

**2019 HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**HB 1508**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau Room, State Capitol

HB 1508  
1/21/2019  
31157

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe
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## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to a common process for applying to nursing programs at state institutions of higher education

## **Minutes:**

Attachment 1, 2, 3, 4
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**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Opened the hearing on HB 1508.

**Rep. Josh Boschee:** (See Attachment 1)

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any questions?

**Rep. Brandy Pyle:** How many different applications do we have now? What are the different deadlines?

**Rep. Boschee:** It's my understanding that each institution that has a program likely has its own deadline and its own application currently. There may be collaboration or similarities.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any additional questions. We will continue testimony in favor of HB 1508.

**Andrew Alexis Varvel:** (See Attachment 2)

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Continuing support in favor, any opposition. Any neutral testimony?

**Lisa Johnson, Interim Vice Chancellor/Academic and Student Affairs, NDUS:** (See Attachment 3) (7:00-9:30)

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** Is there not monies in each of the college budgets to already have web pages assigned for nursing and the application process on their pages that this money could be used for?

**Ms. Johnson:** At present, they maintain paper applications. The Governor's Task Force was asking for that electronic component for which they campuses do not have budget allocations for the development or to initiate that work with ITD to develop. This could be done individually, through an electronic application that is a static pdf, but what they are asking for in this recommendation is the opportunity to apply to multiple institutions at once and exchange of information between institutions through a single application. That is what they don't presently have. This is inclusive of private, tribal and public institutions. That is what brings up the cost.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Additional questions?

**Rep. Ron Guggisberg:** What would the cost be if it was just public colleges and universities?

**Ms. Johnson:** I do not have a breakout – if the tribal and private colleges were to be excluded, they were very adamant and wanted to be included – the estimate includes them. I would offer to go back to ITD and see that if they were excluded, how much less that would be.

**Rep. Guggisberg:** I assume this would save some time for the individual institutions instead of having to take applications from students all over the state. Just having the one pool would save some money? I realize there is some for private and tribal, so that wouldn't save the state money, but what about the other institutions?

**Ms. Johnson:** I didn't hear from the nurse administrators that it significantly reduced their time, but the task did encourage them to revisit application deadlines and as opposed to having a single application deadline for all institutions. The schools that received the most applications for which students are turned away are in a queue offered as a result of this process offered to establish deadlines that were ahead of everyone else's and to be more diligent in going through the pool and notifying students who did not stand a good chance of getting into the pool so they could be applying to second and third choices. That was a benefit of the result of this examination, about the deadlines and coordinating them better.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any additional questions?

**Rep. Dennis Johnson:** How many different nursing programs are there?

**Ms. Johnson:** I have the list. Rasmussen College approached us, Sitting Bull College, United Tribes Technical College, Jamestown College, University of Mary and of the public universities – UND, Williston State College, and the Dakota Nursing Program. It also included BSC, Dakota College at Bottineau, Lake Region State College and Williston as well.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Additional neutral testimony for HB 1508?

**Wendy Kopp, CUNEA Rep. on ND Center for Nursing Board of Directors, Director NDSU Nursing at Sanford Bismarck:** (See Attachment 4) (14:00)(17:20)

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any questions?

**Wendy Kopp:** (17:00) Rep. Brandy Pyle, you have talked about the how many different colleges and different applications. Because of the different education tracks, whether certificates, diploma or diploma and baccalaureate, each application has its own specific deadline. Some in the baccalaureate programs are five semester programs versus six semester programs so then the dates aren't going to be the same. Rep. Heinert asked about it releasing some of the work for the common application system. Each applicant still has to meet university requirements and apply and be accepted and admitted to the university as well the nursing program. Because each program has specific requirements, you would still have to have the same process and each application would have to be evaluated.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Any further questions on HB 1508? Any additional neutral testimony? Closed the hearing on HB 1508.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1508  
2/5/2019  
32213

☐ Subcommittee  
☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe
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## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to a common process for applying to nursing programs at state institutions of higher education

## **Minutes:**

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**Chairman Owens:** Committee work on HB 1508.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** I serve on the Workforce Development Council and there was not an application process that was unified across all nursing training for schools. The attempt is that the application will continue on with other programs where there are available open slots for the training. The student could then be notified the slot is open and they could attend at a different spot if so desired. That was the premise of why this was put together. I asked Lisa Johnson from Higher Ed to check as to if it was the public universities, maybe the cost would be different, but it is not. IT costs are relatively the same. I would **motion for a Do Pass** on HB 1508.

