



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.

2022 NCLEX[®] Volume and Pass Rates

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
RN					
Total	75,650 (68.73%)				75,650 (68.73%)
First-time	57,626 (78.36%)				57,626 (78.36%)
Repeat	18,024 (37.93%)				18,024 (37.93%)
U.S.-educated	63,836 (74.39%)				63,836 (74.39%)
Internationally Educated	11,814 (38.14%)				11,814 (38.14%)
PN					
Total	15,255 (70.42%)				15,255 (70.42%)
First-time	11,324 (81.83%)				11,324 (81.83%)
Repeat	3,931 (37.55%)				3,931 (37.55%)
U.S.-educated	15,009 (70.96%)				15,009 (70.96%)
Internationally Educated	246 (36.99%)				246 (36.99%)

2022 First-time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries by Volume

Volume ¹	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
1st	Philippines 3,714				Philippines 3,714
2nd	India 737				India 737
3rd	Puerto Rico 289				Puerto Rico 289
4th	Kenya 253				Kenya 253
5th	Korea 241				Korea 241

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

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