



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.

2014 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2014 Total
RN					
Total	51,120 (73.16%)	66,384 (74.42%)	72,781 (68.84%)	33,843 (52.11%)	224,128 (68.95%)
First-Time	40,012 (82.34%)	52,727 (84.08%)	56,034 (76.58%)	16,389 (65.70%)	165,162 (79.29%)
Repeat	11,108 (40.11%)	13,657 (37.16%)	16,747 (42.95%)	17,454 (39.36%)	58,966 (40.01%)
U.S.-Educated	46,584 (78.01%)	61,061 (79.03%)	67,433 (72.59%)	28,178 (58.28%)	203,256 (73.78%)
Internationally Educated	4,536 (23.33%)	5,323 (21.57%)	5,348 (21.50%)	5,665 (21.45%)	20,872 (21.90%)
PN					
Total	18,030 (73.08%)	15,799 (65.97%)	23,881 (73.71%)	16,021 (63.99%)	73,731 (69.79%)
First-Time	14,310 (83.35%)	11,540 (80.17%)	19,788 (83.22%)	11,474 (76.27%)	57,112 (81.24%)
Repeat	3,720 (33.58%)	4,259 (27.50%)	4,093 (27.73%)	4,547 (33.01%)	16,619 (30.42%)
U.S.-Educated	17,626 (73.91%)	15,216 (67.09%)	23,083 (74.87%)	15,244 (65.40%)	71,169 (70.94%)
Internationally Educated	404 (37.13%)	583 (36.71%)	798 (40.00%)	777 (36.29%)	2,562 (37.67%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

2014 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2014 YTD
1st	Philippines 860	Philippines 1,091	Philippines 1,302	Philippines 1,327	Philippines 4,580
2nd	India 220	India 200	India 257	India 238	India 915
3rd	Canada 138	Canada 162	Canada 189	Canada 163	Canada 652
4th	South Korea 121	Puerto Rico 155	Puerto Rico 171	Puerto Rico 158	Puerto Rico 595
5th	Puerto Rico 111	South Korea 113	South Korea 96	South Korea 94	South Korea 424

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

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