**Chairman Owens:** Is there a second?

**Rep. Ron Guggisberg: Second**

**Chairman Owens:** Any further discussion?

**Rep. Mary Johnson:** If the student has the opportunity to say "I choose this one, this one, etc...., but not this one, this one, etc.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** It's a common application so I am not exactly sure but the point being that if you are applying and the slot is that you wanted to go to Fargo, that you have other opportunities that other schools or training facilities would receive your application and know of your application. It is an IT issue as to how to put it together, therefore the cost.

**Rep. Brandy Pyle:** When students apply to North Dakota colleges or institutions, can they hit 'send my application here, here and here', and then have it zip out?

**Chairman Owens:** It was my understanding also.

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** Are we saying that a student would be applying to one and that application cost can only be once? In admissions procedures you have an application fee at each individual school, so if there isn't one that might be troublesome for the people who are processing the application of the other ends of this application. I don't remember that being addressed at all. Is that one fee for all?

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** I don't know; I would have to ask them.

**Chairman Owens:** I think because they talked about a common application I assumed it would be one application fee and if they had slots open somewhere else and you were the best qualified, they would offer you a slot perhaps in Dickinson because you didn't make it in Bismarck. Whether you accept it or not is up to but it was because they would be able to fill up their slots at the same time. We can ask that question.

**Rep. LaurieBeth Hager:** Also, who would be setting that fee – if it's a common application – then who determines it; i.e., NDSU, etc.

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** In light of the fact that we don't have a universal application across the board, creating one just for nursing is going to start a rush of others and coming back next session we'll have all kinds of them. The first thought, it would be better to send a note to the university system saying this is happening and we need to support this. Second thought is they did testify that their nursing schools have gotten together and changed some dates on the application processes, so they wouldn't be late for the next one, they can apply to the next one. The third thought is we have a continuing appropriation of \$717 forever for ITD because of the website that has to be created, developed and maintained.

**Rep. Brandy Pyle:** Can it be hog-housed and make it an application for all the colleges?

**Chairman Owens:** It would be an amendment, so the committee would vote on it. Technically, yes. What would be the fiscal note?

**Rep. Brandy Pyle:** A lot of money. But once the system would be up and working it would create a lot .....

**Chairman Owens:** That's something we could look into and testify and take to the Senate if it passes the House.

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** I just wanted to direct Rep. Pyle's question to members of our audience – common application across the state. What are your feelings across the state?

**Jared Melville, President, ND Students Association:** At our most recent general assembly meeting in January, we actually approved a resolution urging the university system to begin exploring the creation of a statewide common application for all general admissions into the university system. Our association has already approved of this, students across the state

have discussed this topic for the last few months. We are definitely interested in exploring and continuing the discussion of the committee.

**Mason Rademacher, ND Student Government:** In the creation of this resolution and its ultimate passage, some of the questions that did arise are the questions Rep. Hager brought up.

**Chairman Owens:** We still have a motion in front of us. Is there any further discussion based on what you've heard?

A **Roll Call Vote** was taken: **Yes 6, No 8, Absent 0.** **Do Pass** fails.

**Representative Denton Zubke:** I would move a **Do Not Pass**.

**Rep. Pat D. Heinert:** **Seconded.**

**Chairman Owens:** Any discussion?

**Vice Chairman Cynthia Schreiber-Beck:** Given the information we've just received and the process we did not pass; I would like to turn this into a study.

**Representative Denton Zubke:** I would like to see what would happen with their resolution and I think the university system can study this on their own. I don't know that we have to have a legislative study to do this. I won't withdraw my motion.

**Chairman Owens:** Any further discussion?

A Roll Call was taken: **Yes 8, No 6, Absent 0.** A **Do Not Pass**. **Rep. Pyle** will carry HB 1508.

Date: 2-5-19  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1508**

House Education Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Schreiber-Beck seconded By Rep. R. Guggisberg

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens		✓	Rep. Guggisberg	✓	
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck	✓		Rep. Hager	✓	
Rep. Heinert		✓			
Rep. Hoverson		✓			
Rep. D. Johnson		✓			
Rep. M. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Johnston		✓			
Rep. Longmuir		✓			
Rep. Marschall	✓				
Rep. Pyle		✓			
Rep. Strinden	✓				
Rep. Zubke		✓			

