



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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2021 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
RN					
Total	65,951 (71.85%)	77,913 (73.86%)	87,127 (70.43%)	47,824 (53.67%)	278,815 (68.85%)
First-Time	50,825 (82.06%)	60,763 (83.30%)	65,477 (78.82%)	26,492 (65.45%)	203,557 (79.23%)
Repeat	15,126 (37.51%)	17,150 (40.43%)	21,650 (45.05%)	21,332 (39.04%)	75,258 (40.78%)
U.S.-Educated	58,148 (77.19%)	69,160 (78.33%)	77,357 (74.46%)	35,589 (59.32%)	240,254 (73.99%)
Internationally Educated	7,803 (32.03%)	8,753 (38.58%)	9,770 (38.57%)	12,235 (37.25%)	38,561 (36.83%)
PN					
Total	16,213 (68.26%)	14,661 (64.13%)	19,793 (69.74%)	14,204 (64.36%)	64,871 (66.92%)
First-Time	11,892 (79.98%)	10,144 (77.99%)	15,276 (80.79%)	9,479 (77.65%)	46,791 (79.34%)
Repeat	4,321 (36.01%)	4,517 (33.01%)	4,517 (32.34%)	4,725 (37.71%)	18,080 (34.79%)
U.S.-Educated	15,903 (68.95%)	14,409 (64.67%)	19,521 (70.30%)	13,943 (65.01%)	63,776 (67.53%)
Internationally Educated	310 (32.90%)	252 (33.33%)	272 (29.41%)	261 (29.89%)	1,095 (31.42%)

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

2021 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
 Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
1st	Philippines 1,501	Philippines 2,049	Philippines 2,407	Philippines 3,831	Philippines 9,788
2nd	India 372	India 295	India 443	India 693	India 1,803
3rd	Puerto Rico 275	Puerto Rico 285	Puerto Rico 303	Puerto Rico 303	Puerto Rico 1,166
4th	Kenya 217	Kenya 275	Kenya 192	Kenya 276	Kenya 960
5th	Nepal 183	Nigeria 128	Nepal 181	Nepal 212	Nepal 653

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