

Registered Nurse  
Graduate Survey



Department of Nursing Education  
Joliet Junior College  
Nursing Graduates of Fall 2019  
(6 - 9 month follow-up)

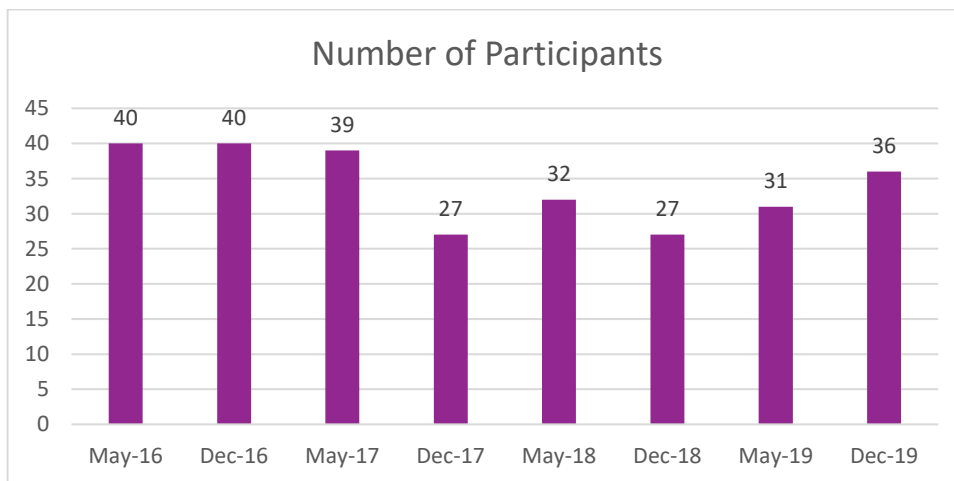
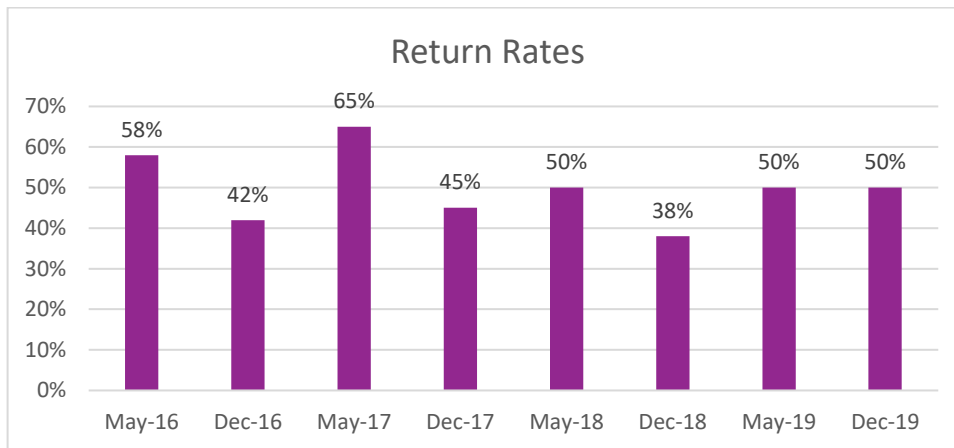


## Introduction

Graduate surveys (obtained via Survey Monkey) are sent approximately six (6) months to nine (9) months after the student graduates, which made the target date in June 2020 for the graduating class of December 2019. The survey was sent out to seventy-two (72) graduates on June 22, 2020 via the student's personal e-mail address, which they provided to us prior to graduation. On June 29, 2020, eighteen (18) graduates completed the survey and another reminder was sent. On July 6, 2020 twenty-eight (28) graduates responded and another reminder was sent. On July 13, 2020 thirty-three (33) graduates responded and a final reminder and plea for completion was sent. The survey was closed on July 20, 2020 with thirty-six (36) students completing the survey which resulted in a overall response rate of 50%.

