



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.

2009 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2009 Total
RN					
Total	46,891 (71.84%)	52,564 (74.85%)	73,760 (77.85%)	28,769 (60.31%)	201,984 (73.18%)
First-Time	36,836 (80.86%)	41,046 (84.26%)	61,486 (84.31%)	16,775 (71.35%)	156,143 (82.09%)
Repeat	10,055 (38.82%)	11,518 (41.31%)	12,274 (45.48%)	11,994 (44.88%)	45,841 (42.81%)
U.S.-Educated	36,502 (82.45%)	41,856 (85.28%)	63,958 (84.71%)	19,046 (73.67%)	161,362 (83.05%)
Internationally Educated	10,389 (34.58%)	10,708 (34.06%)	9,802 (33.06%)	9,723 (34.16%)	40,622 (33.97%)
PN					
Total	18,684 (74.14%)	16,873 (72.23%)	26,843 (80.42%)	18,435 (74.55%)	80,835 (75.92%)
First-Time	14,989 (83.19%)	12,632 (83.08%)	22,820 (87.63%)	14,214 (84.46%)	64,655 (85.02%)
Repeat	3,695 (37.43%)	4,241 (39.92%)	4,023 (39.50%)	4,221 (41.20%)	16,180 (39.58%)
U.S.-Educated	18,033 (75.67%)	16,120 (74.19%)	26,208 (81.54%)	17,846 (75.97%)	78,207 (77.40%)
Internationally Educated	651 (31.80%)	753 (30.28%)	635 (33.86%)	589 (31.58%)	2,628 (31.81%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2009 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2009 YTD
1st	Philippines 4,194	Philippines 4,078	Philippines 3,582	Philippines 3,528	Philippines 15,382
2nd	India 431	India 319	India 336	India 342	India 1,428
3rd	South Korea 336	South Korea 277	South Korea 291	South Korea 288	South Korea 1,192
4th	Canada 140	Canada 174	Canada 161	Canada 155	Canada 630
5th	Cuba 102	Nigeria 90	Nigeria 81	Nigeria 101	Nigeria 336

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

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