



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.

2025 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates

| Candidates | Jan. – March | April – June | July – Sept. | Oct. – Dec. | YTD Total |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| RN | | | | | |
| Total | 83,428 (71.59%) | | | | 83,428 (71.59%) |
| First-time | 65,965 (80.09%) | | | | 65,965 (80.09%) |
| Repeat | 17,463 (39.51%) | | | | 17,463 (39.51%) |
| U.S.-educated | 60,578 (83.69%) | | | | 60,578 (83.69%) |
| Internationally Educated | 22,850 (39.53%) | | | | 22,850 (39.53%) |
| PN | | | | | |
| Total | 16,437 (77.25%) | | | | 16,437 (77.25%) |
| First-time | 13,416 (86.05%) | | | | 13,416 (86.05%) |
| Repeat | 3,021 (38.17%) | | | | 3,021 (38.17%) |
| U.S.-educated | 16,217 (77.61%) | | | | 16,217 (77.61%) |
| Internationally Educated | 220 (50.46%) | | | | 220 (50.46%) |

2025 First-time Internationally Educated Candidates:
Top Five Countries by Volume

| Volume¹ | Jan. – March | April – June | July – Sept. | Oct. – Dec. | YTD Total |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1st | Philippines 5,274 | | | | Philippines 5,274 |
| 2nd | India 1,661 | | | | India 1,661 |
| 3rd | Kenya 1,036 | | | | Kenya 1,036 |
| 4th | Nepal 648 | | | | Nepal 648 |
| 5th | Korea, South 635 | | | | Korea, South 635 |

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

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