



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.

2023 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
RN					
Total	119,797 (57.79%)	93,363 (81.61%)	90,154 (75.46%)		303,314 (70.38%)
First-time	78,950 (69.17%)	72,456 (88.45%)	66,832 (83.14%)		218,238 (79.85%)
Repeat	40,847 (35.80%)	20,907 (57.94%)	23,322 (53.43%)		85,076 (46.08%)
U.S.-educated	81,013 (68.66%)	73,617 (88.73%)	63,298 (84.19%)		217,928 (79.95%)
Internationally Educated	38,784 (35.09%)	19,746 (55.07%)	26,856 (54.87%)		85,386 (45.93%)
PN					
Total	21,001 (65.53%)	12,620 (77.91%)	18,883 (81.44%)		52,504 (74.23%)
First-time	14,107 (79.24%)	8,895 (89.84%)	15,324 (90.43%)		38,326 (86.17%)
Repeat	6,894 (37.48%)	3,725 (49.42%)	3,559 (42.74%)		14,178 (41.94%)
U.S.-educated	20,663 (66.04%)	12,443 (78.36%)	18,700 (81.85%)		51,806 (74.71%)
Internationally Educated	338 (34.62%)	177 (46.33%)	183 (39.34%)		698 (38.83%)

2023 First-time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries by Volume

Volume ¹	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	YTD Total
1st	Philippines 11,013	Philippines 7,091	Philippines 8,868		Philippines 26,972
2nd	India 2,907	India 838	India 1,378		India 5,123
3rd	Korea, South 1,758	Kenya 568	Nigeria 714		Korea, South 2,712
4th	Nepal 767	Nigeria 417	Kenya 661		Kenya 1,859
5th	Puerto Rico 680	Korea, South 384	Nepal 575		Nigeria 1,692

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

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