Each year, AACN collects information from nursing students who receive financial assistance through the Nursing Workforce Development programs (Title VIII, Public Health Service Act). AACN’s Title VIII Student Recipient Survey captures a broad range of data about the recipients and how this funding impacts their educational and professional paths. For the 2013-2014 academic year, 855 Title VIII recipients participated in the survey.

For 50 years, Title VIII programs have helped to bolster the nursing pipeline by increasing the number of nursing students, faculty, and practicing nurses. Title VIII funding supports students in programs ranging from the undergraduate through doctoral levels. When asked how they would finance their education, 73% of undergraduate students, 59% of master’s students, and 16% of doctoral students reported relying on federal loans to pay for at least part of the overall cost. When asked how much loans were required, the undergraduate students averaged $33,300 in loans and graduate students averaged $57,565 in loans (N=226 and N=502 respectively). Some graduate students reported needing as much as $260,000 in educational loans to complete their degree programs.

![How Respondents Finance Their Nursing Education](chart)

**How Respondents Finance Their Nursing Education**

(Percentage of Respondents)

![Respondents Report Amount of Title VIII Funding Received in 2013](chart)

**Respondents Report Amount of Title VIII Funding Received in 2013**

(Percentage of Respondents)
Nearly 67% of respondents said Title VIII assistance affected their decision to enter into nursing school.

Seventy-six percent of respondents reported that Title VIII influenced their decision to pursue their degree full-time, allowing them to enter the nursing profession without delay. This is critical at a time when an aging population, expected retirements in the nursing workforce, and an anticipated 32 million newly-insured individuals will have a significant impact on the healthcare system in the coming years.

How Recipients Utilize Title VIII Funding

Post-Graduation Practice: Trends of Title VIII Recipients

The survey results reflect a wide range of career interests in nursing. Some of the respondents’ ultimate career goals include, becoming a nurse researcher; leading a national nursing organization; serving as faculty; practicing as a school nurse; caring for underserved populations; and serving as a public health nurse. Geographic data capturing where students intend to practice shows that nearly 63% of respondents say they plan to work in the state where they attended nursing school after graduation. Title VIII programs are an investment in local healthcare and education infrastructure.

Career Prospects of Title VIII Recipients

Advanced Practice Registered Nursing
A significant portion of survey respondents are currently enrolled to become an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). APRNs (Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Clinical Nurse Specialists) provide high-quality, cost-effective care across the country. According to the survey, 49.4% of respondents were currently pursuing their graduate degree in one of these four APRN roles.

Nursing Faculty
Title VIII helps to fill gaps in faculty vacancies across the country. According to the AACN’s 2013-2014 Enrollment and Graduations survey, nursing schools turned away 78,089 qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate programs, citing lack of faculty as a primary reason. Title VIII bolsters the number of faculty members available to keep the number of new nurses entering the pipeline in step with the growing demand for nursing services.

Care in Rural and Underserved Communities
Many students report that Title VIII funding helps alleviate the pressure to find employment based on pay, allowing them to care for vulnerable populations in medically underserved areas. Nearly 20% of survey respondents plan to practice in public health or serve in a rural or other underserved area. Helping to expand access to care for communities living in these areas is a critical function of Title VIII programs.