



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.

2012 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2012 Total
RN					
Total	47,344 (80.94%)	60,716 (82.84%)	62,830 (80.66%)	24,008 (65.21%)	194,898 (79.51%)
First-Time	39,228 (88.65%)	51,479 (90.46%)	52,932 (86.94%)	14,391 (77.99%)	158,030 (87.69%)
Repeat	8,116 (43.70%)	9,237 (40.37%)	9,898 (47.10%)	9,617 (46.09%)	36,868 (44.40%)
U.S.-Educated	42,625 (86.82%)	55,494 (88.25%)	58,011 (85.00%)	18,980 (75.23%)	175,110 (85.41%)
Internationally Educated	4,719 (27.84%)	5,222 (25.35%)	4,819 (28.49%)	5,028 (27.41%)	19,788 (27.23%)
PN					
Total	19,375 (73.77%)	18,042 (70.57%)	26,034 (79.00%)	16,972 (69.24%)	80,423 (73.79%)
First-Time	15,664 (83.35%)	13,506 (82.03%)	22,053 (86.90%)	12,838 (80.78%)	64,061 (83.78%)
Repeat	3,711 (33.33%)	4,536 (36.46%)	3,981 (35.22%)	4,134 (33.38%)	16,362 (34.67%)
U.S.-Educated	19,072 (74.52%)	17,660 (71.51%)	25,655 (79.75%)	16,552 (70.21%)	78,939 (74.64%)
Internationally Educated	303 (26.40%)	382 (27.49%)	379 (28.23%)	420 (30.95%)	1,484 (28.44%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2012 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2012 YTD
1st	Philippines 863	Philippines 931	Philippines 868	Philippines 1,011	Philippines 3,673
2nd	India 228	India 222	India 257	India 267	India 974
3rd	Canada 132	Canada 149	Canada 165	Canada 159	Canada 605
4th	South Korea 114	South Korea 121	Puerto Rico 91	South Korea 102	South Korea 426
5th	Puerto Rico 102	Puerto Rico 114	South Korea 89	Puerto Rico 91	Puerto Rico 398

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

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