NCLEX®
The Pathway to Practice

Quarterly Examination Statistics
Volume, Pass Rates & First-time Internationally Educated Candidates' Countries

Multiple steps must be completed before a nurse can safely enter the profession. These steps typically include:

- Graduating from a recognized nursing program,
- Meeting the specific requirements of the state board of nursing, and
- Passing the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) NCLEX® examination for registered nurses (RNs) or licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/VNs).

Because passing the NCLEX is usually the final step in the nurse licensure process, the number of people passing the NCLEX ("pass rate") is a good indicator of how many new nurses are entering the profession in the U.S.

These tables provide the most recent data on the NCLEX testing volume and the associated pass rates. In addition, NCSBN has listed the top five countries where nurses were educated outside the U.S. and who are taking the NCLEX examination in hopes of obtaining nursing employment in the U.S.

2024 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
RN					
Total	81,824 (79.08%)				81,824 (79.08%)
First-time	65,952 (86.63%)				65,952 (86.63%)
Repeat	15,872 (47.68%)				15,872 (47.68%)
U.S.-educated	58,555 (89.48%)				58,555 (89.48%)
Internationally Educated	23,269 (52.91%)				23,269 (52.91%)
PN					
Total	15,842 (82.38%)				15,842 (82.38%)
First-time	12,935 (90.82%)				12,935 (90.82%)
Repeat	2,907 (44.86%)				2,907 (44.86%)
U.S.-educated	15,655 (82.89%)				15,655 (82.89%)
Internationally Educated	187 (40.11%)				187 (40.11%)

2024 First-time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries by Volume

Volume[1]	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
1st	Philippines 6,879				Philippines 6,879
2nd	India 1,486				India 1,486
3rd	Kenya 744				Kenya 744
4th	Nepal 632				Nepal 632
5th	Ghana 613				Ghana 613

1 The volume includes both RN and PN first-time internationally educated candidates seeking U.S. licensure.

Contacts

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