The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the overall employment of nurses in the United States will grow by about 15% by 2026, increasing the demand for nurses by nearly 600,000 positions. But, organizations like the American Association of Colleges of Nursing warn that there aren’t enough graduates to meet demand. Using data to improve nursing education programs that recruit and prepare high-quality nursing students for the workforce is vital for the field. What practical insights exist in national benchmarking data about the experiences of nursing graduates?

**TAKING THE NURSING INDUSTRY PULSE**

**KEY INSIGHTS FROM GRADUATING SENIORS AND ALUMNI**


**NURSING GRADUATES**

A DIVERSE POPULATION

Data from the 2017-2018 AACN/Benchworks Undergraduate Nursing Exit Assessment highlights the diversity of graduating nursing students:

- Over the age of 25
- First-generation students
- Planned to seek additional education in the future
- Female

**NURSING PROGRAM EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTE TO CAREER SUCCESS**

- Quality Faculty
  - 70% of nursing program alumni would highly recommend their nursing school
  - 95% of nursing program alumni report having high quality faculty

- Out-of-Classroom Experiences
  - 62% of nursing program alumni report feeling prepared to start their career
  - 88% of nursing program alumni feel they received a good value

**OVERALL PERCEPTIONS OF NURSING GRADUATES**

- 70% of nursing program alumni report feeling prepared for their career
- 95% of nursing program alumni report having high quality faculty
- 62% of nursing program alumni report feeling prepared to start their career
- 88% of nursing program alumni feel they received a good value