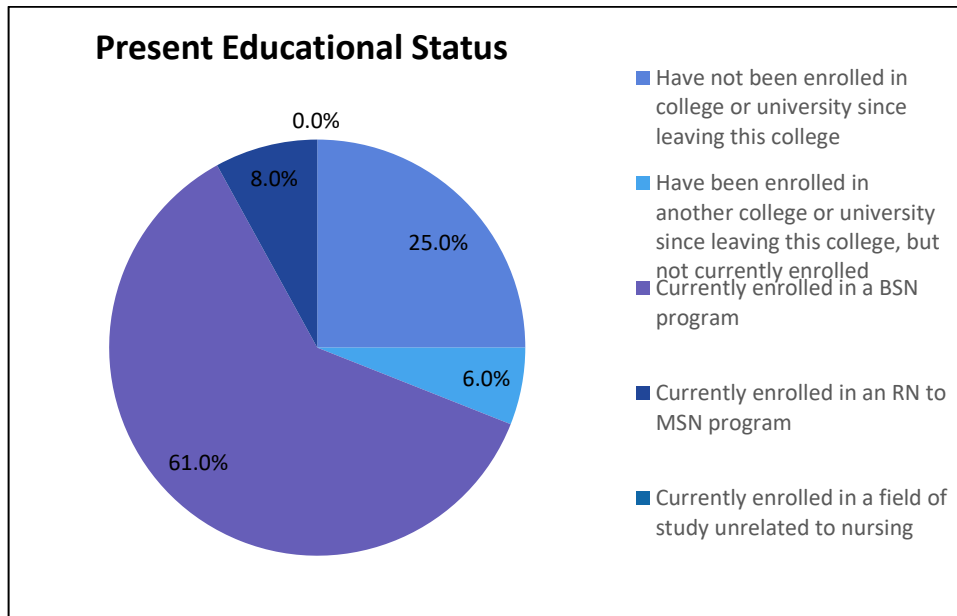
**Please Note: graduate responses/comments in *Italics* are reprinted as they appeared on the survey, including spelling and grammatical errors..**

## Historical Data Trends:



**Results:**

**Educational status** (36 out of 36 responded): 61% (n=22) indicated that they are enrolled in a BSN program, 25% (n=9) have not been enrolled in college or university since leaving this college, 8% (n=3) indicated enrollment in a MSN program and 6% (n=2) have been enrolled in another college or university since leaving this college, but not currently enrolled.



