



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.

For more detailed NCLEX Examination statistics, including historical pass rates, see Exam Psychometrics under the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN's website, www.ncsbn.org.

For general information about the NCLEX, visit the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN's website.

2015 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2015 Total
RN					
Total	54,675 (71.69%)	69,153 (74.81%)	71,679 (71.93%)	33,952 (52.53%)	229,459 (69.87%)
First-Time	41,411 (82.92%)	53,674 (85.69%)	54,473 (81.21%)	16,965 (68.51%)	166,523 (81.78%)
Repeat	13,264 (36.65%)	15,479 (37.12%)	17,206 (42.57%)	16,987 (36.57%)	62,936 (38.36%)
U.S.-Educated	49,772 (76.78%)	63,339 (79.53%)	65,711 (76.21%)	27,348 (59.56%)	206,170 (75.15%)
Internationally Educated	4,903 (20.11%)	5,814 (23.48%)	5,968 (24.87%)	6,604 (23.43%)	23,289 (23.11%)
PN					
Total	16,138 (68.99%)	16,011 (64.82%)	22,755 (73.50%)	15,193 (66.87%)	70,097 (69.04%)
First-Time	12,341 (80.12%)	11,356 (78.43%)	18,460 (83.25%)	10,526 (79.52%)	52,683 (80.73%)
Repeat	3,797 (32.82%)	4,655 (31.62%)	4,295 (31.62%)	4,667 (38.35%)	17,414 (33.69%)
U.S.-Educated	15,450 (70.30%)	15,302 (66.14%)	21,988 (74.80%)	14,469 (68.30%)	67,209 (70.39%)
Internationally Educated	688 (39.54%)	709 (36.53%)	767 (36.38%)	724 (38.40%)	2,888 (37.67%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination and seeking U.S. licensure. Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

2015 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2015 YTD
1st	Philippines 1,183	Philippines 1,323	Philippines 1,304	Philippines 1,510	Philippines 5,320
2nd	India 180	India 215	India 313	India 337	India 1,045
3rd	Puerto Rico 107	Puerto Rico 129	Puerto Rico 146	Puerto Rico 187	Puerto Rico 569
4th	South Korea 95	South Korea 100	South Korea 97	South Korea 121	South Korea 413
5th	Canada 79	Jamaica 93	Jamaica 77	Jamaica 97	Jamaica 304

¹In this table, the count of first-time internationally educated candidates seeking U.S. licensure includes both RNs and PNs.

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