



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.

2014 NCLEX® Volume and Pass Rates¹

| Candidates | Jan. – March | April – June | July – Sept. | Oct. – Dec. | 2014 Total |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| RN | | | | | |
| Total | 51,120 (73.16%) | 66,384 (74.42%) | 72,781 (68.84%) | 33,843 (52.11%) | 224,128 (68.95%) |
| First-Time | 40,012 (82.34%) | 52,727 (84.08%) | 56,034 (76.58%) | 16,389 (65.70%) | 165,162 (79.29%) |
| Repeat | 11,108 (40.11%) | 13,657 (37.16%) | 16,747 (42.95%) | 17,454 (39.36%) | 58,966 (40.01%) |
| U.S.-Educated | 46,584 (78.01%) | 61,061 (79.03%) | 67,433 (72.59%) | 28,178 (58.28%) | 203,256 (73.78%) |
| Internationally Educated | 4,536 (23.33%) | 5,323 (21.57%) | 5,348 (21.50%) | 5,665 (21.45%) | 20,872 (21.90%) |
| PN | | | | | |
| Total | 18,030 (73.08%) | 15,799 (65.97%) | 23,881 (73.71%) | 16,021 (63.99%) | 73,731 (69.79%) |
| First-Time | 14,310 (83.35%) | 11,540 (80.17%) | 19,788 (83.22%) | 11,474 (76.27%) | 57,112 (81.24%) |
| Repeat | 3,720 (33.58%) | 4,259 (27.50%) | 4,093 (27.73%) | 4,547 (33.01%) | 16,619 (30.42%) |
| U.S.-Educated | 17,626 (73.91%) | 15,216 (67.09%) | 23,083 (74.87%) | 15,244 (65.40%) | 71,169 (70.94%) |
| Internationally Educated | 404 (37.13%) | 583 (36.71%) | 798 (40.00%) | 777 (36.29%) | 2,562 (37.67%) |

¹Number = the number of candidates taking the examination.

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

2014 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates:
Top Five Countries (with respect to volume)¹

| Volume | Jan. – March | April – June | July – Sept. | Oct. – Dec. | 2014 YTD |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1st | Philippines 860 | Philippines 1,091 | Philippines 1,302 | Philippines 1,327 | Philippines 4,580 |
| 2nd | India 220 | India 200 | India 257 | India 238 | India 915 |
| 3rd | Canada 138 | Canada 162 | Canada 189 | Canada 163 | Canada 652 |
| 4th | South Korea 121 | Puerto Rico 155 | Puerto Rico 171 | Puerto Rico 158 | Puerto Rico 595 |
| 5th | Puerto Rico 111 | South Korea 113 | South Korea 96 | South Korea 94 | South Korea 424 |

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

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