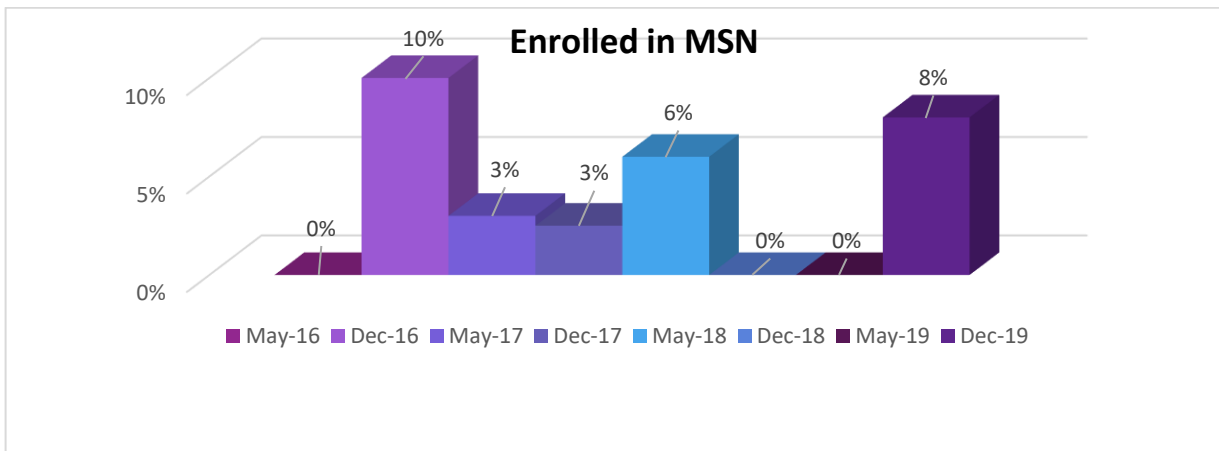
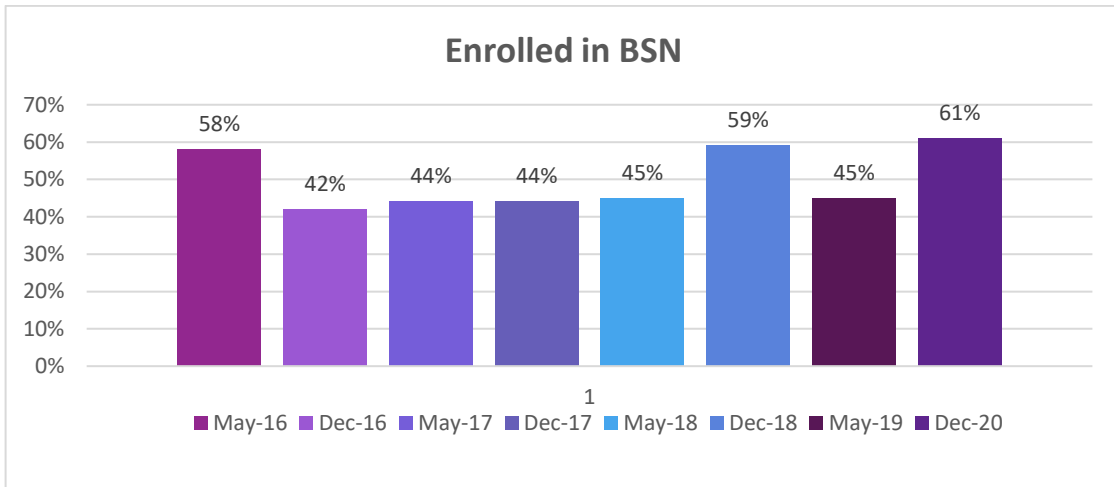
Enrollment in a BSN program by educational institution (22 out of 22 enrolled responded): 31% (n=7) at Purdue University Northwest, 18% (n= 4) at Indiana Wesleyan University, 9% (n=2) at University of Phoenix, 9% (n= 2) Chamberlain University, 9% (n=2) Western Governors University, 9% (n=2) at Illinois State University, 5% (n=1) at University of Cincinnati, 5% (n=1) at Governors State University, and 5% (n=1) at Northern Illinois University.

Enrollment in an MSN program by educational institution (3 out of 3 responded): 100% (n=3) at Purdue University Northwest.

When asked why they were not enrolled in a BSN program, fourteen (14) graduates responded. Of the responding students, 36% (n=5) cite too many family responsibilities; 29% (n=4) were not motivated to continue their education, 21% (n=3) not required by their employer, and 14% (n=2) cannot afford school right now. Some of the respondents comments:

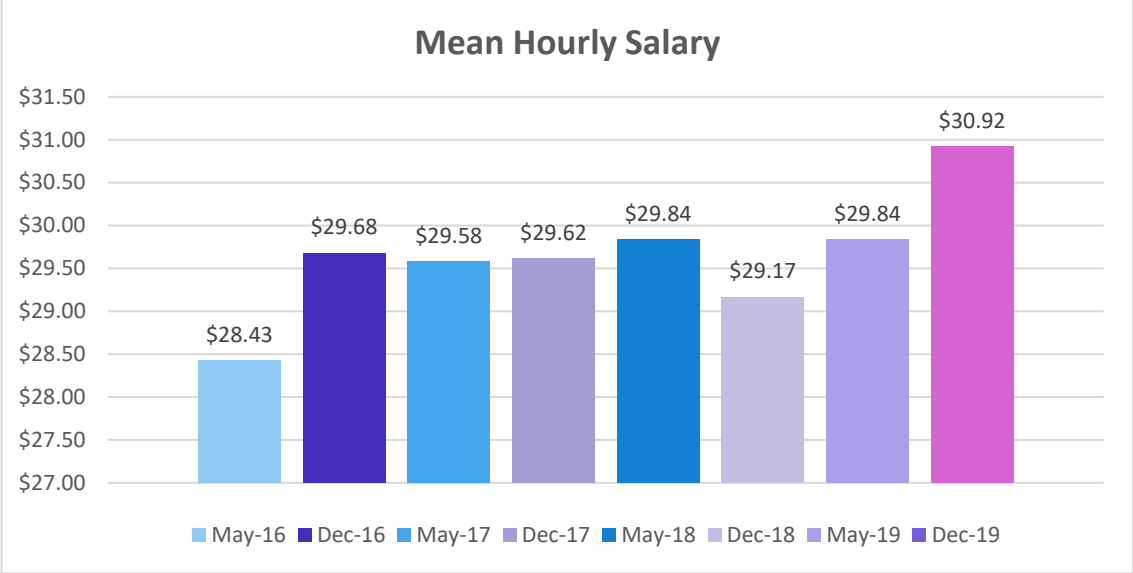
- *Still feel burned out from previous degree, work, family life etc. And of course Covid...*
- *Waiting to get settled in and to get my money together*
- *With the younger kids not in school, and libraries not open, studying would be difficult*
- *I wanted to provide myself with time to enjoy hobbies I have missed and evaluate what college I want to pursue*
- *Currently waiting on acceptance into an RN\_BSN program*
- *Still trying to adjust to working as an RN, recent switch to working overnights, and overwhelmed with Covid-19*
- *Not required at the moment planning to enroll in BSN within next year or two*
- *Currently taking pre requisite for BSN*

