

NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

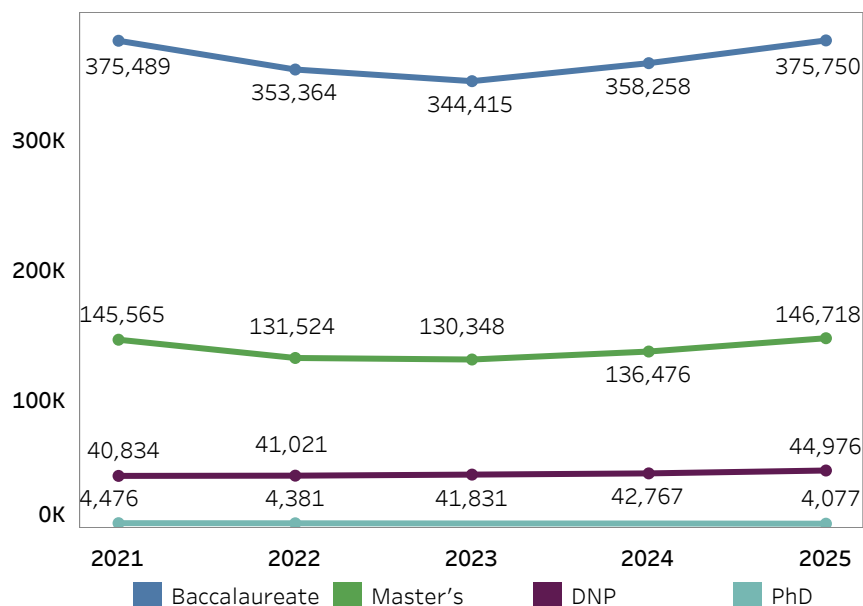
October 2026

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing. AACN represents more than 890 member schools of nursing offering a mix of baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate programs at public and private universities nationwide.

ENROLLMENT & GRADUATIONS¹

Program	Total Enrollment Fall 2025	Graduations (8/1/24-7/31/25)
Baccalaureate	375,750	145,454
Master's	146,718	49,447
PhD	4,077	787
DNP	44,976	12,207
TOTAL	574,521	207,895

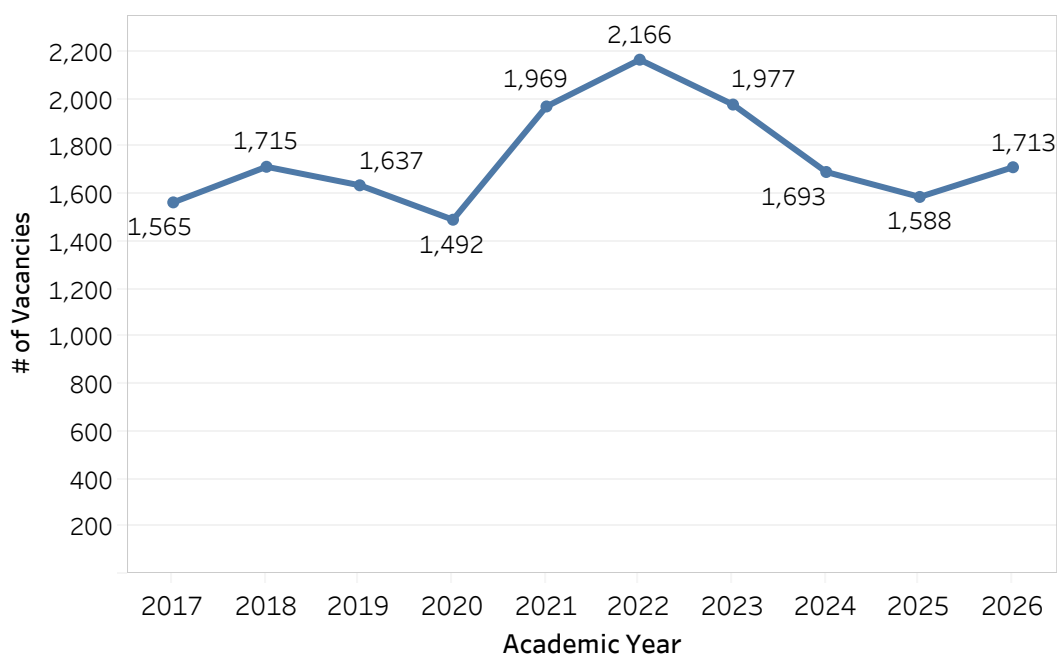
NATIONAL ENROLLMENT TRENDS¹



UNDERSTANDING THE FACULTY SHORTAGE²

The faculty shortage is an obstacle to expanding the nation's nursing workforce and meeting healthcare demands. Budget constraints, an aging faculty, and increasing job competition from clinical sites all contribute to this crisis. This data provides an overview of the scope of the nursing faculty shortage at the national level.

