



## Trends in Nursing Education in Germany

### 1. Brief Overview of Nursing Education and Training Pathways

- In Germany, there are two main categories of nurses, first level and second level. A majority of first level nurses are trained through a 3-year vocational training programme involving hospital-based training, and these nurses can go on to pursue further education and training to specialise within the hospital setting. Second level nurses go through a shorter 1-year vocational training programme.

**Table 1. Education level of different categories of nurses in Germany**

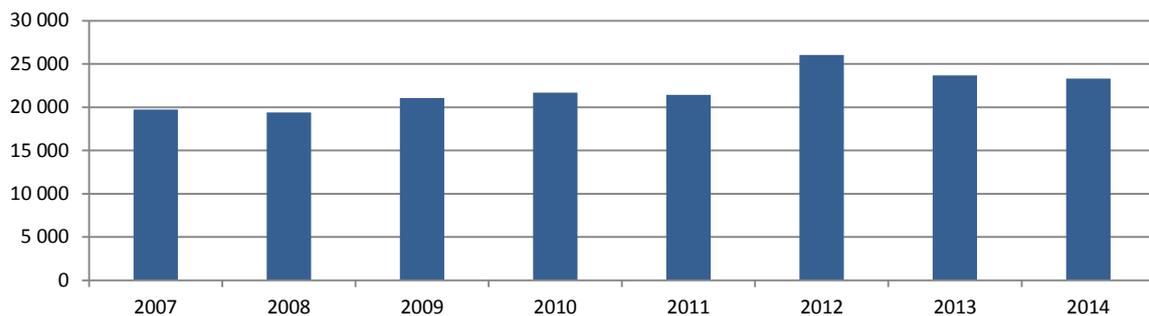
Education Level	Nursing Title	Education Requirement
Initial Nursing Education	Second level Nurse	1-year vocational training programme.
	First level Nurse <i>Gesundheit- und Krankenpflegerin</i>	<p>3-year vocational training programme at a state recognised school, affiliated to a hospital (education of this type can be accessed after completion of year 10 in high school).</p> <p>General or Specialist education is available including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General</li> <li>• Geriatric</li> <li>• Paediatric</li> </ul> <p>After initial education, 2-year hospital-based programmes are available to enable nurses to specialise in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive care</li> <li>• Psychiatric care</li> <li>• Theatre Nursing</li> <li>• Cancer Care</li> <li>• Community nursing</li> <li>• Infection control</li> </ul> <p>After completion of the training, there is a State examination (oral, written and practical exam).</p> <p>A 3-year university-based Bachelor degree in Nursing was introduced in 2004. Nurses who obtain such a Bachelor degree can pursue further studies and/or research.</p>
Advanced Nursing Education		Master and PhD education is available for Nurses with a Bachelor degree who wish to pursue an academic career and/or research.

Source: [http://www.dbfk.de/media/docs/download/Allgemein/Pflegebildung\\_verstehen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.dbfk.de/media/docs/download/Allgemein/Pflegebildung_verstehen_2012.pdf).

## 2. Trends in Admissions to Nursing Schools

- Admissions in nursing programmes are determined by each Bundesländer (Federal state) and nursing school or university. Overall, the number of students admitted in first level nursing programmes increased from 19,720 in 2007 to 21,412 in 2011, a rise of 9% over that period. In 2012, a new classification of occupation (KldB-2010) was introduced, which increased the number of categories of nurses considered to be first level nurses, explaining at least partly the steep increase. In 2013 and 2014, the number of students admitted in first level nursing programmes remained relatively stable, with more than 23,000 students admitted each year.

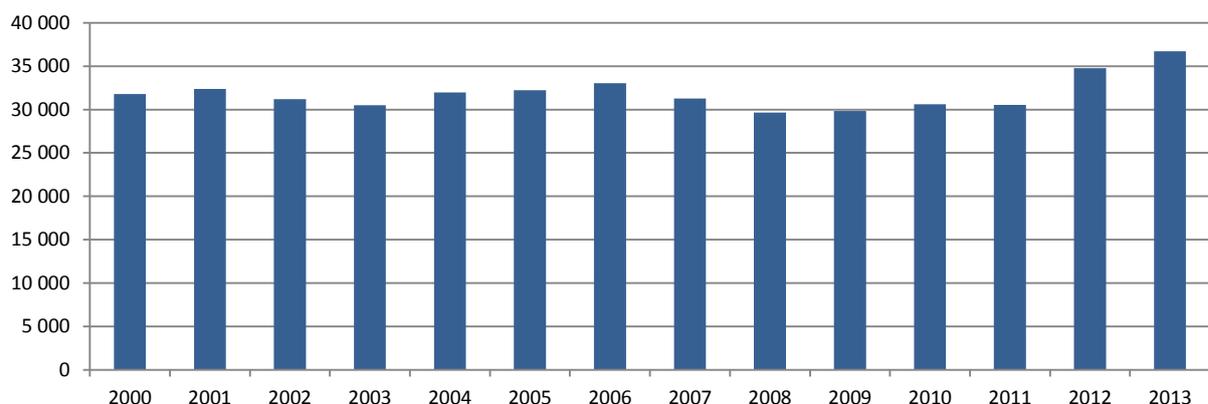
**Figure 1. Admissions to Nursing Education, first level programmes, Germany, 2007-2014**



Note: A new classification of occupation was introduced in 2012, including more categories of nurses, explaining the big rise. Source: Federal Statistical Office (2015), [https://www2.bibb.de/tools/fodb/pdf/eb\\_41302.pdf](https://www2.bibb.de/tools/fodb/pdf/eb_41302.pdf).

- The number of graduates from first level nursing education programmes generally reflects decisions about admission rates three years earlier. Between 2000 and 2013, the number of students graduating from first level nursing programmes increased by 15%, going up from about 32,000 in 2000 to more than 36,000 in 2013. But all of this growth occurred in 2012 and 2013. These graduate numbers include not only general nurses, but also graduates from paediatric and geriatric nursing programmes.

**Figure 2. Graduates from Nursing Education, first level programmes (including also paediatric and geriatric nurses), Germany, 2000-2013**



Source: Federal Statistical Office, Statistics on Health schools, Statistics on vocational training; Statistisches Bundesamt, Fachserie 11, Reihe 2, table 4.3-BFS ausserhalb & 4.3-SdG; <http://www.destatis.de>.

Read the report online:

<http://www.oecd.org/health/health-workforce-policies-in-oecd-countries-9789264239517-en.htm>

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