Total (Yes) 6 No 8

Absent 0

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Do Pass Fails



Date: 2-5-19  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1508

House Education Committee

☐ Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation: ☐ Adopt Amendment  
☐ Do Pass ☒ Do Not Pass ☐ Without Committee Recommendation  
☐ As Amended ☐ Rerefer to Appropriations  
☐ Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions: ☐ Reconsider ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Zubke Seconded By Rep. Heinert

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens	✓		Rep. Guggisberg		✓
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck		✓	Rep. Hager		✓
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Hoverson	✓				
Rep. D. Johnson	✓				
Rep. M. Johnson		✓			
Rep. Johnston		✓			
Rep. Longmuir	✓				
Rep. Marschall		✓			
Rep. Pyle	✓				
Rep. Strinden	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 8 No 6

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Brandy Pyle

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1508: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (8 YEAS, 6 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1508 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1508**



# North Dakota House of Representatives

State Capitol  
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Representative  
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Minority Leader

January 21, 2019

HB 1508  
1-21-19  
#1

## HB 1508 Testimony House Education Committee

Good Morning Chairman Owens and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Josh Boschee and I represent District 44 here in the House of Representatives.

House Bill 1508 was introduced to advance policy recommendations from the Governor's Workforce Development Council's 2018 Report. In consultation with Commissioner Michelle Kommer, who staffed the Council's work over the past year or so, it was discovered that one of the widely supported recommendations to help address the nursing shortage throughout the state had not been introduced.

You have before you a statute that would require the ND University System to work with its institutions to develop and implement a common application process for nursing programs. Currently, each institution has its own deadline, which means that if a student is not accepted to one of their top choices for nursing, they may have missed the application deadline for another institution they had not previously considered. A common application may not only help applicants fill slots that are left unfilled, it may also help the university system and the healthcare providers throughout our state with data on the true number of student applicants. This may also alleviate some students who are not accepted into their first choice from transferring to institutions outside of the state, if they have the option to enter a program at an in-state institution.

At the time of bill drafting, we left the requirement to only include the public institutions under the umbrella of the university system. However, it would be beneficial to our students and our state for the system to find a way to collaborate with the private and Tribal colleges that provide nursing education programs, to provide nursing students all available options to continue their education in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Center for Nursing helped lead the Governor's Nursing Shortage Task Force in which the common application was also a legislative priority. You have received testimony by e-mail from Dr. Patricia Moulton, who is the Director of the ND Center for Nursing and Co-Lead for the Governor's Nursing Shortage Taskforce. In her testimony, specifically pages 2 and 3, she highlights the various nursing programs throughout the state and the fact that some programs are filled to overcapacity, while others are under capacity. North Dakota has 16 nursing education programs for all levels of the nursing profession, at public institutions, private institutions and Tribal colleges.

In collaboration with the University System, ND Hospital Association, ND Long Term Care Association, Job Service ND, ND Department of Commerce, ND Career and Technical Education Department and multiple nursing organizations, the Task Force's proposal will be one tool in the toolbox to help increase the number of nurses we have throughout North Dakota.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this legislation and I will try my best to answer any questions committee members may have.

HB 1508  
1-21-19  
#2

House Education Committee  
Testimony on HB 1508  
Andrew Alexis Varvel  
January 21, 2019

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel and I live in District 47.

I wholeheartedly support House Bill 1508. My only caveat with this bill is that it really doesn't go far enough. We should be looking at North Dakota having a statewide college of nursing with a statewide dean to bring all of our state's various nursing programs together so they can become one coordinated statewide institution.

Thank you.

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1

**HB1508**

House Education Committee

January 21, 2019

Lisa A. Johnson, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic/Student Affairs, NDUS  
701.328.4143 | [lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu](mailto:lisa.a.johnson@ndus.edu)

Chair Owens and members of the House Education Committee: My name is Lisa Johnson, and I serve as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs of the North Dakota University System. I am here to provide neutral testimony related to House Bill 1508.

I was one of nearly two dozen individuals that participated in the Governor's Nursing Shortage Task Force. I was also one of several representing the interests, capabilities, and resources of the public institutions of post-secondary education in North Dakota.

The Task Force met numerous times and at length to formulate what ultimately became 14 strategies for the consideration of the Governor, the Workforce Development Council, state agencies and facilities that provide health care. We examined many topics including compensation, faculty salaries, student loan forgiveness, workplace culture, regional competition for nursing staff and a satisfaction survey of recent graduates to better understand the unusually high turnover in the nursing profession. Among the strategies was a recommendation to implement a common application for admission to North Dakota programs of nursing.