**Historical Data Trends:**

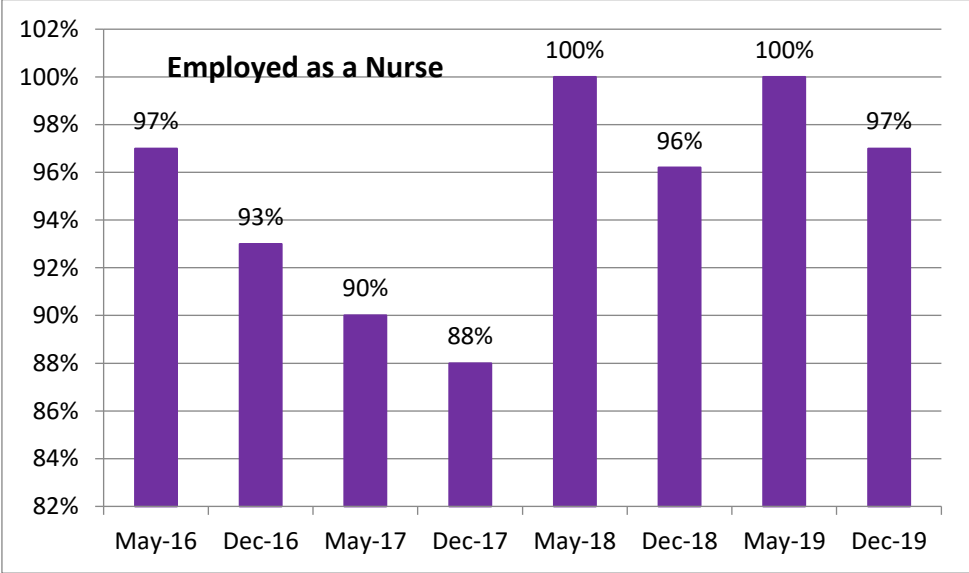


**Hourly salary:** (35 out of 36 responded) before deductions (does not include overtime). Range of responses: \$25.50 to \$49.01 per hour, with an average of \$30.92 per hour.

