

Nursing Programs in Colorado

Program data, and nursing capacity survey overview

Dr. Kim Poast, Chief Student Success & Academic Affairs Officer

February, 2022



IHE's with
Nursing
Programs

2 year	14
4 year, public	8
Area Technical Colleges	3
Private, non-profit	2
Private, for profit	7

Types of Programs (by CIP Code)

Nursing	Certificate (< 1 year, < 2 years, post masters) AAS, AGS, AA/AS Bachelor MS Doctoral- Professional Practice
Practical Nursing	Certificate (< 1 year, < 2 years) AAS, AGS, AA/AS Bachelor
Nurse Aid	Certificate (<1 year, < 2 years) AAS, AGS, AA/AS Bachelor, Doctoral- Professional Practice

Completion by IHE type (5 year trend)

Completions					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2-Year Public	2160	2586	2356	2098	2118
4-Year Private Non-Profit	461	449	376	336	366
4-Year Public	1454	1433	1513	1537	1570
Other (ATC)	694	487	442	319	234
Totals	4769	4955	4687	4290	4288

Completion by IHE type (5 year trend)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2-Year Public	2160	2586	2356	2098	2118
Aims Community College	275	254	231	164	143
Arapahoe Community College	214	324	325	241	166
Colorado Northwestern Community College	64	65	55	46	41
Community College of Aurora	17	29	41	46	53
Community College of Denver	167	235	192	115	129
Front Range Community College	421	459	427	403	343
Lamar Community College	48	64	50	28	32
Morgan Community College	112	107	71	67	72
Northeastern Junior College	23	26	22	22	22
Otero College	100	93	78	92	126
Pikes Peak Community College	311	410	341	397	482
Pueblo Community College	149	267	263	227	308
Red Rocks Community College	147	134	149	144	111
Trinidad State College	114	120	112	108	90

Completion by IHE type (5year trend)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
4-Year Private Non-Profit	461	449	376	336	366
Colorado Christian University	82	116	66	65	92
Regis University	379	333	310	271	274
4-Year Public	1454	1433	1513	1537	1570
Adams State University	28	22	24	12	14
Colorado Mesa University	278	317	304	265	279
Colorado Mountain College	178	142	161	141	195
Colorado State University - Pueblo	128	118	133	152	170
Metropolitan State University of Denver	127	133	129	114	118
University of Colorado Colorado Springs	262	238	247	273	251
University of Colorado Denver	307	290	332	320	313
University of Northern Colorado	146	173	183	260	230
Other	694	487	442	319	234
Emily Griffith Technical College	391	268	258	156	117
Pickens Technical College	132	83	61	75	43
Technical College of the Rockies	171	136	123	88	74

Completion by IHE type (5 year trend)

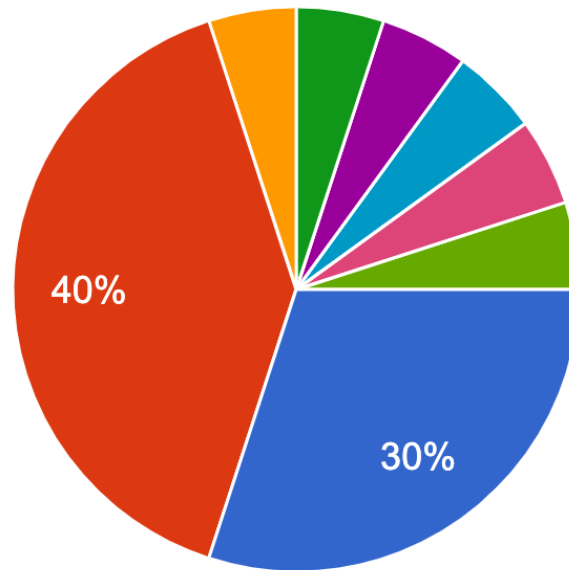
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2-Year Public	2160	2586	2356	2098	2118
Aims Community College	275	254	231	164	143
Arapahoe Community College	214	324	325	241	166
Colorado Northwestern Community College	64	65	55	46	41
Community College of Aurora	17	29	41	46	53
Community College of Denver	167	235	192	115	129
Front Range Community College	421	459	427	403	343
Lamar Community College	48	64	50	28	32
Morgan Community College	112	107	71	67	72
Northeastern Junior College	23	26	22	22	22
Otero College	100	93	78	92	126
Pikes Peak Community College	311	410	341	397	482
Pueblo Community College	149	267	263	227	308
Red Rocks Community College	147	134	149	144	111
Trinidad State College	114	120	112	108	90

