



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.

2016 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2016 Total
RN					
Total	59,648 (70.45%)	70,287 (74.13%)	69,592 (72.58%)	32,858 (56.12%)	232,385 (70.18%)
First-Time	44,948 (81.09%)	54,618 (84.90%)	52,193 (81.64%)	16,883 (70.49%)	168,642 (81.43%)
Repeat	14,700 (37.93%)	15,669 (36.58%)	17,399 (45.42%)	15,975 (40.94%)	63,743 (40.40%)
U.S.-Educated	53,297 (75.39%)	63,425 (79.12%)	62,617 (77.49%)	25,224 (62.90%)	204,563 (75.65%)
Internationally Educated	6,351 (29.05%)	6,862 (27.98%)	6,975 (28.59%)	7,634 (33.72%)	27,822 (29.95%)
PN					
Total	15,066 (68.65%)	14,854 (67.19%)	20,990 (77.22%)	13,599 (66.20%)	64,509 (70.59%)
First-Time	11,082 (81.57%)	10,432 (82.17%)	17,306 (85.98%)	9,543 (79.54%)	48,363 (82.88%)
Repeat	3,984 (32.71%)	4,422 (31.86%)	3,684 (36.08%)	4,056 (34.81%)	16,146 (33.77%)
U.S.-Educated	14,423 (70.35%)	14,212 (68.70%)	20,426 (78.38%)	13,089 (67.60%)	62,150 (72.03%)
Internationally Educated	643 (30.48%)	642 (33.80%)	564 (35.11%)	510 (30.20%)	2,359 (32.43%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination and seeking U.S. licensure. Percentage = percentage of candidates passing the examination (Pass Rate).

2016 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2016 YTD
1st	Philippines 1,377	Philippines 1,533	Philippines 1,650	Philippines 1,762	Philippines 6,322
2nd	India 287	India 341	India 346	India 343	India 1,317
3rd	Puerto Rico 171	Puerto Rico 146	South Korea 171	Puerto Rico 191	Puerto Rico 659
4th	South Korea 103	South Korea 146	Jamaica 153	Jamaica 168	South Korea 586
5th	Jamaica 93	Jamaica 138	Puerto Rico 151	South Korea 166	Jamaica 552

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

Contacts

Statistical questions about NCLEX:
 Ada Woo, PhD
 Director, Measurement & Testing, Examinations
 Examinations Department
 866.293.9600 or nclexinfo@ncsbn.org

Media Inquiries:
 Dawn M. Kappel, MA
 Director, Marketing and Communications
 312.525.3667 or dkappel@ncsbn.org



NCSBN

National Council of State Boards of Nursing

111 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 2900
 Chicago, IL 60601
 312.525.3600 | +1.312.525.3600 (international calls)
 312.279.1032 (fax) | www.ncsbn.org