

NATIONAL SNAPSHOT

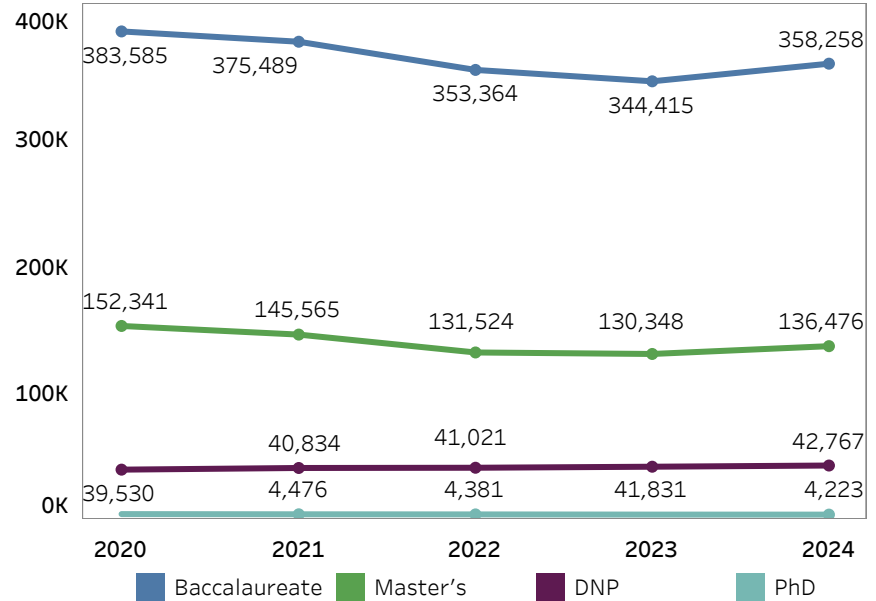
October 2025

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is the national voice for academic nursing. AACN represents more than 875 member schools of nursing offering a mix of baccalaureate, graduate, and post-graduate programs at public and private universities nationwide.

ENROLLMENTS & GRADUATIONS¹

Program	Total Enrollments Fall 2024	Graduations (8/1/23-7/31/24)
Baccalaureate	358,258	143,761
Master's	136,476	50,157
PhD	4,223	725
DNP	42,767	12,336
TOTAL	541,724	206,979

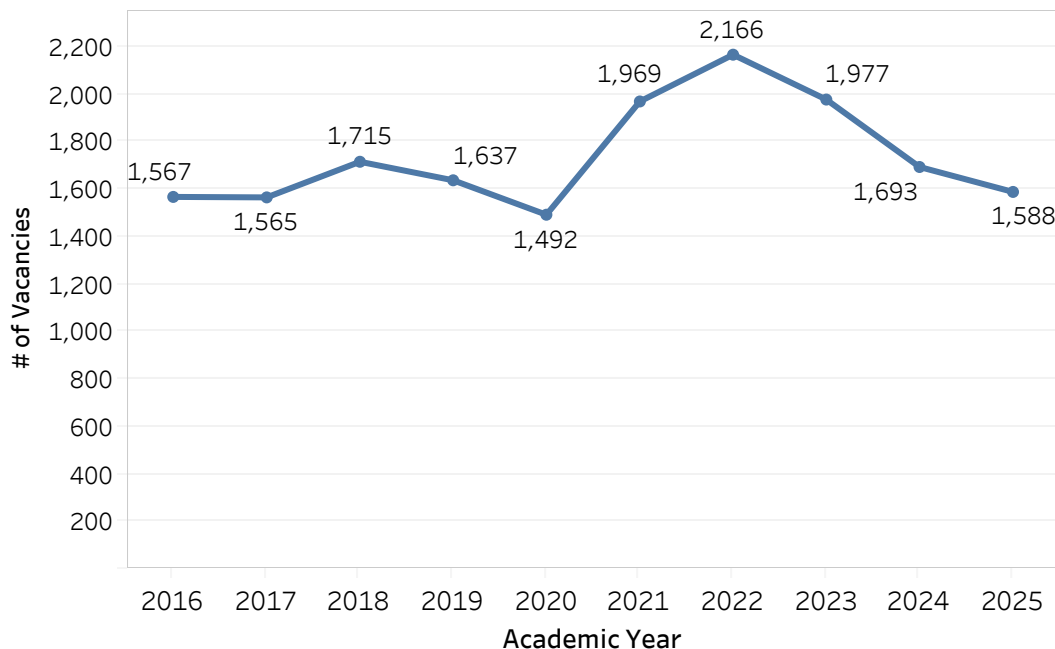
NATIONAL ENROLLMENT TRENDS¹



UNDERSTANDING THE FACULTY SHORTAGE²

Faculty shortage is an obstacle to expanding the nation's nursing workforce and meeting health care 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