The Task Force sought my assistance in developing an application specifically designed for admission to a nursing program with the ability to concurrently apply to a second or third nursing program at other institutions in the state. I worked with representatives from the College and University Nursing Education Administrators (CUNEA) to produce an application script or Word document of all the information that would need to be collected and translated into a much more sophisticated electronic application—that would have the capability to present and suppress questions based on responses to previous questions in the application.

The script was then given to the state's Information Technology Department (ITD) to prepare an estimate to translate the written script into an online application to nursing programs across the state—including private, tribal, and public colleges and universities. ITD recommended an agency budget of \$214,841 for the development, modifications, and implementation of the application. In addition, ITD estimated a monthly on-going cost of the online application to be \$717 per month. On-going monthly expenses include web hosting, estimated storage and maintenance costs.

If HB1508 is passed, there is no appropriation in HB1003, the state's higher education budget or, to my knowledge, the Governor's budget recommendations to cover the costs of development, implementation or maintenance of the online application. If HB1508 were to be approved, an appropriation would be required.

A copy of both the script I referenced in this testimony and the estimate from ITD have been submitted to the clerk for your use.

This concludes my testimony pertaining to HB1508 and I will stand for questions or comments from the Committee.

Thank you.



HB 1508  
1-21-19  
#4

## HB1508

House Education Committee

January 21, 2019

Wendy Kopp, CUNEA Representative on the ND Center for Nursing Board of Directors and Director NDSU Nursing at Sanford Bismarck  
224-3803 | [wendy.kopp@ndsu.edu](mailto:wendy.kopp@ndsu.edu)

Chair Owens and members of the House Education Committee: My name is Wendy Kopp, and I serve as the College and University Nursing Education Administrators (CUNEA) representative on the ND Center for Nursing's Board of Directors. I am also the Director of NDSU Nursing at Sanford Bismarck. I am here to provide neutral testimony related to House Bill 1508.

As a program director and member of CUNEA, I was one of many nursing program administrators that met and worked with Lisa Johnson on the development of a common application for the admission to programs of nursing in ND. An application draft was created and sent to the state's Information Technology Department.

As reported in Patricia Moulton's written testimony, students are not always aware of available nursing programs in the state, nor are they aware of the availability of seats within those programs. As a result, some programs within the state do not fill their admitting cohorts. A common application system was identified as a way to remedy this issue. If HB1508 passes, there remains to be a number of important details that would need to be worked out in order for the common online application system to benefit students and individual nursing programs. Examples include the evaluation of current application and admission fees, evaluating institution admission requirements prior to nursing applications, and most importantly, assessing the practicality of establishing one common application deadline.

As a representative speaking on behalf of CUNEA, we are in total support and very agreeable to work on all of 14 strategies identified by the Center for Nursing and the Governor's Task force to ensure a healthy workforce. At this time however, CUNEA is most concerned with the strategies directly related to legislative support for continued funding for all nursing programs as well as improving nursing faculty salaries to align with national averages for the recruitment and retention of highly qualified faculty.

This concludes my testimony for HB1508. I am happy to stand for questions or comments from the Committee.

Thank you

HB 1508  
1-21-19  
#4



ND Department of Commerce  
Budget Bill HB 1508

January 21, 2019: House  
Education Committee

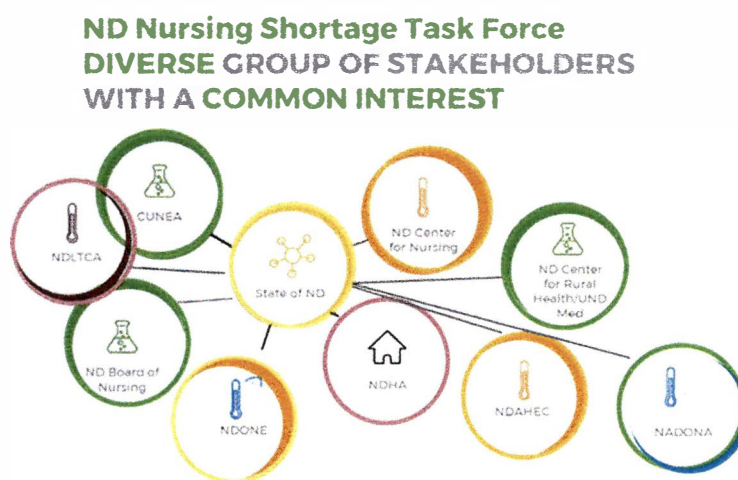
## ND Center for Nursing Testimony in Support of Bill HB 1508L

### Common Application Process for Nursing Programs

Chairman Owens and members of the committee. I am Dr. Patricia Moulton and I am the Executive Director of the ND Center for Nursing and the Co-Lead of the Governors Nursing Shortage Task Force. The North Dakota Center for Nursing is a non-profit, 501c3 organization that was developed to represent over 19,000 nurses and over 40 nursing organizations across North Dakota.