**Historical Data Trends:**

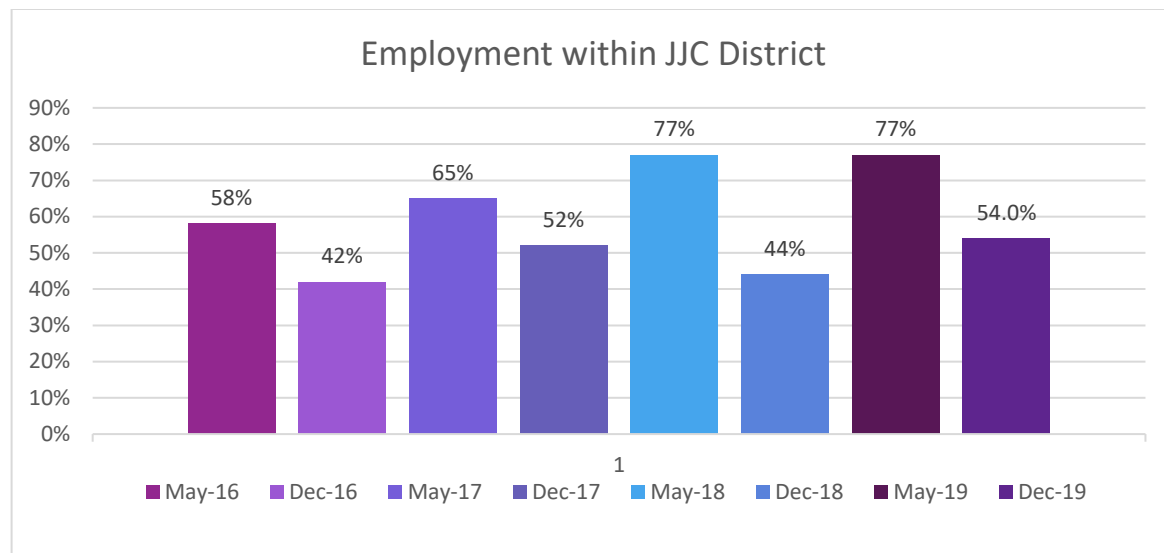


**Employment status** (36 out of 36 responded): 97% (n=35) of the graduates were employed as a nurse. 3% (n=1) is unemployed.

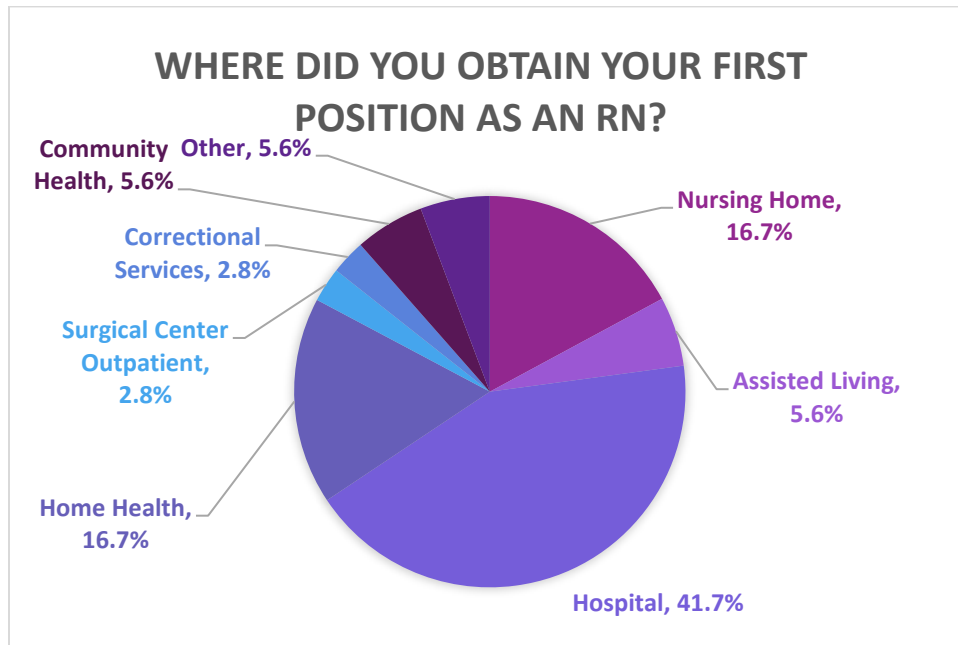


**JJC Community (35 out of 36) responded:** Employment within the JJC community district is 54% (n=19) and 46% (n=16) outside the JJC community district. Previously, we asked the graduates if they worked in or out of district. Since the in-district numbers were decreasing, the nursing faculty decided to just ask what city they are employed in. The faculty felt that some students may not be fully aware of how large the JJC district really is, thus they may had thought that they worked out of district if they did not work in the immediate Joliet area.

