Registered Nurse

Graduate Survey

Department of Nursing Education

Joliet Junior College

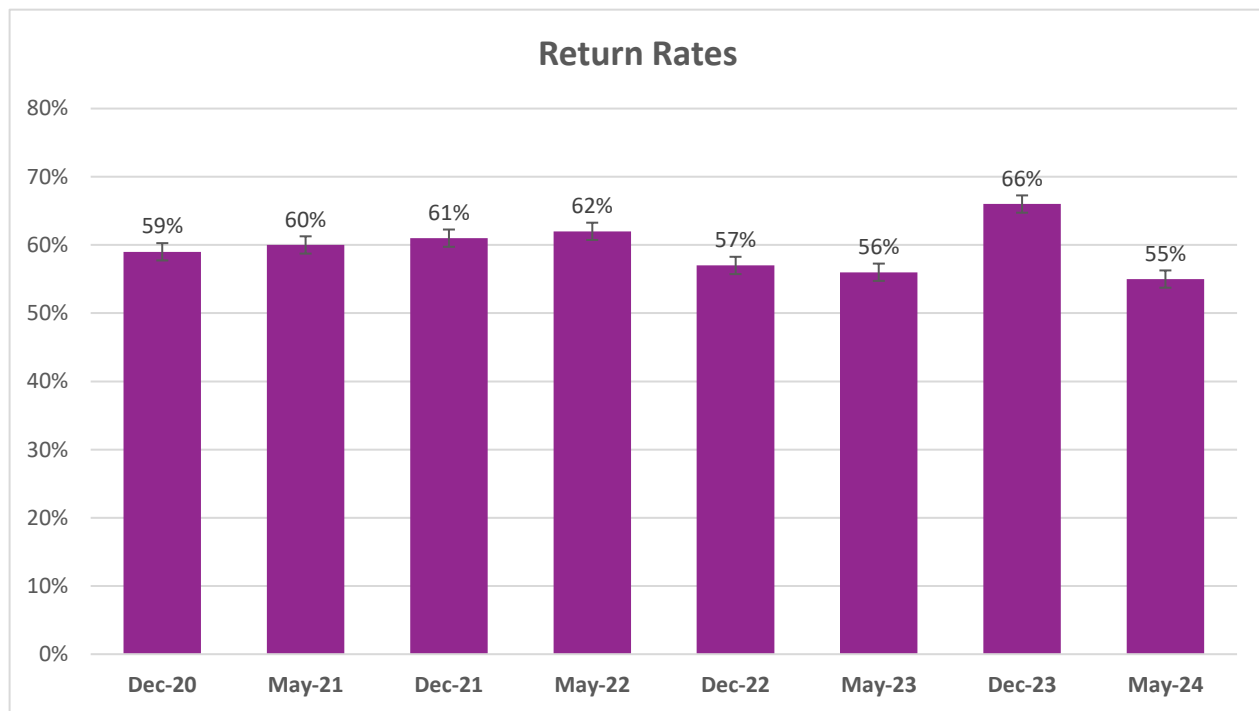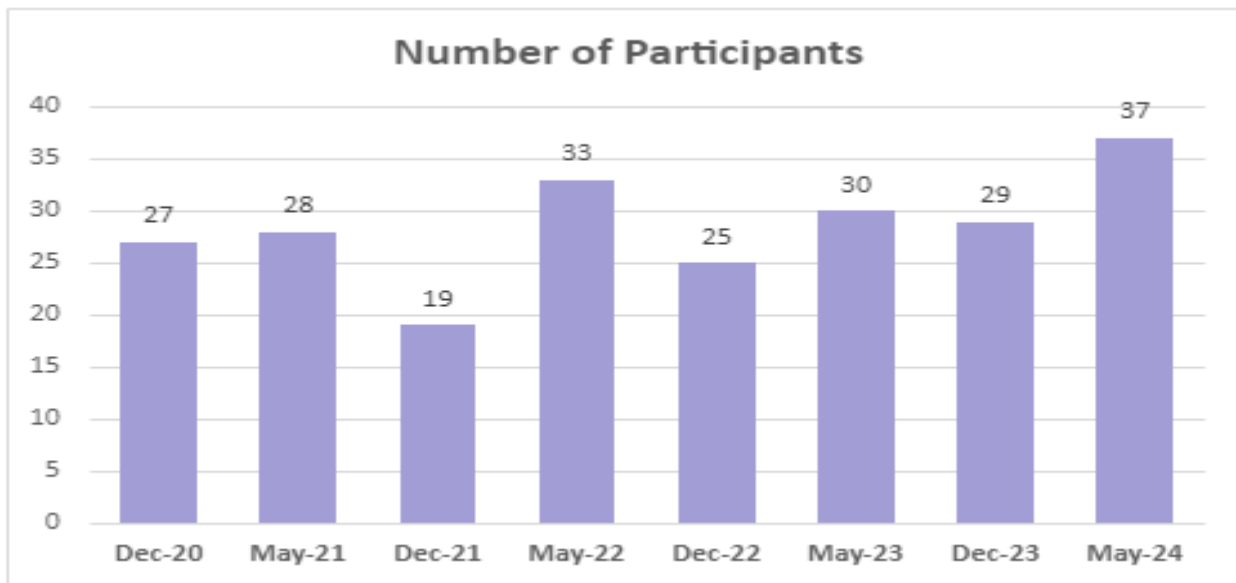## Nursing Graduates of Spring 2024 (6 - 9 month follow-up)

