

Admission to Nursing School:

Lessons Learned from the Nursing Student Admissions Database Project

The Nursing Student Admissions Database (NSAD) project collected data on individual applicants to Oregon nursing school programs, providing accurate and comprehensive information on the number of applicants to nursing school. Some of the lessons learned included:

Lesson #1: Applying to more than one nursing school increased applicants' success rates.

Individuals who applied to more nursing schools were more likely to get into nursing school. In 2008-2009, applicants who were accepted and enrolled in a nursing school applied to an average of 2 schools.

Lesson #2: There is no "perfect" nursing school applicant but....

Successful applicants met the program admissions criteria. There are 21 RN pre-licensure schools in Oregon, each with different admissions criteria and admissions selection process. Each school looks for different qualities in future nursing school students. Additionally, the applicant pool changes from school to school and from year to year. While an applicant might not be accepted into one program, he/she might be considered a top candidate at another. Applicants who are unsure of admissions criteria of the schools they are applying to should seek help from the school admissions staff.

Lesson #3: Applicants who considered both ADN and BSN programs had a higher chance of acceptance into a nursing program.

In Oregon, there are 697 nursing school seats in associate's degree programs and 758 seats in bachelor's programs. Applicants who limited their consideration to one type of school reduced their acceptance chances.

Lesson #4: Acceptance to Nursing School is NOT Impossible.

Getting into nursing school is a highly competitive process because there are more applicants than there are nursing program seats. Nearly 50% of all qualified nursing program applicants **are** accepted into nursing school.

Questions regarding the NSAD project can be directed to Lyzz Caley Stewart, Program Manager at stewarte@up.edu or 503-943-7495.

Who Gets In? Pilot Year Data from the Nursing School Admissions Database, a complete report on the first year of the NSAD project, is available for download at www.oregoncenterfornursing.org.

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