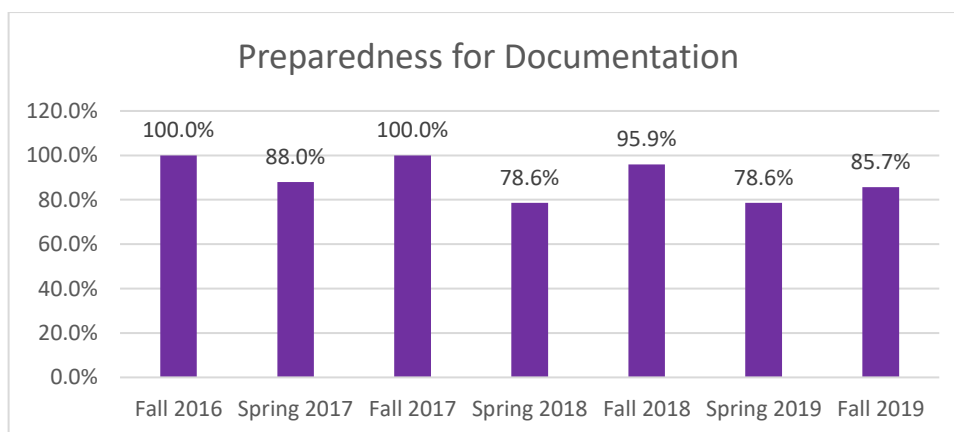
**Historical Data Trends:**



**First position as a nurse: (35 out of 36 ) responded:** 41.7% (n=15) obtained their first RN job in the hospital, 16.7% (n=6) in an extended care facility/nursing home, 16.7% (n=6) in home health, 5.6% (n=2) in assisted living, 5.6% (n=2) in community health, 2.8% (n=1) in Hospice/palliative care, 2.8% (n=1) in correctional services, 2.8% (n=1) in surgical center-outpatient, and 2.8% (n=1) in other which they cited as mental health.



**How well prepared were you in your job as a registered nurse related to documentation?** (35 out of 36 responded). The nursing faculty identified in past graduate surveys that documentation consistently scored at or below our expected level of achievement (ELA) of 80%. The nursing program does provide practice documentation in each semester, but the faculty were not sure why the students rated this area as “somewhat unprepared” or “very unprepared”. Thus, the faculty decided to ask a specific question about documentation and provide a commentary section to find out more specific needs/concerns in order to make changes in the program regarding documentation.



As this graph demonstrates, we did reach our expected level of achievement ( $\geq$  to 80%). Nearly 86% responded positively to documentation preparedness. 48.6% (n=17) of respondents indicated they were very prepared and 37.19% (n=13) felt somewhat prepared, but 14.3% (n=5) felt somewhat

unprepared to document in their job as a registered nurse. Comments given to us by respondents to indicated their choice of level of preparedness included:

- *Charting is amazingly different from what we were taught in school, and it feels like we were not even remotely taught how to properly chart.*
- *We didn't do a lot of it and get feedback from it. More examples would have been nice for situations with what to document regarding abusive or dementia pt statements. Do's and Don't for court, should that ever be the case.*
- *Every documentation is different for different units. Mine specifically is Special Care Nursery and with it being a specialty there is more than have to document and learn that I did not in school.*
- *I feel the bulk of documentation was in 150 and think that we need to get as much documentation in the other semesters as well.*
- *I feel that you can never be overly prepared until you actually get into the field and are the nurse.*
- *We do not write any notes out-would have liked more experience with the legal requirements for restraints, how to give blood, and care of a post surgical patient.*
- *Different types of documentation than what was taught in school.*
- *Nursing school is completely different than actually being a nurse. We were very limited in clinical as to what we can do and how we should do it. Working in a hospital, everything that we did "by the book" was completely thrown out the door when I took my position at my job.*
- *I was nervous to document, I feel that all the time my teachers had us documtn was truly helpful in preparing me.*
- *The documentation is so extensive, writing nursing notes was helpful in preparing me.*
- *I feel like it definitely needs to be covered more throughout the program. During my time in the program, I felt like we did not cover documentation as in depth as we needed to. It is one of the things that has taken methe most time to get used to in my new nursing career.*
- *Although we are taught how to document properly, I continue to work on my confidence with the way I chart and document. I will sometimes feel like I am adding too much into my documentation or that I am not charting enough. I do feel well prepared in a sense of knowledge but still worry about being implicated in court at some point so I continuously worry about things in that regard.*
- *We did not so any electronic documentation practice at JJC.*



