



## 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](http://www.ncsbn.org).

For general information about the NCLEX, visit the [NCLEX Examinations](#) section of NCSBN's website.

2017 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates<sup>1</sup>

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2017 Total
<b>RN</b>					
<b>Total</b>	58,047 (73.96%)	72,934 (75.54%)			130,981 (74.84%)
First-Time	45,173 (84.32%)	58,196 (85.72%)			103,369 (85.11%)
Repeat	12,874 (37.62%)	14,738 (35.35%)			27,612 (36.41%)
U.S.-Educated	50,997 (80.06%)	64,791 (81.33%)			115,788 (80.77%)
Internationally Educated	7,050 (29.87%)	8,143 (29.45%)			15,193 (29.65%)
<b>PN</b>					
<b>Total</b>	15,302 (71.23%)	14,377 (67.62%)			29,679 (69.48%)
First-Time	11,589 (83.08%)	10,210 (82.17%)			21,799 (82.65%)
Repeat	3,713 (34.23%)	4,167 (31.97%)			7,880 (33.03%)
U.S.-Educated	14,827 (72.33%)	13,921 (68.85%)			28,748 (70.65%)
Internationally Educated	475 (36.84%)	456 (29.83%)			931 (33.41%)

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

2017 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)<sup>1</sup>

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2017 YTD
<b>1st</b>	Philippines 1,653	Philippines 1,919			Philippines 3,572
<b>2nd</b>	India 307	India 339			India 646
<b>3rd</b>	South Korea 218	Puerto Rico 209			South Korea 399
<b>4th</b>	Puerto Rico 181	South Korea 181			Puerto Rico 390
<b>5th</b>	Jamaica 164	Jamaica 161			Jamaica 325

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

## Contacts

Statistical questions about NCLEX:  
 Ada Woo, PhD  
 Director, Measurement & Testing, Examinations  
 Examinations Department  
 866.293.9600 or [nclexinfo@ncsbn.org](mailto:nclexinfo@ncsbn.org)

Media Inquiries:  
 Dawn M. Kappel, MA  
 Director, Marketing and Communications  
 312.525.3667 or [dkappel@ncsbn.org](mailto:dkappel@ncsbn.org)



**NCSBN**  
 National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
 111 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2900  
 Chicago, IL 60601  
 312.525.3600 | +1.312.525.3600 (international calls)  
 312.279.1032 (fax) | [www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)