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 Mid to Late November 2024 for the graduating class of Spring 2024. The survey was sent out to sixty seven (67) students . Of those 67 students, thirty seven (37) responded. After the first email, twenty seven (27) graduates replied. A reminder was sent on December 2, 2024. The survey was closed December 31, 2024 resulting in a total respons rate of 55% (37/67)

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

Historical Data Trends:

Return Rates

Date	Rate
Dec-20	59%
May-21	60%
Dec-21	61%
May-22	62%
Dec-22	57%
May-23	56%
Dec-23	66%
May-24	55%

Number of Participants

Education Status:

Results The questions related to education status for the Spring 2024 survey was changed from are you enrolled in a RN-BSN program or high education program to are you enrolled or considering future enrollment in an RN-BSN program or higher education program. In previous surveys, students had shared that they felt it was too soon after graduation to start a BSN program due to new job roles. Students also shared that many empoloyers begin paying for BSN education after the first year of employment.

Of those completing the survey, 100% of students graduate responded (37 out of 37). 29.7% (n=11) indicated that they are enrolled in a BSN program, 27% (n=10) are not enrolled in a BSN program and 43.2% (n=16) plan to enroll in a higher level educaton program or higher in the future. None of responding graduates are currently enrolled in a RN-MSN program.

Historical Data Trends:
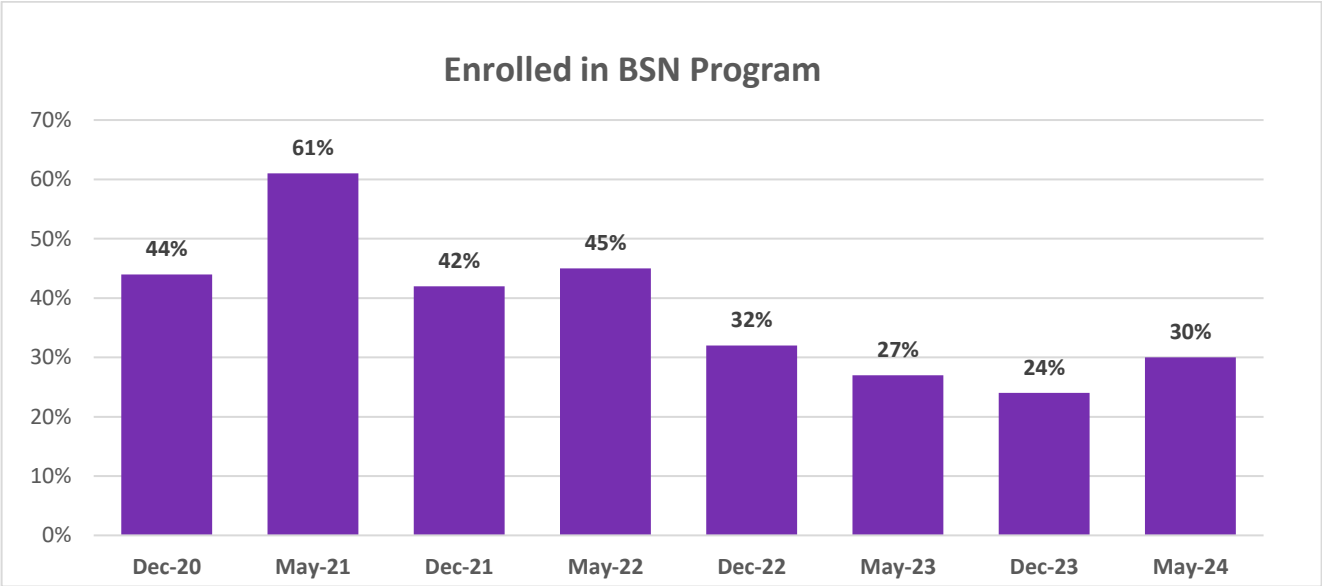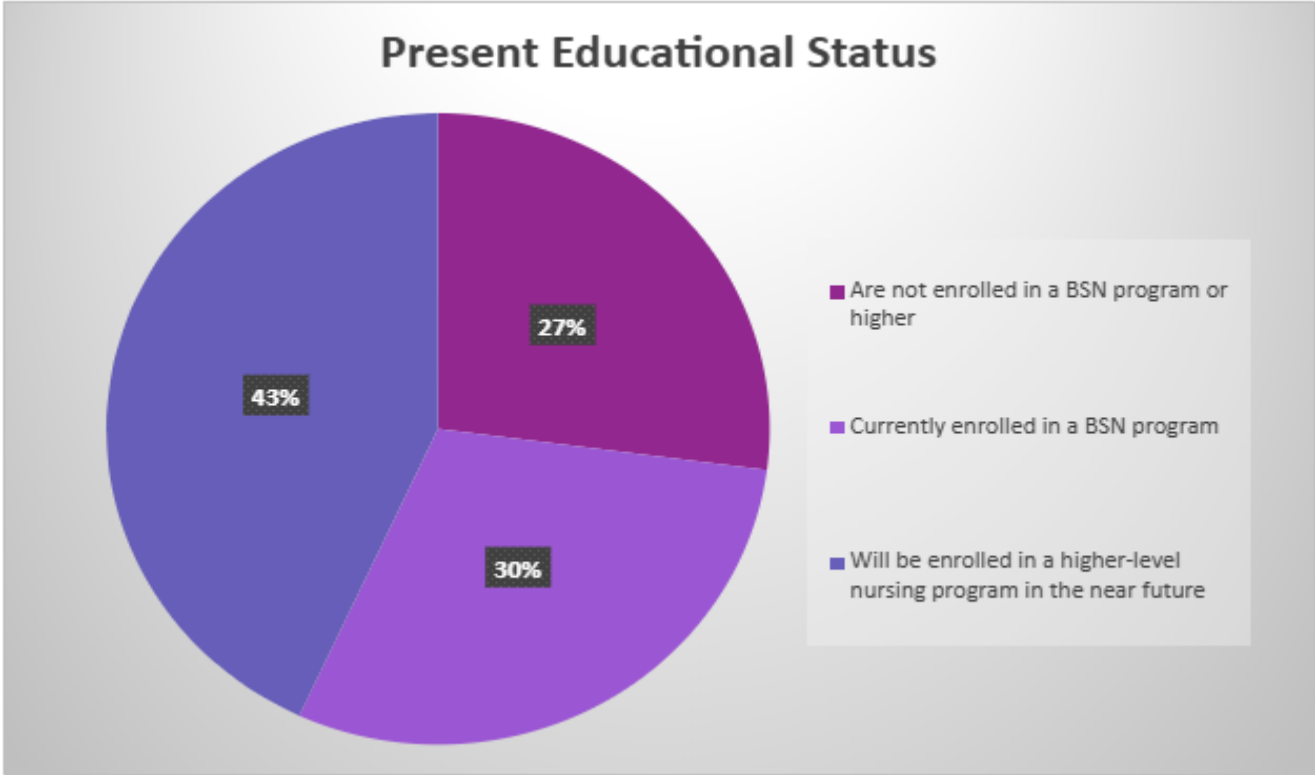
Enrollment in a BSN program or intention to enroll in a BSN program Twenty seven (27) students responded with their current enrollment or planned enrollment. The students identified they are