A shortage of nurses compared to demand has existed to some extent for twenty-five years and yet today's shortage is uniquely serious. The retirement of baby boomers, the aging population and the associated increase in healthcare needs of our nation's largest generation has intensified the issue, leading to the need for more nurses and supporting healthcare workers across the state. Nursing forms the base for the economic engine for North Dakota's communities. The rural North Dakota landscape makes this shortage particularly acute due to the limited program capacity and distance.

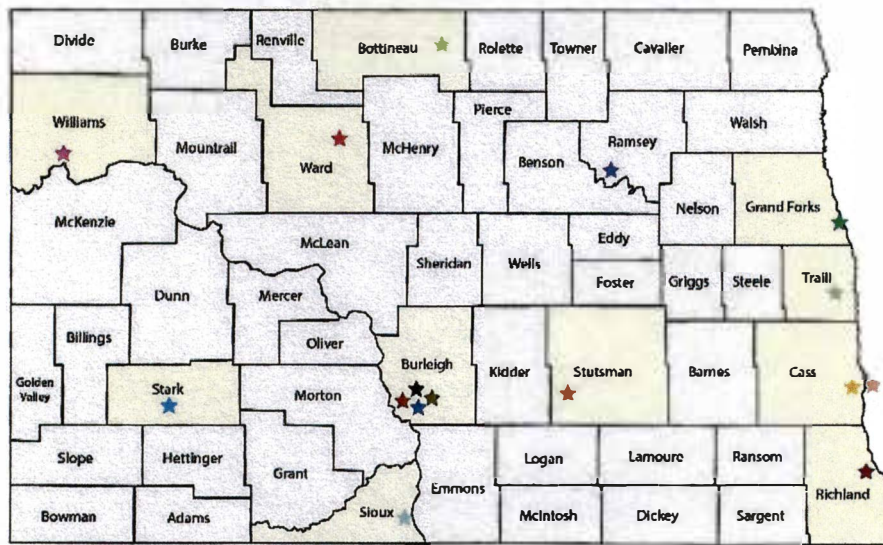
Over the last two years, the Governor's Nursing Shortage Task Force met to develop a set of strategies for ensuring a healthy nursing workforce. The final report released in September 2018 included fourteen strategies which form an **interoperable plan**. All of these strategies are needed in order to fully address the nursing shortage. The policy agenda that I have handed out details critical strategies that require legislative support during the 2019 session. This has been the collective work of multiple entities including the ND Center for Nursing including multiple nursing organizations, the ND Hospital Association, the ND Long Term Care Association and task force members. Several state agencies assisted in crafting the plan including Job Service ND, ND Department of Commerce, ND Career and Technical Education and the ND University System. Testimony from nurses across the state and all linked resources/data are available on our webpage at <https://www.ndcenterfornursing.org/nursing-shortage-solutions/>



One of these solutions is to implement a standardized application process and deadline to allow for cohesive consideration and accurate program counts across ND's nursing education programs.

North Dakota currently has sixteen nursing education programs including preparation for LPN, RN, Advanced Practice Nurses and other graduate education programs. There are also several programs on the border with Minnesota including University of Minnesota Moorhead, Concordia College, and Northland Technical College.

### 2018 North Dakota Nursing Education Programs



- ★ Bismarck State College
- ★ Dakota College at Bottineau
- ★ Dickinson State University
- ★ Lake Region State College
- ★ Mayville State University
- ★ Minot State University
- ★ North Dakota State College of Science
- ★ North Dakota State University
- ★ NDSU Nursing at Sanford Health
- ★ Rasmussen College
- ★ Sitting Bull College
- ★ University of Jamestown
- ★ University of Mary
- ★ University of North Dakota
- ★ United Tribes Technical College
- ★ Williston State College



