COLLEGE OF
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
OF ALBERTA

CPNRE 2020 Annual Report

Pass rates for the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination in Alberta

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INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) protects the public by regulating the profession of practical nursing in the province. Educational institutions delivering practical nurse diploma programs have their programs approved by the Council of the CLPNA as mandated by the Health Professions Act (HPA). Additionally, through the registration process, the CLPNA manages access to the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) in Alberta.

The CPNRE is a national assessment of entry-level competence into the practical nursing profession in Canada, ensuring there is a consistent benchmark amongst all jurisdictions in the country. It is the final step in fulfilling entry-to-practice requirements for new graduates of Canadian practical nursing programs and internationally educated nurses seeking registration to practice.

Developed by Yardstick Assessment Strategies, the CPNRE is designed with a "criterion-referenced approach"[1] covering three major competency areas:

1) Professional, Ethical and Legal Practice
2) Foundations of Practice
3) Collaborative Practice

With 165-170 questions on the exam, 55-75% are independent multiple-choice, and 25-45% are case-based associated with a brief introductory case scenario. Each question consists of a stem (approximately three sentences) and four options, to cover 85 competencies and three levels of cognitive ability (Knowledge/Comprehension, Application, Critical Thinking).[2]

The CPNRE is offered in four testing windows throughout the year (January-February, May-June, September-October, and November-December).

In 2016, the CPNRE began the transition from a paper and pencil examination to a computer-based delivery. Tests are conducted at Pearson VUE proctored test centres across Canada with eight of those locations in Alberta.[3]

In 2020 the CPNRE moved from using primarily Pearson VUE proctored test centres to virtual proctoring delivered by ProctorU.

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[1] Yardstick, "Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®): 2019 Technical Report," (2020): 1
[2] Yardstick, "Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®): 2019 Technical Report,"6
[3] Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®) "Pearson VUE, retrieved July 15, 2020, https://home.pearsonvue.com/cpnre

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Following the hybrid (online proctored vs. brick & mortar) administration of the CPNRE in 2020 beginning with the June/July administration, Yardstick conducted an in-depth statistical analysis of results to determine if there were impacts in exam performance between online proctored and brick & mortal administrations. Results indicate that there were no statistically significant differences in any of the examination performance metrics such as pass rate, average scores, and item difficulty. In addition, following routine forensic data analyses, no online proctored candidates were flagged as having potentially engaged in examination misconduct.

The only notable difference was a higher rate of minor candidate incidents for online proctored examinations. These minor incidents resulted in small delays for candidates but did not prevent any candidate from completing the CPNRE. The large majority of these incidents were related to technological challenges caused by residential internet bandwidth. It should be noted that the minor incident rate for online proctored examinations decreased substantially during the subsequent 2020 administrations.

In addition, following the administration of an online proctored examination, candidates were asked to complete a short survey. Overall, 93% of candidates reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their online proctoring experience. Qualitative data revealed that overall, candidates were pleased with the experience, found it easy to navigate, and appreciated the opportunity to take the CPNRE during a pandemic.[4]

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[4] Yardstick, "Email from C. Beauchamp," (March 25, 2021)

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ALBERTA-EDUCATED PRACTICAL NURSES

The following represents the CLPNA-approved educational institutions in Alberta and their graduates.

The numbers represent the first-time CPNRE writers through the Alberta programs.

The graphs represent the pass rate for each educational institution in comparison to the provincial and national average. Where the numbers of writers are low, it is important to consider the number of writers through each educational institution which is included in the second chart.

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BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of exam writers. Exams with few or no writers will show larger average fluctuations compared to provincial or national averages.

Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	89%	87%	91%
Jul-20	93%	91%	90%
Sep-20	90%	93%	90%
Nov-20	70%	80%	87%
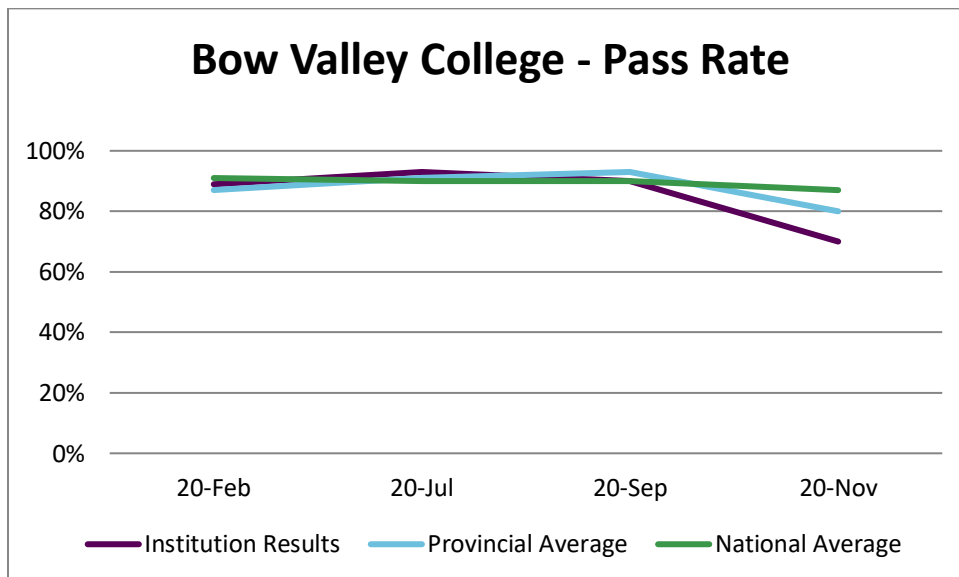
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	46	41	89%	5	11%
Jul-20	115	103	93%	8	7%
Sep-20	62	56	90%	6	10%
Nov-20	10	7	70%	3	30%

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of exam writers. Exams with few or no writers will show larger average fluctuations compared to provincial or national averages.

Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	75%	87%	91%
Jul-20	78%	91%	90%
Sep-20	80%	93%	90%
Nov-20	-	80%	87%
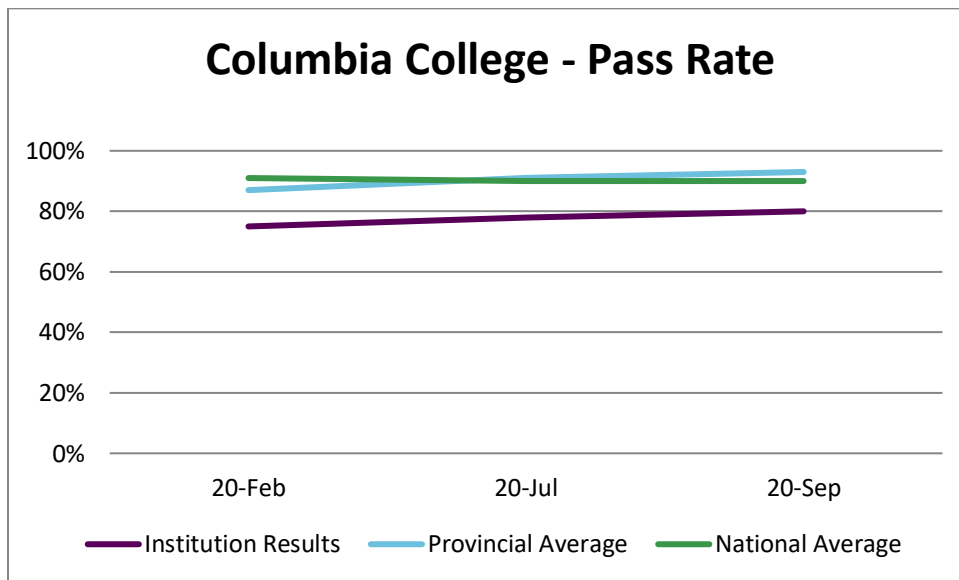
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	16	12	75%	4	25%
Jul-20	27	21	78%	6	22%
Sep-20	5	4	80%	1	20%
Nov-20	-	-	-	-	-

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KEYANO COLLEGE

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Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	-	87%	91%
Jul-20	100%	91%	90%
Sep-20	90%	93%	90%
Nov-20	100%	80%	87%

