# Improving International NCLEX®-RN Pass Rates

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## Introduction

ATI Nursing Education (ATI) supports over 225,000 US nursing students annually with passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse. Internationally educated nurses (IEN) have been coming to the US for decades, but the talent pipeline has been severely impacted by low international NCLEX pass rates. ATI is implementing programs to prepare internationally educated nurses to pass NCLEX and transition to US practice.

## Purpose

Examine the impact of an educator led, online, NCLEX-RN review program on the NCLEX-RN pass rates, clinical judgment, and confidence levels of internationally educated nurses.
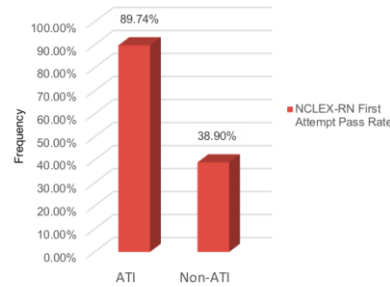
## Methods

Procedures: Sixty-five male and female nurses from Manila (34) and Cebu (31) were enrolled in a 12-week, educator-led, online NCLEX review between April 2017–May 2018. The program included an online platform, calendar, assessments, individualized remediation, content tutorials, and educator support. Weekly reports were sent to partnering institutions to support follow-up and guidance for nurses.
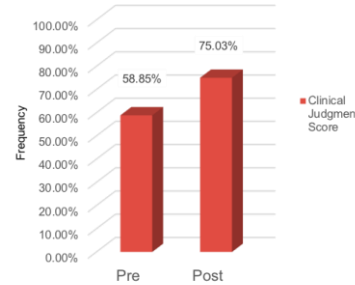
Outcome Measures:

1. Subscale scores of content assessments to measure content knowledge and clinical judgment.

2. NCLEX outcomes to measure NCLEX pass rates.

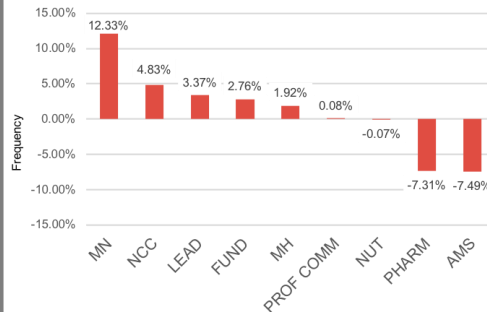3. Pre and post content confidence surveys to measure self-perceived confidence.



NCLEX-RN Preparation Group Performance



Pre and Post Clinical Judgment Performance



Content Confidence Changes Over ATI Nursing Preparation Program

## Results

Sample: Sixty-five Filipino nurses ages 22-44 were enrolled in the program (April 2017–May 2018). Thirty-nine nurses completed the review and tested for NCLEX. Twenty-six nurses either did not complete the NCLEX review or did not test for NCLEX.

NCLEX-RN Pass Rates: Nurses using the ATI NCLEX-RN preparation program were significantly more likely to pass the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt (89.7%) than were nurses not using the ATI NCLEX-RN preparation program (38.9%), $X^2$ (1, $N$ = 5,579) = 41.80, $p$ < .05, Cramer's $V$ = .09.

Clinical Judgment: There was a statistically significant difference between the nurses pre ($M$ = 58.9%, $SD$ = 8.4) and post ($M$ = 75.0%, $SD$ = 6.9) clinical judgment scores, $t$(25) = 14.3, $p$ < .05, $d$ = 2.7.

Confidence Levels: Nurse's content confidence levels increased over the nursing preparation program for 6 of the 9 content areas. The largest increase occurred within the maternal newborn content area.

## Conclusions

- ATI educator led, online, NCLEX review programs increase NCLEX pass rates, clinical judgment, and content confidence levels for (IEN).
- Implementation of these programs can assist more internationally educated nurses with passing NCLEX alleviating nursing shortages in US healthcare.

## References

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (2017). NCSBN Research Brief Volume 70. Retrieved from https://www.ncsbn.org/exam-statistics-and-publications.htm