



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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2019 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2019 Total
RN					
Total	65,418 (76.43%)	73,128 (75.58%)	75,897 (76.33%)		214,443 (76.11%)
First-Time	51,846 (86.01%)	59,011 (85.59%)	59,622 (84.76%)		170,479 (85.43%)
Repeat	13,572 (39.84%)	14,117 (33.72%)	16,275 (45.45%)		43,964 (39.95%)
U.S.-Educated	55,899 (82.83%)	63,094 (81.70%)	65,956 (81.92%)		184,949 (82.12%)
Internationally Educated	9,519 (38.88%)	10,034 (37.08%)	9,941 (39.27%)		29,494 (38.40%)
PN					
Total	14,683 (72.01%)	14,326 (73.27%)	20,814 (77.31%)		49,823 (74.59%)
First-Time	11,217 (84.36%)	10,306 (86.42%)	17,188 (86.52%)		38,711 (85.87%)
Repeat	3,466 (32.03%)	4,020 (39.58%)	3,626 (33.67%)		11,112 (35.29%)
U.S.-Educated	14,360 (72.92%)	13,990 (74.06%)	20,480 (77.97%)		48,830 (75.37%)
Internationally Educated	323 (31.27%)	336 (40.48%)	334 (36.83%)		993 (36.25%)

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

2019 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
 Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2019 YTD
1st	Philippines 2,890	Philippines 3,131	Philippines 3,174		Philippines 9,195
2nd	India 361	India 308	India 395		India 1,064
3rd	Puerto Rico 310	Puerto Rico 275	Nigeria 242		Puerto Rico 805
4th	South Korea 228	South Korea 233	Puerto Rico 220		South Korea 638
5th	Nigeria 181	Nigeria 200	South Korea 177		Nigeria 623

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