



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.

2013 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

Candidates	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2013 Total
RN					
Total	51,091 (79.89%)	58,558 (72.34%)	71,450 (72.18%)	29,451 (50.90%)	210,550 (71.12%)
First-Time	42,909 (87.87%)	49,733 (80.94%)	55,694 (78.94%)	14,665 (63.33%)	163,001 (80.50%)
Repeat	8,182 (38.02%)	8,825 (23.86%)	15,756 (48.31%)	14,786 (38.58%)	47,549 (38.98%)
U.S.-Educated	46,211 (85.62%)	53,635 (77.24%)	66,388 (76.26%)	23,990 (57.63%)	190,224 (76.46%)
Internationally Educated	4,880 (25.59%)	4,923 (18.97%)	5,062 (18.73%)	5,461 (21.35%)	20,326 (21.14%)
PN					
Total	17,565 (73.55%)	16,612 (70.27%)	24,824 (78.97%)	16,279 (69.38%)	75,280 (73.71%)
First-Time	13,858 (83.68%)	12,460 (82.44%)	20,973 (87.25%)	12,238 (80.64%)	59,529 (84.05%)
Repeat	3,707 (35.69%)	4,152 (33.74%)	3,851 (33.89%)	4,041 (35.29%)	15,751 (34.63%)
U.S.-Educated	17,164 (74.46%)	16,161 (71.32%)	24,338 (79.92%)	15,862 (70.21%)	73,525 (74.66%)
Internationally Educated	401 (34.66%)	451 (32.59%)	486 (31.69%)	417 (37.89%)	1,755 (34.07%)

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2013 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates: Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

Volume	Jan. – March	April – June	July – Sept.	Oct. – Dec.	2013 YTD
1st	Philippines 942	Philippines 1,002	Philippines 1,008	Philippines 1,082	Philippines 4,034
2nd	India 276	India 221	India 238	India 246	India 981
3rd	Canada 136	Canada 163	Canada 170	Canada 148	Canada 617
4th	Puerto Rico 121	South Korea 129	South Korea 123	Puerto Rico 148	Puerto Rico 496
5th	South Korea 106	Puerto Rico 118	Puerto Rico 109	South Korea 124	South Korea 482

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

Contacts

Statistical questions about NCLEX:
 Ada Woo, PhD
 Associate Director, Measurement & Testing
 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