



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.

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2018 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2018 Total
RN					
Total	57,906 (75.17%)	71,071 (76.45%)	71,471 (77.19%)	35,778 (55.01%)	236,226 (73.11%)
First-Time	46,123 (85.68%)	57,186 (86.66%)	56,099 (85.83%)	20,642 (69.79%)	180,050 (84.22%)
Repeat	11,783 (34.03%)	13,885 (34.40%)	15,372 (45.64%)	15,136 (34.86%)	56,176 (37.52%)
U.S.-Educated	50,519 (81.61%)	62,540 (82.29%)	62,798 (82.90%)	25,606 (62.05%)	201,463 (79.74%)
Internationally Educated	7,387 (31.15%)	8,531 (33.64%)	8,673 (35.85%)	10,172 (37.29%)	34,763 (34.73%)
PN					
Total	14,446 (74.03%)	14,690 (71.67%)	20,084 (75.91%)	13,839 (71.12%)	63,059 (73.44%)
First-Time	10,894 (86.19%)	10,585 (85.99%)	16,427 (85.77%)	9,736 (83.65%)	47,642 (85.48%)
Repeat	3,552 (36.74%)	4,105 (34.74%)	3,657 (31.61%)	4,103 (41.38%)	15,417 (36.23%)
U.S.-Educated	14,022 (75.30%)	14,260 (72.82%)	19,701 (76.75%)	13,472 (72.02%)	61,455 (74.47%)
Internationally Educated	424 (32.31%)	430 (33.49%)	383 (32.38%)	367 (37.88%)	1,604 (33.92%)

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

2018 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
 Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2018 YTD
1st	Philippines 1,988	Philippines 2,545	Philippines 2,586	Philippines 3,183	Philippines 10,302
2nd	India 255	India 245	India 312	India 420	India 1,232
3rd	Puerto Rico 209	Puerto Rico 235	Puerto Rico 271	Puerto Rico 302	Puerto Rico 1,017
4th	South Korea 192	South Korea 200	South Korea 171	South Korea 220	South Korea 783
5th	Jamaica 130	Nigeria 123	Nigeria 170	Nigeria 189	Nigeria 601

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