

Survey Concerning the Enrollment of Adults into Nursing Schools

Japanese Nursing Association
Survey & Research Section
Development & Promotion
Department

Outline of Survey

1) Purpose of Survey

It has been forecast that the population of 18 year olds in Japan will decrease in the future. On the other hand the number of openings for nurses (male and female) in schools is rapidly increasing. Under these circumstances, if only those who have just graduated from high school are considered as applicants for examinations, a shortage of new students can be expected.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the number of students graduating from junior colleges and universities and then entering nursing school has been increasing yearly. The ratio of such students has increased from 1.7% in the school year 1993 to 2.7% in 1994, 3.7% in the school year 1995, with such entrants for 1995 being more than double that for 1993.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare provides figures on the number of nursing schools entrants, but no material that indicates the age and educational background of these applicants exists.

Thus, the purpose of this survey is to come up with basic material in order to understand the situation of nursing school applicants and entrants, the view of instructors concerning the admission of adults, and to assess future nurse training.

2) Target of Survey

All 443 three-year nursing schools.

3) Method of Survey

Survey sheets will be mailed to the heads of departments of educational affairs and chairmen of the respective school departments, based on the directory of nursing schools held by the Nursing Association. Respondents will mail the completed sheets back directly to the survey office.

4) Period of Survey

June, 1994

5) Collection Rate

Effective number collected/ rate: 325, 73.4%.

Application and Admission Status

1) Numbers of applicants, examinees, entrants for the 1994 school year

The number of applicants for 1994 was 67,119 by general entrance examination, 7,080 for admission by recommendation, and 508 by secondary recruitment, with the majority applying through general examination. The trend is the same with the number of examinees and entrants as well.

The ratio of examinees to applicants was 91% for general examination, 99% for recommendees taking the examination, and 79% from secondary recruitment, with recommendees having the highest examinee ratio.

Looking at the competitive rate of entrants, it was 5.7 for the general examination, 1.3 for entrance by recommendation and 1.7 for secondary recruitment, with the rate for the general examination being the highest.

According to figures of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the nationwide average competitive rate for entering colleges for the 1994 school year was 4.3. The combined competitive rates of the general examination, entrance of recommendees and secondary recruitment in the current survey was 4.2, approximately the same as the competition rate of the Ministry of Health and Welfare statistics.

The ratio of entrants to the number of openings is 104.4%, with those entering by general examination numbering 66.3%.

2) Application and Admission of University and Junior College Graduates for the 1994 School

Year

The number of female applicants graduated from junior colleges is a considerable 1,031; however, the entrants ratio (ratio of those who actually were admitted from among the applicants) is 31%, lower than that of men and women who graduated from universities and men who graduated from junior colleges.

On the other hand, male graduates of universities number 105, or approximately one tenth of female graduates of junior colleges; however, the entrants ratio is the highest at 43%.

3) Admission over the Past Three Years

The survey questioned particular attributes of entrants and applicants over the past three years, such as being university graduates, marriage status, adult members of the work force, etc.

Of schools responding that such had "enrolled" in the past, the figures were 47.1% for university graduates, 62.5% for graduates of junior colleges, 35.4% for married, 34.2% with children, 74.8% had prior work experience, and 32.0% were over 30 years of age.

On the other hand, approximately 10% of the schools responded that admission is not open to those who are married, have children, or are over 30 years of age.

4) Evaluation of Admissions for Graduates of Universities, Junior Colleges

A summary was made of open comments in the surveys on admitting university and junior college graduates. As a result, 107 schools, or 69.9% (ratio of schools to which university graduates have been admitted) noted positive evaluations concerning university graduates.

109 schools, or 53.7% (ratio of schools to which junior college graduates have been admitted) gave positive evaluations concerning graduates of junior colleges.

The percentage of responses stating "can not say either," or "no response" is higher in the evaluations concerning junior college graduates as compared to university graduates. At any rate, many schools welcome the entrance of university graduates. Among the specific responses in the free comments, the following were representative:

- * They take leadership roles have good rapport when having class discussions or working as a group.
- * Their manner of speech and courtesy toward outsiders are more refined compared to high school graduates, and they can also guide high school graduates.
- * As they have a clear awareness of their goals, they have already developed the attitude and will to study effectively.
- * They provide good stimulation for the high school graduates as well. There are those who cannot mix well with the high school graduates, but this has to do with differences in

character.

5) Future Admission Policy for University and Junior College Graduates

In response to the question, "does the school intend to admit university and junior college graduates in the future?," 83 schools (25.5%) stated "we would like to by all means," 217 schools (66.8%) stated "we would like to," and 6 schools (1.8%) replied "no, if possible."

Combining those schools that would like to accept such graduates by all means, and those that would like to, over 90% have the desire to accept them in the future.

Of those who made a positive response to accepting such graduates, the following are some of the representative views among the comments given freely:

- * They have a clear awareness of becoming nurses, and are enthusiastic in their studies. Their attitude indicates logical thinking and research, based on what they have learned at universities and junior colleges, which are also utilized in their study of nursing.
- * Graduates fresh out of high school are very immature. Rather than a few instructors taking individual care of these students, if the older students who have undergone higher education can take leadership, the high school graduates can enhance their relationship with the classmates and learn ways to study on their own.
- * If a person wishes to become a nurse, it does not matter whether he/ she is a high school or a college graduate.
- * We would like to stimulate the class by securing excelling students.
- * We would like to increase the number of applicants.
- * Decrease in high school population noted.
- * As there are many universities and junior colleges in this prefecture, we are concerned about a decline in the ability of high school graduate applicants to our institute, which is a specialized school.
- * They are more mature than high school graduates, do well in their studies to be nurses, which is to support the life of a patient.

6) Employment and Problems of Graduates from Universities and Junior Colleges

Asked to comment freely on employment and related problems of university and junior college graduates who had entered and finished nursing school, the following responses were made.

Major employers

Attached or affiliated hospital	106 schools
Other than attached or affiliated hospital	8 schools

No distinction from high school graduates	27 schools
No graduates yet	92 schools
Further study; institute of further study decided	27 schools
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, terminal care, etc.	6 schools
Comments on problems	
Hospital system is a problem	3 schools
Age is a disadvantage	23 schools

* Individual comments made in responses were after-coded (similar responses collected and classified).

7) Need to Consider Admission of University/ Junior College Graduates

A question was asked concerning views on the need to examine future admission of junior college and university graduates. The most frequent response was "recognition of general education credits acquired in universities, junior colleges;" the next frequent response concerned improving staffing such as "increase in full-time instructors;" "increase in trainee instructors;" and "improvement of the scholarship system."