enrolled or plan to enroll in the following universities: 14.8% (n=4) Purdue University-Northwest; 11.1% (n=3) Govener's State; 7.4% (n=2) Capella University, 3.7% (n=1) Grand Canyon University; 3.7% (n=1) Chamberlain; 11.1% (n=3) Illinois State University; 3.7% (n=1) Benedictine University; 11.1% (n=3) Western Governer's University; 7.4% (n=2) University of St. Francis, Joliet; 22.2% (n=6) University of Illinois, Chicago and 3.7% (1) was undecided. None of the students were enrolled in a MSN program which has been the trend over the last four semesters.

When asked why they were not enrolled or considering enrollment in a BSN program nine (9) graduates responded. Approximately 44.4% (n=4) stated they cannot afford school right now, 33.3% (n=3) said too many family responsibilities; 22.2% (n=2) indicated that it is not required by their employer.

Other comments/reasons for not continuing their education are included below:

➤ need 6 months at my current job to start getting tuition reimbursement.
➤ trying to get more experience and save money before going back to school.
➤ I do plan but I am in the middle of moving and will have to push off my BSN until next year.

Employment status: Response rate was 97.3% (36 out of 37 students responded): 94.4% (n=34) of the graduates were employed as a nurse, 5.6% (n=2) of the graduates were employed in a non-nursing area.
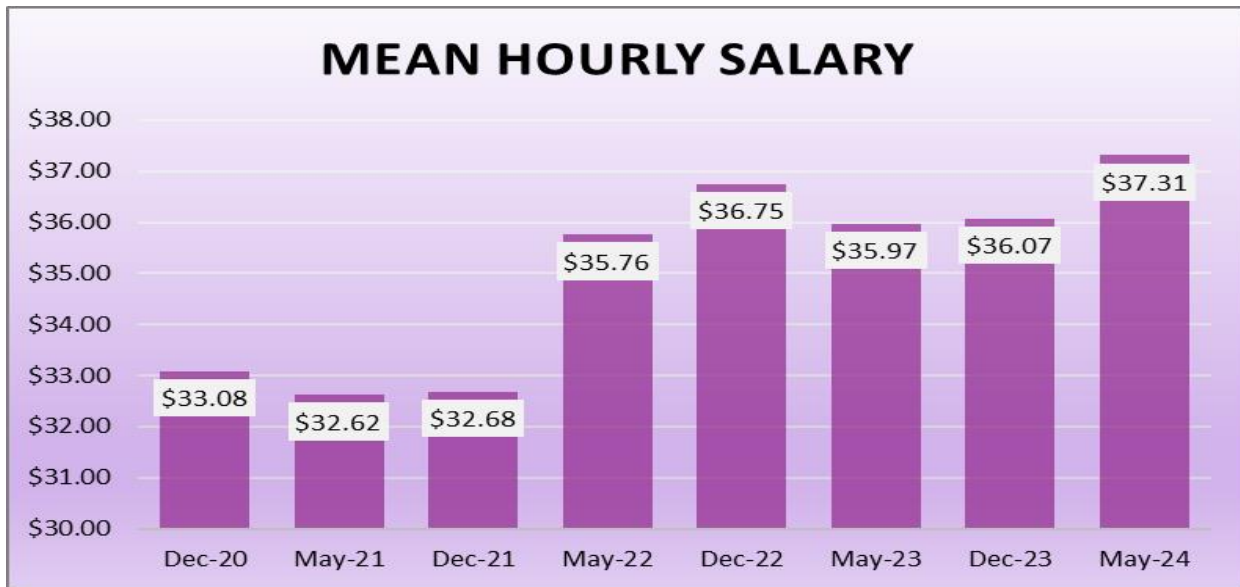
Historical Data Trends:
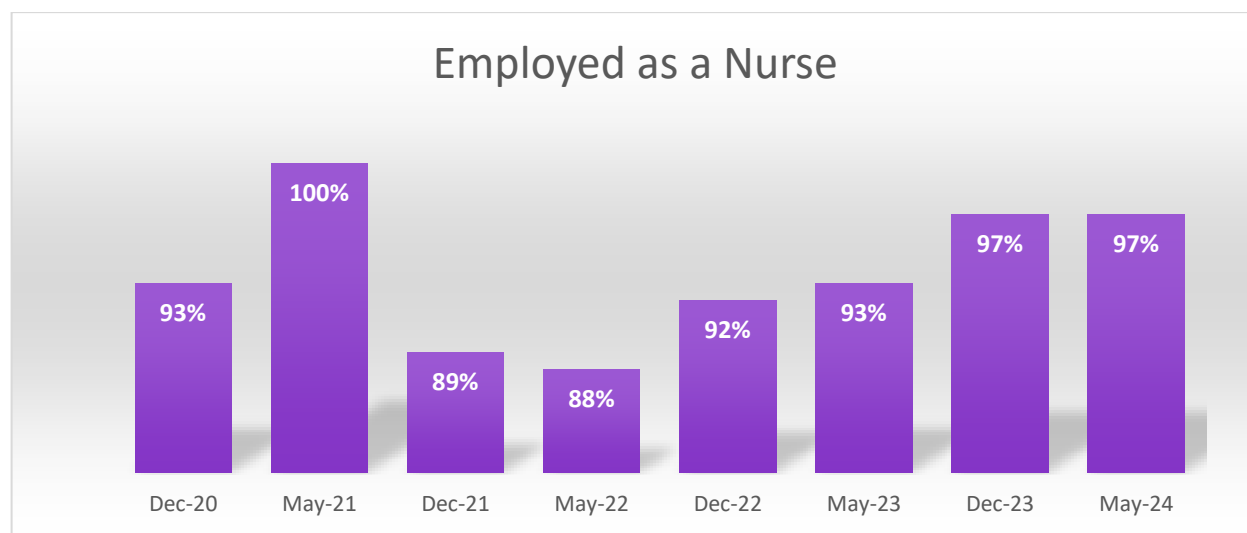
First position as a nurse: Of the thirty six responding to this questions, thirty four (34) graduates are working as a nurse and two (2) students are working in a nonnursing area. Of those who were working