- *Each facility has their own way of charting that can not be taught. JJC taught us as best as they could prepare us.*
- *I feel like I did not get a lot of experience in documentation.*

Update: The nursing faculty has agreed to implement an EHR program through one of the textbook publishers with whom JJC works. There was a selection process that took place and the faculty decided on DocuCare. All new students were required to purchase this program starting in Fall 2019. The graduates of the Spring 2021 semester will be the first set of students to have the EHR documentation tool implemented into the program.

**How well prepared were you in your job as a registered nurse related to the following?** Graduates (35 out of 36) ( 1 skipped this question) responded: Expected level of achievement (ELA) is 80% for each line item for responses “Very Prepared & Somewhat Prepared”. We reached our ELA for each line item.

	Very Prepared	Somewhat Prepared	Somewhat Unprepared	Very Unprepared	Rating of Very Prepared & Somewhat Prepared
Nursing Skills (catheterization, IV, IM, suctioning, etc.)	15	17	2	1	91.4%
Utilization of the nursing process	22	12	1	0	97.2%
Delegation skills	23	9	2	1	91.4%
Patient/family physical assessment skills	26	9	0	0	100%
Patient/family psychosocial assessment skills	26	8	1	0	97.2%
Nursing care prioritization	20	7	1	0	96.4%
Cultural competence	28	7	0	0	100%

Using evidenced based practice in patient care	25	9	1	0	97.1%
Critical thinking skills	25	8	2	0	94.3%
Nursing care prioritization	29	6	0	0	100%
Patient communication skills	29	6	0	0	100%
Legal/ethical issues	19	13	2	0	91.4%
Clinical decision making skills	23	11	1	0	97.1%
Patient/family teaching skills	24	10	1	0	97.1%
Collaboration with other healthcare members	24	9	1	1	94.3%
Medication knowledge/skills	22	11	1	1	94.3%
Patient safety issues	27	8	0	0	100%

**Comments from graduates on preparedness:**

- *The field is undeniably different than schooling to such an extensive degree that even clinical time did not prepare me for what i needed to know coming into the field*
- *What to do with complicated, unwilling pts. Lack of opportunity during clinicals.*
- *I work as a pediatric home health nurse. Certain skills are performed differently on children than adults such as suctioning. Would have been nice to have an opportunity to have a clinical experience for this.*
- *In regards to nursing skills, it was very limited what we were able to do and how many times we had a chance to do them. Yes we had access to skills labs but ut's very different than*

*actually doing it in a patient. In school I NEVER inserted a foley. Only in lab, I was extremely nervous when I first did it in a patient but luckily I have wonderful coworkers who helped. In regards to medication knowledge, JJC pharmacology course was completely useless.*

- *Our 150 pharmacology course was about to be overhauled and it needed to be. So much of what we were leaving (online no less) did not “stick” because we had not gone through the disease process that the medications were addressing. It wasn’t until later semesters that the medications really began to take hold in our memories and it was because the medications were being studied with most systems simultaneously. The 159 Pharmacology instructors seemed so far removed from where are base level of knowledge was, I don’t think they understood that many things were just being memorized for the exam and very little took hold in long term memory. I hope this course has been revised for future students and perhaps even done in later semesters. Thankfully, the first year as a nurse you have lots of practice with assessments and medication!*
- *Lack of Experience Performing Nursing Skills With Patients, Lack of Experiencing Managing the Care of Multiple Patients, Overall lack of patient care experience.*
- *Although we were able to practice our skills in the sim lab, it’s not as real as practicing on live patients. Although I know we do not always have those opportunities in clinical.*
- *Some lack of opportunities to actually practice specific skills at Clinicals, learning hands on more so while on the job.*