10 YEAR TREND: FACULTY VACANCIES



BY THE NUMBERS

1,713

Total vacant full-time nurse faculty positions

1,396

Open faculty positions that require or prefer doctoral degrees in nursing or related field

53

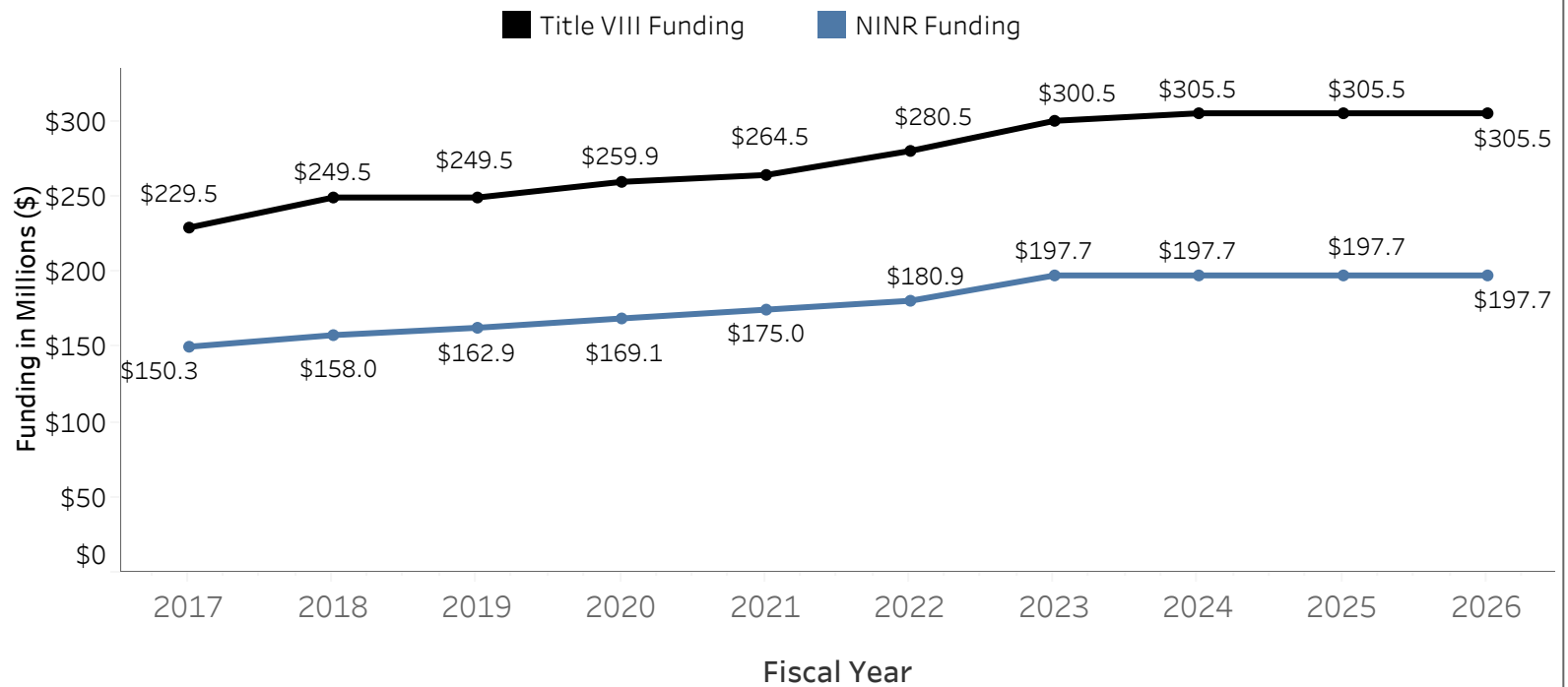
Average age of doctorally prepared nurse faculty

518

Schools reporting noncompetitive salaries as issue for recruiting faculty

NATIONAL TRENDS

FEDERAL FUNDING ACROSS U.S.³



*While a Continuing Resolution (CR) was passed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (H.R. 1968), some grant competitions were cancelled (e.g., Nurse Faculty Loan Program) during FY 2025.

NATIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE

RN

5,139,295

Registered Nurses⁴

NP

461,000

Nurse Practitioners⁵

CRNA

63,000

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists⁷

CNS

90,955

Clinical Nurse Specialists⁶

CNM

14,215

Certified Nurse-Midwives⁸

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE



8,810

Health Professional Shortage Areas in Primary Care⁹



5,200

Rural Health Clinics¹⁰



3,462

Medically Underserved Areas⁹

Sources

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