

# Percentages of Programs that are Accredited: An Update

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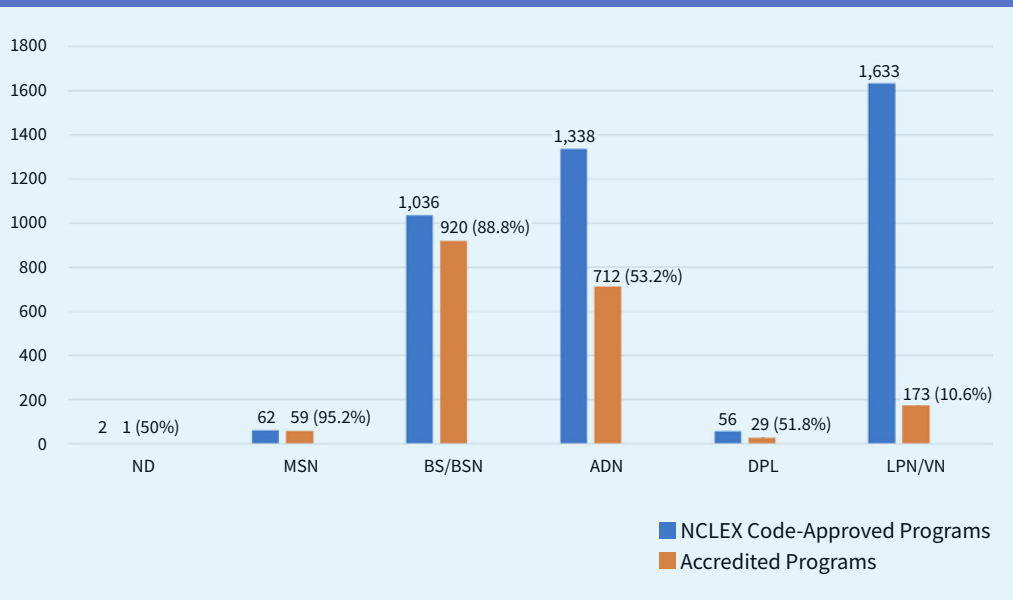
In December 2019, NCSBN sought to verify the current accreditation status of nursing programs. A list of nursing programs with NCLEX program codes (N = 4,127) was obtained from the NCSBN exams department. The accreditation status of each program was initially verified using the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) websites. Then, the remaining list of programs not found on the accrediting agencies' websites was sent to the executive directors at ACEN, CCNE and CNEA to

confirm the accreditation status. When comparing the number of programs accredited by the national nursing accrediting agencies to the number of approved programs, 88.8% (n = 920) of baccalaureate programs and 95.2% (n = 59) of master's programs are accredited. Additionally, one of the two prelicensure nursing doctorate programs is accredited. Approximately 53% of associate degree programs and approximately 52% of diploma programs are accredited. Only 10.6% of practical/vocation programs were found to be accredited. Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the NCLEX® code-approved programs and accredited programs.

Accreditation rates previously reported from 2012 applied a

similar methodology (Spector & Woods, 2013). Since 2012, there has been a 6.5% increase (N = 3,874 in 2012) in the number of programs across all types but a majority of this is due to the large increase in baccalaureate programs, 811 (in 2012) to 1,036 (present). When comparing the 2012 accreditation rates to the current rates, there is a decrease in the accreditation rate from 96% to 89.1% for baccalaureate degree programs or higher and a slight increase from 52% to 53.2% for associate degree programs. The decreased accreditation rate for baccalaureate degree programs or higher is not fully understood, but perhaps some of this might be attributed to newer programs not receiving accreditation right away. ♦

**FIGURE 1.**  
Comparison of NCLEX Code-approved and Accredited Programs



## REFERENCE

Spector, N., & Woods, S. L. (2013). A collaborative model for approval of prelicensure nursing programs. *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 3(4), 47-52.