Nursing Capacity Survey (1/2022)

- **24 respondents**
 - 50% public (12)
 - 29.2% private, non profit (7)
 - 20.8 private, for profit (5)
- **Anticipated new programs (1-3 years)**
 - Ft. Lewis College
 - Arizona College of Nursing
 - Rocky Vista)
- **Admissions**
 - 57% annual
 - 47.6% 2x per year
 - 23.8% rolling
 - Remainder- variety

Wait List Status

20 responses



- Yes
- No
- We have alternates similar to wait list but it is only for upcoming term
- we have applicants apply and then the top 25 using a holistic admissions pro...
- NA: NSU does not offer nursing progr...
- Arizona College of Nursing has not ye...
- Yes, for RN programs. The others do...
- MSU Denver engages a small cohort...

- Range of waitlist- 10-25 for smaller IHE's, urban programs as many as 150+/ pandemic has had an effect on waitlists.
- Most are at or near capacity

Barriers/ Opportunities

- Cap on enrollment/ clinical placements due to limits via Colorado State Board of Nursing (same with out of state institutions)
- Clinical Placements
 - Pandemic has exacerbated (physical limitations, capacity at hospitals)
 - Rural students have limited local availability/ urban centers compete with one another)
 - Clinical placements are the primary driver to increasing enrollment
- Exhaustion from nurses in the field- lack of desire to continue education (particularly from pre-licensure candidates)
- Facilities/ Space
- Recruiting qualified faculty (nursing faculty are more mobile)
- Start-up costs (building, equipment, simulation and skills labs)
- IHE's interested in considering alternate admissions strategies (2x per year, rolling) must also staff appropriately, ensure physical plant can accommodate and address clinical limitations

Additional Feedback

- CNA to LPN/ BSN discussion needs more evaluation to ensure ability to obtain licensure, manage retention issues, etc.
- Need to address rural/ urban settings- and distinguish unique challenges- cost of living, saturation of market in highly populated areas vs. decreased access in rural and underserved communities
- Consult with statewide organizations such as Center for Nursing Excellence & Colorado Council on Nursing Education
- Need to eliminate the competitive culture in and among healthcare program across to the state and leverage partnerships, sharing of resources and innovation
- Consult with the collaborative groups for nursing education such as the Colorado Council on Nursing Education and the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence.
- The demand is so high, there is a need for all of higher education to work together and think creatively about new pathways and expanded programs. There is plenty of room for IHEs to offer their existing programs and to expand. However, we often get into fights about territory. I understand this where the demand for programs is small, but not in nursing.
- Some concern among four-year institutions on community colleges offering RN to BSN programs- cite competition, quality, cost
- Concepts like apprenticeships, competency-based models, and innovative approaches to clinical hours should be explored

Considerations for Colorado

This is a national issue

Address the enrollment/
clinical/ limits set by State
Board of Nursing

Address competition
between in and out of state
providers (focus on
Colorado providers)

Provide recruitment
incentives for clinical faculty
(faculty pay,
reimbursement for faculty
education, loan
forgiveness)

Strategic investments in
physical plant (simulation &
skills labs, facilities, etc)- can
be one time

Create academic/ clinical
partnerships to bolster
clinical instructors

Develop cooperative
partnerships for lab space
and clinical residencies

Develop urban/ rural
exchange programs

Decrease salary gap
between academic and
clinical nursing roles

Thank You!