1,693

Total vacant full-time nurse faculty positions

1,284

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

53

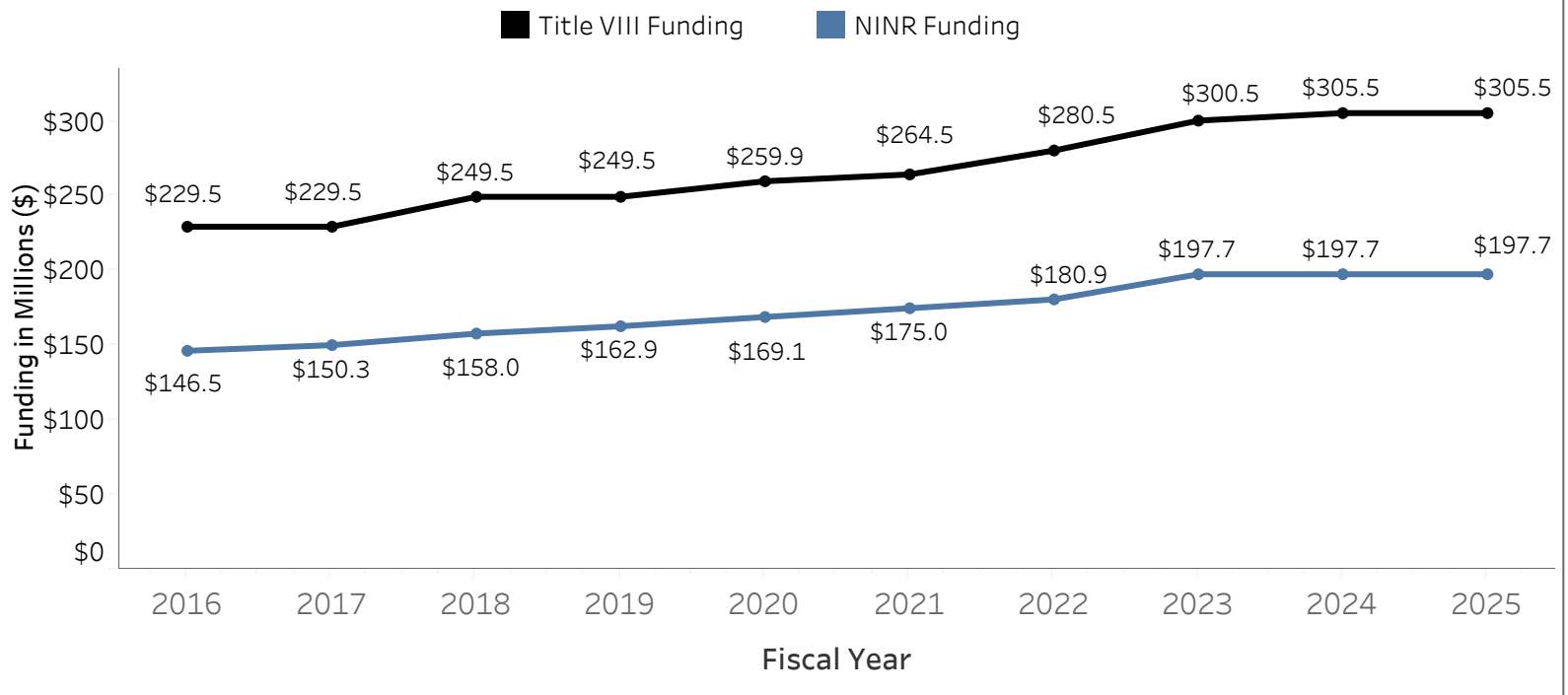
Average age of doctorally prepared nurse faculty

863

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 2025.³

NATIONAL NURSING WORKFORCE

RN

5,004,856

Registered Nurses⁴

NP

431,000

Nurse Practitioners⁵

CRNA

62,000

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists⁷

CNS

90,955

Clinical Nurse Specialists⁶

CNM

14,215

Certified Nurse-Midwives⁸

ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE



8,202

Health Professional Shortage Areas in Primary Care⁹



5,200

Rural Health Clinics¹⁰



3,494

Medically Underserved Areas⁹

Sources

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Research and Data Services, 2025.
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- H.R.2882, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2882> and Explanatory Statement <https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20240318/Division%20%20HHS.pdf>. H.R.1968, Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025. Retrieved from: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1968/text>.
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