The difficulty lies not so much in generating new ideas, but with escaping from the old ones.”

John Maynard Keynes



Continuing The Conversation

AACN's 2020 Nursing Science and Research-Focused Doctorate (PhD) Pre-Conference's theme is Doctoral Education for 2030: Tailoring Approaches for the Needs of the Profession and Population.

Sessions geared to:

- Identify opportunities and challenges to research Doctoral education
- Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders of Research Doctoral Program
- Continuing the Deep Dive Discussion sessions on bringing more students into PhD programs and careers in nursing science.
- Include a cross-sectional invitational focus group of 7-10 attendees from high enrollment and graduation PhD Programs representing all four type of member schools.

Continuing The Conversation

AACN Connect launched the PhD Pipeline Community on September 8, 2019 to coincide with the start of the fall semester.

This online community seeks membership engagement on challenges and opportunities germane to students, faculty, and programs conferring the research-focused doctorate. To date, 32 faculty have joined this discussion group and contributed 25 posts.

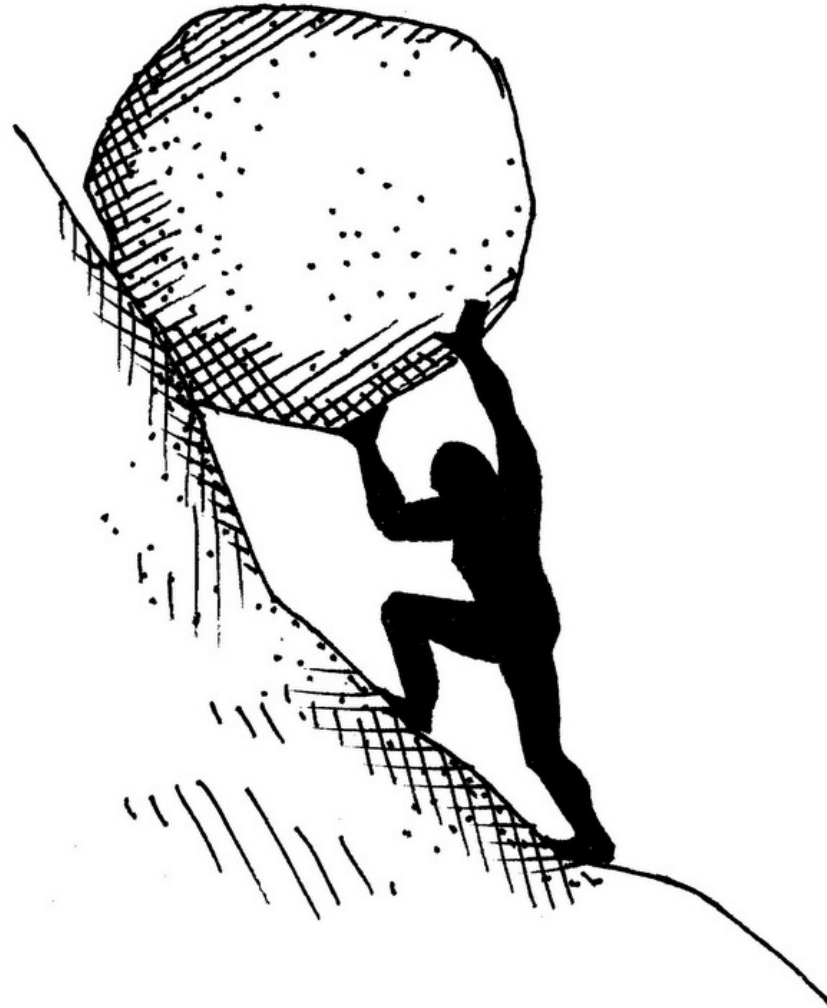
AACNConnect

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**“The best way
to predict
the future
is to
create it.”**

Abraham Lincoln