approximately 62% obtained their first RN job in the hospital, 2.9% in a midwifery birthing center, 11% in hospice, 5.7% in a school district, 5.7% in a doctor's office, 2.9% in a correctional facility, 2.9% in home health, 5.7% in a extended care facility, 2.9% in behavioral health, 2.9% in home health.

Employed As Nurse

- Midwifery Birth Ctn, 2.9%
- Hospice, 11.0%
- School District, 5.7%
- Dr. Office, 5.7%
- Correctional Facility, 2.9%
- Extended Care, 5.7%
- Behavioral Health, 2.9%
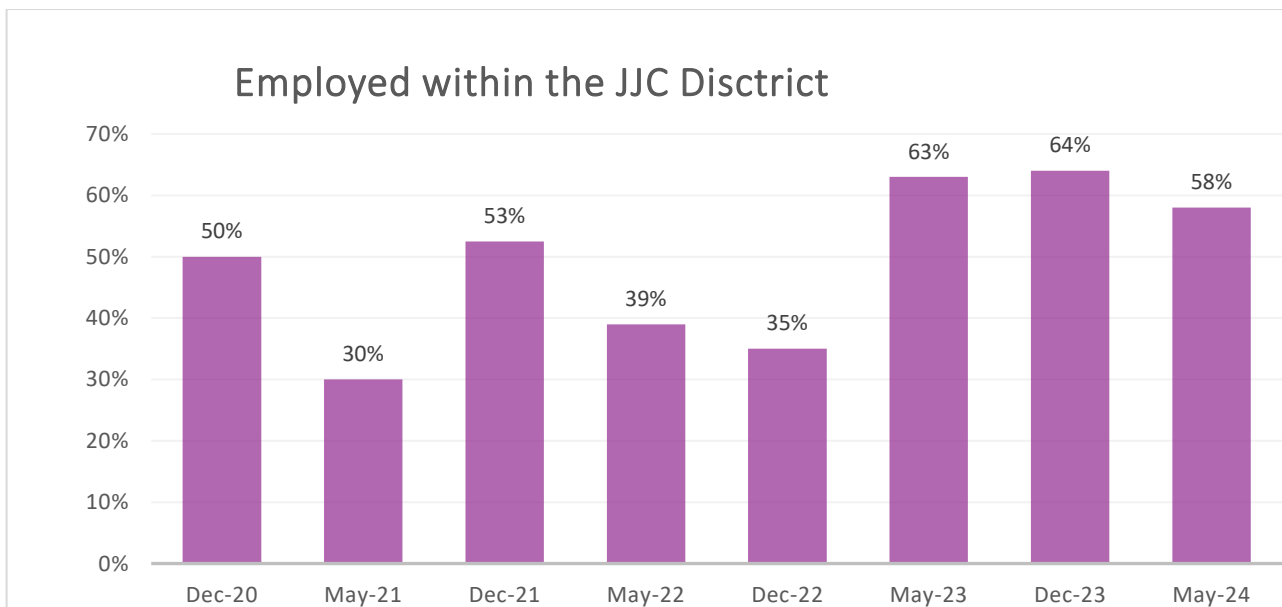- Home Health, 2.9%
- Hospital, 62.0%
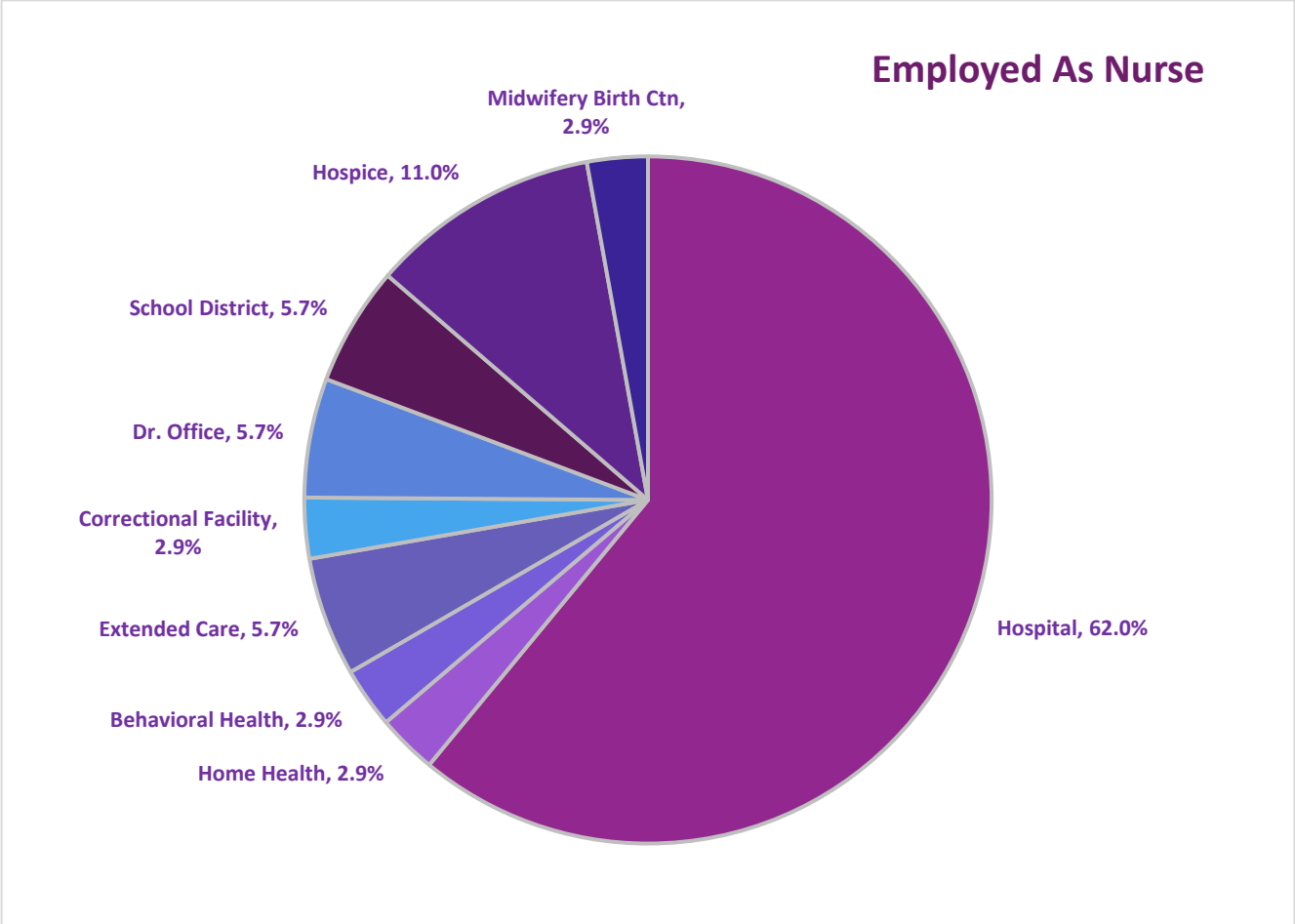
Hourly salary Of those working as a nurse 32 of 34 responded. Before deductions (does not include overtime) their salary ranged from: $15.00 to $60.00 per hour, with an average of $37.31per hour.