### Historical Data Trends:

	May 2016	Dec 2016	May 2017	Dec 2017	May 2018	Dec 2018	May 2019	Dec 2019
Nursing Skills (catheterization, IV, IM, Suctioning, etc)	100%	93%	90%	100%	96.4%	87.5%	96.4%	91.4%
Utilization of the nursing process	100%	100%	97%	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	97.2%
Delegation skills	94%	96%	90%	100%	96.4%	95.8%	96.4%	91.4%
Patient/family physical assessment skills	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Patient/family psychosocial assessment skills	97%	96%	97%	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	97.2%
Patient/family spiritual assessment skills	100%	89%	94%	100%	96.4%	90.8%	96.4%	96.4%
Nursing care prioritization	100%	96%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cultural competence	100%	96%	94%	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	97.1%
Using evidenced based practice in patient care	97%	96%	94%	100%	96.4%	92.2%	96.4%	94.3%
Critical thinking skills	97%	96%	90%	100%	96.4%	90.8%	96.4%	100%
Patient communication skills	100%	100%	*N/A	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	100%
Legal/ethical issues	97%	93%	*N/A	100%	100%	87.5%	100%	91.4%
Clinical decision making skills	97%	100%	*N/A	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	97.1%
Patient/family teaching skills	100%	93%	*N/A	100%	96.4%	90.8%	96.4%	97.1%
Collaboration with other healthcare members	97%	86%	*N/A	100%	96.4%	90.8%	96.4%	94.3%
Medication knowledge/skills	97%	93%	*N/A	100%	96.4%	95.8%	96.4%	94.3%
Patient safety issues	100%	100%	*N/A	100%	100%	95.8%	100%	100%

**\*NOTE:** In the May 2017 graduate survey, the final 7 categories were inadvertently omitted in the survey data collection (as indicated by N/A). This was rectified for the Fall 2017 graduate survey report.

**Comments made by graduates of ideas/suggestions not addressed in the survey are noted below (8/36 responses)**

- *Please stop making the final so incredibly difficult for the final semester students, at that point it's just completely unfounded and honestly rude. We worked hard for 4-6 semesters, and to fail at that final moment is disheartening, even if you pass the semester. It does not have to be easy, but at least not nearly impossible to pass. It does not properly gauge our ability as nurses if that high of a percentage fails.*
- *Mock codes would be fun. Break the situation down.*
- *I think JJC has an excellent program and I am proud that I chose JJC. I felt like I was prepared as I could be. Most of your experience as a nurse will definitely be on the job.*
- *Teachers at JJC played favorites which I thought was completely unacceptable and they were flat out obvious about it. Our clinical locations were very strict on what we could and couldn't do (especially silver cross with their restrictions on almost everything) and it was a shame because it affected me going into the profession. One thing JJC needs to work on is the pharmacology course.*
- *I think JJC Nursing Program has prepared me very well overall. The two recommendations I have to improve the program is to have an ongoing Pharm course throughout all 4 semesters. When I took Pharm, it was in the first semester when we couldn't really relate it to any disease process yet. It was very difficult to have that be the one Pharm course. My other recommendation would be to touch a lot more on documentation. Different forms, different styles, what hospitals are using now, maybe how to fill out some commonly used forms.*
- *In working with and speaking with other new RN graduates from area schools, it is painfully clear that our clinical experiences feel short. In 150, our professor would not allow us to use lifts or move patients and we spent most of our time looking for things to keep busy. It was a wasted opportunity and we missed out on what should have been a great introduction to the field of nursing. We were all willing to get our hands dirty so to speak but she said to us multiple times "you are working under my license" which translates into us standing around not able to do anything. We were discouraged to hear about other clinical groups at other locations having a different experience altogether. This left us feeling unprepared for the*

*following semester. Professors in subsequent semesters were autopsies by how little we knew or had experienced. Thankfully, as I said before they all worked very hard to catch us up.,*

- *Overall, I felt extremely confident leaving JJC as a new grad. There will always be areas when I can continue to improve and learn but entering the field as a new grad from this program personally helped me feel so prepared. This program was tough but all played a vital role in helping me get to where I am now.*