

TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING
3.6.1.a. EDUCATION GUIDELINE
Criteria for Determining Student Enrollment

Revised: 7/10/20

Nursing education programs are encouraged to increase enrollment of nursing students by their administration, employers, education agencies, and the public to prepare nurses to address the current and future nursing shortage. What factors should be considered when determining whether the nursing program resources can adequately support a growth in student enrollment?

Rules 214.8(a) and 215.8(a) state that the number of students admitted to the program shall be determined by the number of qualified faculty, adequate educational facilities and resources, and the availability of appropriate clinical learning experiences for students.

The following questions are EXAMPLES of criteria to be considered in the determination of student enrollment:

1. Does the program have adequate fiscal resources to accommodate the desired number of students?
2. Does the program have an adequate number of nursing faculty with appropriate academic expertise to deliver didactic courses in an educationally sound manner?
3. Does the program have an adequate number of nursing faculty with appropriate clinical expertise to manage clinical instruction?
4. Does the program have appropriate physical resources (classrooms, desks, chairs, skills labs, computers, equipment) to accommodate the desired number of students?
5. Does the program have appropriate human resources (counselors, clerical, technical support) to accommodate the desired number of students?
6. Does each clinical site have the required client variation and adequate client census available to accommodate the desired number of students?
7. Does the program have adequate clinical instructors/clinical teaching assistants/preceptors to maintain the mandated nursing faculty/student clinical ratio in clinical learning experiences involving direct patient care?

Nursing education programs that are not accredited by a national nursing accreditation organization must seek approval prior to an increase in enrollment of 25% or greater over the enrollment in the previous year. (See Education Guideline 3.6.2.a.) Programs that hold national nursing accreditation are required to submit a substantive change report for increasing student enrollment over 25% to the nursing accreditation organization.

IMPORTANT: Please be aware that references to Rule 214 and Rule 215 are not all inclusive.