MEAN HOURLY SALARY

Dec-20	May-21	Dec-21	May-22	Dec-22	May-23	Dec-23	May-24
$33.08	$32.62	$32.68	$35.76	$36.75	$35.97	$36.07	$37.31

JJC Community: Of those working, **(36 of 37)** responded: employment within the JJC community district is 58% (n=21) and 42% (n=15) 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. This began in May 2016, which has demonstrated a larger percentage of our students are working in district.

Historical Data Trends:

Employed within the JJC Disctrict

Dec-20	May-21	Dec-21	May-22	Dec-22	May-23	Dec-23	May-24
50%	30%	53%	39%	35%	63%	64%	58%

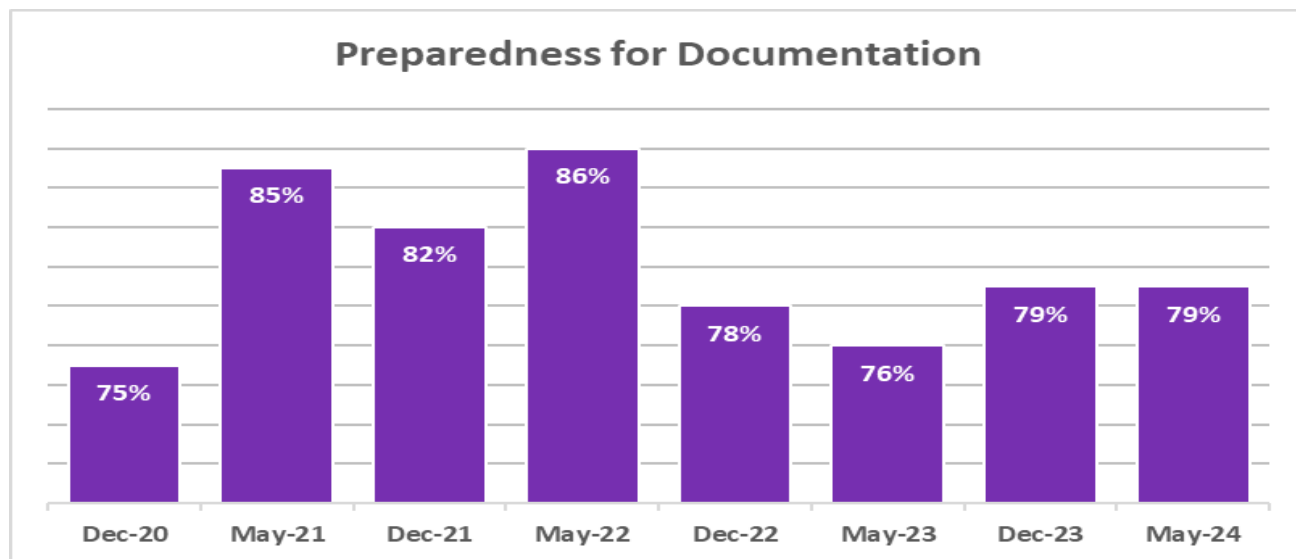**How well prepared were you in your job as a registered nurse related to documentation?** (36 out of 37 students responded). The nursing faculty identified in recent graduate surveys that

documentation consistently scored at or below our expected level of achievent (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 beginning with the Dec 2015 graduates in order to make changes in the program regarding documentation.

