

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.

Contacts

Statistical questions about NCLEX:
 Doyoung Kim, PhD
 Senior Psychometrician, 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

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

2019 C E

Candidate Category	Number of Candidates	Number Passing	Pass Rate (%)	Number of First-Time Candidates	2019 Pass Rate (%)
All Candidates	65,418 (76.43%)	73,128 (75.58%)	75,897 (76.33%)	37,868 (54.07%)	252,311 (72.80%)
First-Time	51,846 (86.01%)	59,011 (85.59%)	59,622 (84.76%)	21,949 (68.60%)	192,428 (83.51%)
Repeat	13,572 (39.84%)	14,117 (33.72%)	16,275 (45.45%)	15,919 (34.04%)	59,883 (38.38%)
U.S.-Educated	55,899 (82.83%)	63,094 (81.70%)	65,956 (81.92%)	26,460 (63.76%)	211,409 (79.82%)
Internationally Educated	9,519 (38.88%)	10,034 (37.08%)	9,941 (39.27%)	11,408 (31.60%)	40,902 (36.50%)
All Candidates	14,683 (72.01%)	14,326 (73.27%)	20,814 (77.31%)	13,940 (70.60%)	63,763 (73.72%)
First-Time	11,217 (84.36%)	10,306 (86.42%)	17,188 (86.52%)	10,046 (83.10%)	48,757 (85.30%)
Repeat	3,466 (32.03%)	4,020 (39.58%)	3,626 (33.67%)	3,894 (38.34%)	15,006 (36.09%)
U.S.-Educated	14,360 (72.92%)	13,990 (74.06%)	20,480 (77.97%)	13,567 (71.47%)	62,397 (74.52%)
Internationally Educated	323 (31.27%)	336 (40.48%)	334 (36.83%)	373 (38.87%)	1,366 (36.97%)

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

2019 First-Time Internationally Educated Candidates' Countries

Rank	Country	Number of Candidates	Number Passing	Pass Rate (%)	Number of First-Time Candidates	2019 Pass Rate (%)
1 st	Philippines	2,890	3,131	3,174	3,591	Philippines 12,786
2 nd	India	361	308	395	477	India 1,541
3 rd	Puerto Rico	310	275	Nigeria 242	Puerto Rico 366	Puerto Rico 1,171
4 th	South Korea	228	233	Puerto Rico 220	Nigeria 278	South Korea 834
5 th	Nigeria	181	200	South Korea 177	South Korea 196	Nigeria 901

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

