

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 Web site, www.ncsbn.org.

For general information about the NCLEX, visit the NCLEX Examinations section of NCSBN's Web site, www.ncsbn.org.

2006 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates ¹					
Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2006 Total
RN					
Total	36,507 (73.7%)	46,531 (76.7%)	65,367 (78.2%)	28,612 (59.2%)	177,017 (73.8%)
First-Time	28,234 (83.5%)	37,047 (86.0%)	54,398 (84.7%)	16,942 (70.3%)	136,621 (83.0%)
Repeat	8,273 (40.5%)	9,484 (40.4%)	10,969 (45.9%)	11,670 (43.2%)	40,396 (42.7%)
U.S.-Educated	27,748 (81.7%)	36,029 (85.2%)	53,861 (84.4%)	15,549 (70.1%)	133,187 (82.4%)
Internationally Educated	8,759 (48.5%)	10,502 (47.5%)	11,506 (49.1%)	13,063 (46.3%)	43,830 (47.7%)
PN					
Total	14,830 (78.3%)	14,857 (75.9%)	25,036 (83.9%)	16,099 (74.1%)	70,822 (78.9%)
First-Time	12,164 (86.9%)	11,795 (85.4%)	22,153 (89.3%)	12,635 (83.1%)	58,747 (86.7%)
Repeat	2,666 (39.0%)	3,062 (39.5%)	2,883 (43.0%)	3,464 (41.5%)	12,075 (40.8%)
U.S.-Educated	14,001 (80.9%)	13,853 (78.8%)	24,187 (85.6%)	15,025 (76.7%)	67,066 (81.2%)
Internationally Educated	829 (34.5%)	1,004 (36.6%)	849 (36.7%)	1,074 (38.4%)	3,756 (36.7%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2006 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume) ¹					
Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2006 Total
1st	Philippines 2,711	Philippines 3,460	Philippines 4,119	Philippines 4,881	Philippines 15,171
2nd	India 765	India 1,099	India 1,172	India 1,359	India 4,395
3rd	South Korea 480	South Korea 468	South Korea 574	South Korea 623	South Korea 2,145
4th	Canada 241	Canada 263	Canada 222	Canada 217	Canada 943
5th	Cuba 103	Cuba 157	Cuba 121	Cuba 156	Cuba 537

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

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