Preparedness for Documentation

Dec-20	May-21	Dec-21	May-22	Dec-22	May-23	Dec-23	May-24
75%	85%	82%	86%	78%	76%	79%	79%

As this graph demonstrates, we have are just below our expected level of achievement (>/= to 80%) a few times.

How well prepared were you in your job as a registered nurse related to the following? 97% (33 out of 34) working graduates 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)	17	11	5	0	85%
Utilization of the nursing process	21	11	1	0	97%
Delegation skills	20	11	2	0	94%
Patient/family physical assessment skills	21	10	2	0	94%
Patient/family psychosocial assessment skills	17	14	2	0	94%
Nursing care prioritization	21	12	0	0	100%
Cultural competence	18	11	4	1	88%
Using evidenced based practice in patient care	18	14	1	0	97%
Critical thinking skills	22	10	1	0	97%
Patient communication skills	21	11	1	0	97%
Legal/ethical issues	18	12	2	1	91%
Clinical decision making skills	19	12	2	0	94%
Patient/family teaching skills	20	11	2	0	94%
Collaboration with other healthcare members	19	11	3	0	91%
Medication knowledge/skills	22	9	2	0	94%
Patient safety issues	23	10	0	0	100%

Comments from graduates on preparedness (including spelling errors):

➢ Some skills I didn't encounter too often until I have to do it myself.
➢ We didn't really touch basis on real life nursing. Documentation is big and I feel like I'm struggling extra with that as a nurse. I felt very unprepared.
➢ More hands-on skills**.**

The following comments made by graduates are a summary of the responses. Any personal comments referring to faculty or staff have been redacted.

➢ Preceptorship and clinical rotations should be longer. They were more beneficial than writing assignments and projects.

➢ Overall JJC program is a 9/10. I am as well prepared, if not better than BSN New graduates. JJCs pragmatic focus ensured I was prepared to enter the workforce fresh out of school, already prepared to critically think and anticipate solutions to problems. I would have liked to do a little more charting practice. Many instructors were exceptionally helpful.

➢ JJC puts emphasis on certain subjects a little too much. Please consider a passing rate of 78% instead of 80%. NCLEX pass rate is much lower than the required JJC exam pass rates. JJC may consider that students may be proficient in clinical but may have difficulty with test taking.

➢ Overall, the program is great, but they seem to go overboard in a lot of areas which can be spread out over every other area for a more balanced experience

➢ I just wanted to say that I truly am grateful that I went to JJC for nursing school. I feel like it gave me the strong base that I needed to work in the hospital setting. I'm not as intimidated about coming into work and caring for my team of patients. Now I'm onwards to my BSN!

➢ I'm very satisfied with the LPN to RN bridge program although it was very hard. I learned what I needed to figure out the NCLEX.

➢ Assessment finding basics like staging pressure injuries, and assessment vocab were repeated every Semester like the math was. Overall, I'm very grateful for JJC and felt very prepared.

➢ I truly loved the Joliet Junior College program. It was challenging and really rewarding. It built on my strong foundation in healthcare, and it only made me a better nurse!

➢ Enforce a skills day with skills lab hours by the end of the semester for each semester. I really wish that was done when I was in nursing school.

➢ More documentation classes throughout the program is needed. Students need to know what to document, what not to say in documentation.

➢ Love JJC

➢ I think the program is great, and I felt that my instructors did their best to prepare us for real world nursing. I do wish that we would have had more opportunities for skill building on real patients vs in the skills lab, but I understand that is not something JJC necessarily has control of. Overall, I was very satisfied with the JJC nursing program and would recommend it to others.