



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.

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2017 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2017 Total
RN					
Total	58,047 (73.96%)	72,934 (75.54%)	66,264 (73.85%)	33,324 (57.90%)	230,569 (72.11%)
First-Time	45,173 (84.32%)	58,196 (85.72%)	50,375 (83.38%)	18,089 (72.65%)	171,833 (83.29%)
Repeat	12,874 (37.62%)	14,738 (35.35%)	15,889 (43.64%)	15,235 (40.38%)	58,736 (39.39%)
U.S.-Educated	50,997 (80.06%)	64,791 (81.33%)	58,450 (79.65%)	24,893 (64.97%)	199,131 (78.47%)
Internationally Educated	7,050 (29.87%)	8,143 (29.45%)	7,814 (30.48%)	8,431 (36.99%)	31,438 (31.82%)
PN					
Total	15,302 (71.23%)	14,377 (67.62%)	20,464 (76.18%)	13,585 (66.72%)	63,728 (71.04%)
First-Time	11,589 (83.08%)	10,210 (82.17%)	16,512 (85.88%)	9,412 (80.60%)	47,723 (83.36%)
Repeat	3,713 (34.23%)	4,167 (31.97%)	3,952 (35.68%)	4,173 (35.42%)	16,005 (34.31%)
U.S.-Educated	14,827 (72.33%)	13,921 (68.85%)	19,949 (77.20%)	13,086 (67.88%)	61,783 (72.18%)
Internationally Educated	475 (36.84%)	456 (29.83%)	515 (36.70%)	499 (36.27%)	1,945 (35.01%)

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

2017 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
 Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2017 YTD
1st	Philippines 1,653	Philippines 1,919	Philippines 2,052	Philippines 2,167	Philippines 7,791
2nd	India 307	India 339	India 324	India 335	India 1,305
3rd	South Korea 218	Puerto Rico 209	Puerto Rico 199	Puerto Rico 231	Puerto Rico 820
4th	Puerto Rico 181	South Korea 181	South Korea 180	South Korea 170	South Korea 749
5th	Jamaica 164	Jamaica 161	Nigeria 124	Nigeria 149	Jamaica 586

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