



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.

2011 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2011 Total
RN					
Total	46,236 (77.48%)	57,380 (80.58%)	66,041 (76.18%)	25,650 (62.89%)	195,307 (76.03%)
First-Time	37,641 (85.63%)	47,639 (88.43%)	54,674 (82.94%)	14,348 (74.41%)	154,302 (84.50%)
Repeat	8,595 (41.78%)	9,741 (42.18%)	11,367 (43.68%)	11,302 (48.27%)	41,005 (44.19%)
U.S.-Educated	40,642 (84.62%)	51,199 (86.86%)	60,227 (80.92%)	19,973 (74.09%)	172,041 (82.77%)
Internationally Educated	5,594 (25.56%)	6,181 (28.54%)	5,814 (27.06%)	5,677 (23.50%)	23,266 (26.22%)
PN					
Total	20,213 (79.31%)	17,008 (69.56%)	26,166 (79.24%)	17,562 (69.55%)	80,949 (75.12%)
First-Time	16,732 (87.13%)	13,335 (81.35%)	22,450 (86.73%)	13,572 (80.10%)	66,089 (84.38%)
Repeat	3,481 (41.74%)	3,673 (26.74%)	3,716 (33.99%)	3,990 (33.66%)	14,860 (33.92%)
U.S.-Educated	19,776 (80.19%)	16,550 (70.77%)	25,793 (79.98%)	17,190 (70.40%)	79,309 (76.04%)
Internationally Educated	437 (39.36%)	458 (25.76%)	373 (28.15%)	372 (30.11%)	1,640 (30.91%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2011 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2011 YTD
1st	Philippines 1,454	Philippines 1,530	Philippines 1,370	Philippines 1,276	Philippines 5,630
2nd	India 219	India 220	India 222	India 251	India 912
3rd	South Korea 194	South Korea 182	Canada 161	Canada 183	South Korea 667
4th	Canada 139	Canada 170	South Korea 153	South Korea 138	Canada 653
5th	Puerto Rico 80	Puerto Rico 80	Puerto Rico 74	Nigeria 72	Puerto Rico 302

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

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