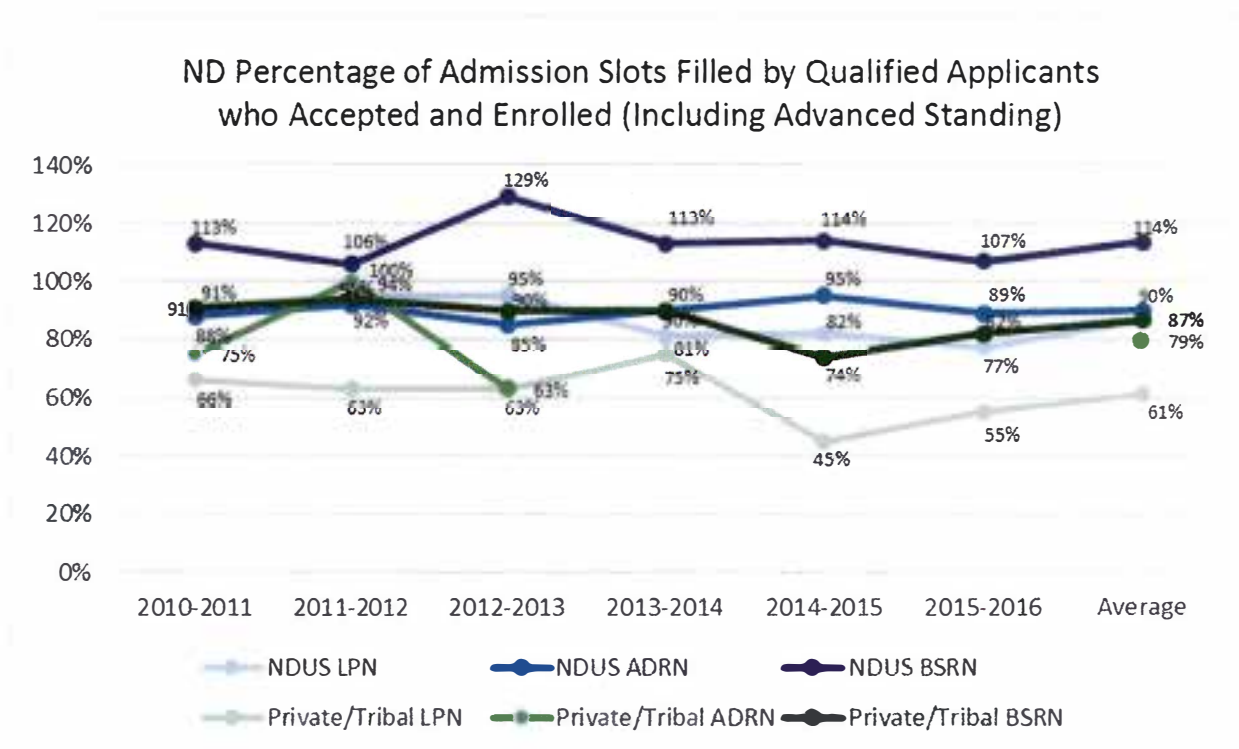
All of these programs are critically needed to provide nursing education across all areas of the state. However, all potential students are not always aware of the many nursing programs that are available and the availability of seats in programs.

Because nursing program application deadlines are not standardized, applicants who are not accepted to a program with a later deadline may miss the deadline to apply for a school of a second choice. Further, non-standard applications require additional effort and expense. Also, the submission of multiple applications to multiple programs by one applicant prevent accurate application metrics (one applicant may be counted many times if they apply to more than one program). The standardization of both the application process and the application deadline would allow a) an accurate count of program applicants, b) programs to collaborate to ensure the most qualified applicants receive consideration by multiple programs in order of the

HB 1508  
1-21-19  
#4

applicant's preference and c) consideration and acceptance of the most qualified applicants to ND nursing programs.

The online application system will also help to ensure that we fill all open seats across all programs. Currently, a few nursing programs receive several hundred applications for their nursing program and a few nursing programs have not filled some classes. This will help to ensure the maximum number of students have a nursing education available under the current capacity. Over the last six years, the number of admission slots that were filled by qualified applicants at NDUS institutions averaged 87% for LPN programs, 90% for ADRN programs and 114% for BSRN programs. Private and Tribal programs averaged 61% for LPN programs, 79% for ADRN programs (only available 2010-2013) and 87% for BSRN programs.



Source: North Dakota Board of Nursing Annual Education Report 2010-2016.

Lisa Johnson, with the North Dakota University System office served as the Co-chair of the workgroup that developed the application system will provide more detail on its development and costs.

Questions? Patricia Moulton, PhD, Executive Director, ND Center for Nursing  
[patricia.moulton@ndcenterfornursing.org](mailto:patricia.moulton@ndcenterfornursing.org)