Keyano College - Pass Rate
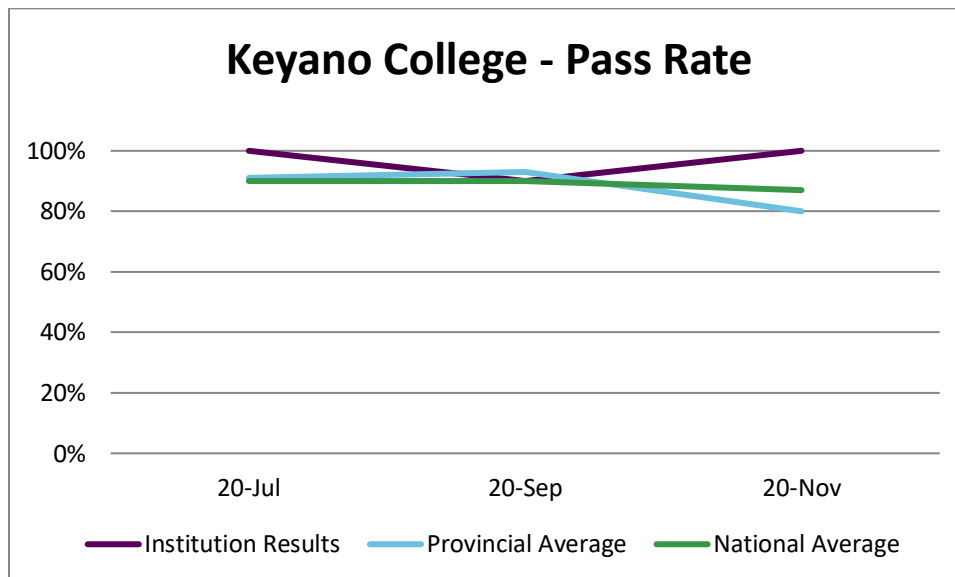
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	-	-	-	-	-
Jul-20	2	2	100%	0	0%
Sep-20	10	9	90%	1	10%
Nov-20	2	2	100%	0	0%

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LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE

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Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	100%	87%	91%
Jul-20	67%	91%	90%
Sep-20	97%	93%	90%
Nov-20	83%	80%	87%

Lethbridge College - Pass Rate
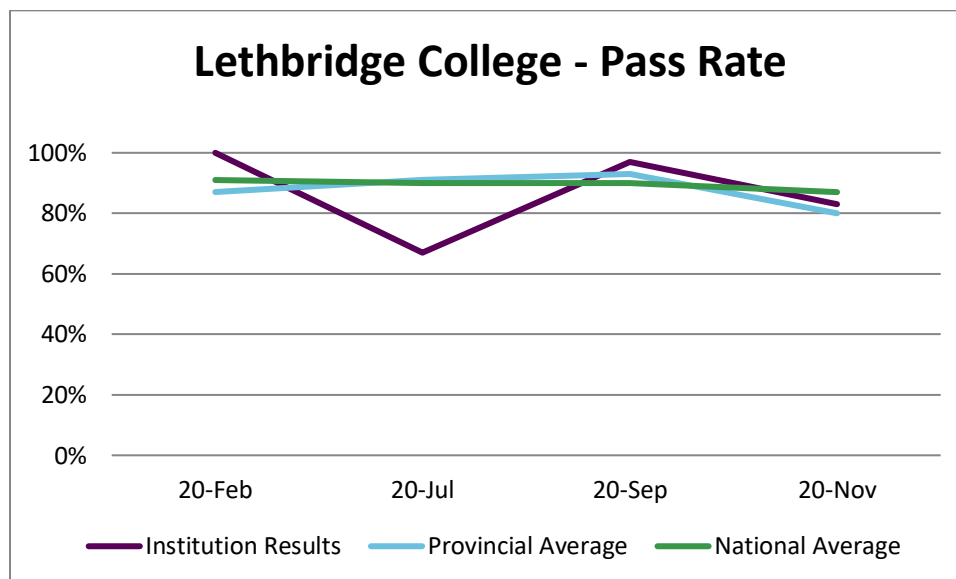
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	1	1	100%	0	0%
Jul-20	6	4	67%	2	33%
Sep-20	66	64	97%	2	3%
Nov-20	12	10	83%	2	17%

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of exam writers. Exams with few or no writers will show larger average fluctuations compared to provincial or national averages.

Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	-	87%	91%
Jul-20	-	91%	90%
Sep-20	100%	93%	90%
Nov-20	-	80%	87%

*No graph provided for Medicine Hat College as writers only sat at one sitting during 2020. *
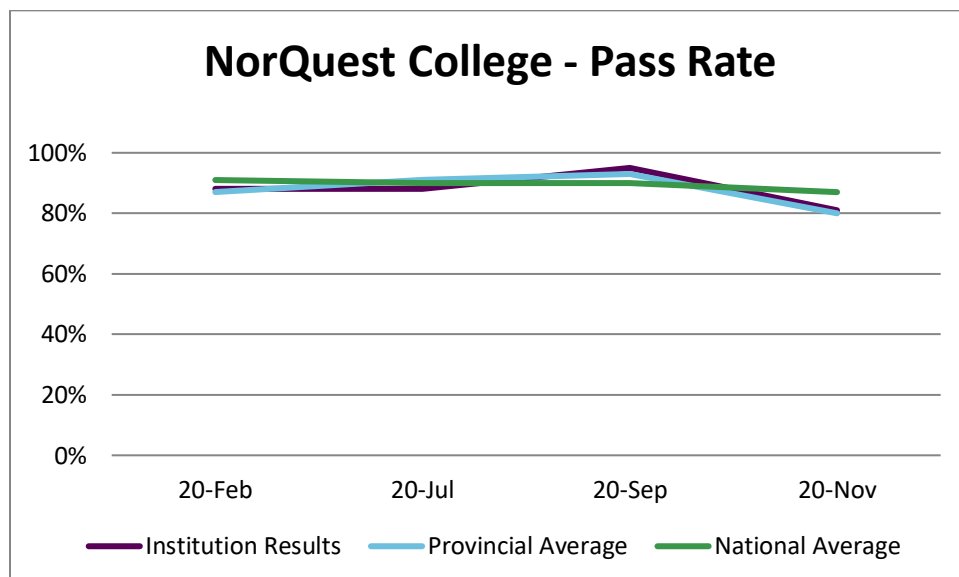
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	-	-	-	-	-
Jul-20	-	-	-	-	-
Sep-20	14	14	100%	0	0%
Nov-20	-	-	-	-	-

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NORQUEST COLLEGE

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Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	88%	87%	91%
Jul-20	88%	91%	90%
Sep-20	95%	93%	90%
Nov-20	81%	80%	87%

NorQuest College - Pass Rate

Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	41	36	88%	5	12 %
Jul-20	42	37	88%	5	12%
Sep-20	137	130	95%	7	5%
Nov-20	80	65	81%	15	19%

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NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE

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Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	-	87%	91%
Jul-20	-	91%	90%
Sep-20	85%	93%	90%
Nov-20	79%	80%	87%

Northern Lakes College - Pass Rates
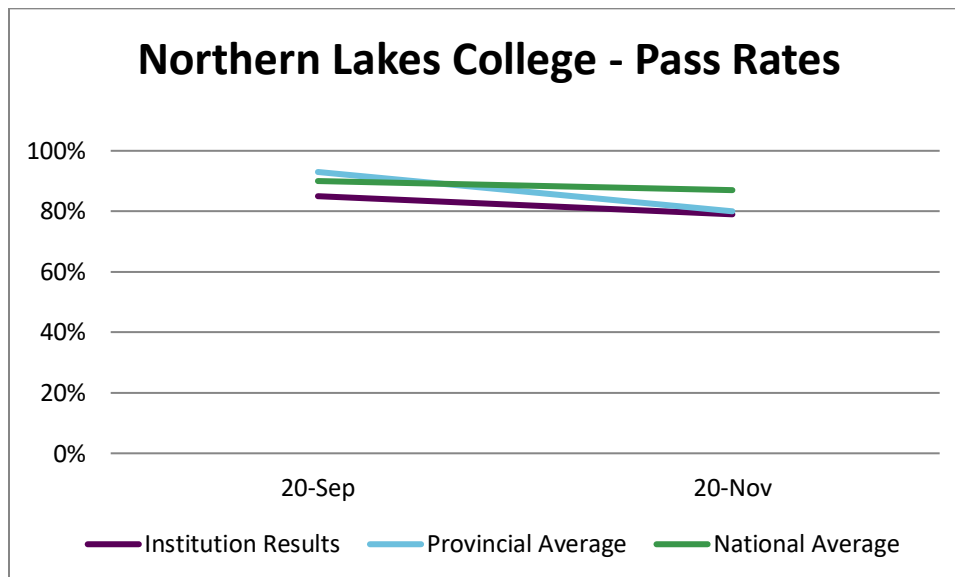
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	-	-	-	-	-
Jul-20	-	-	-	-	-
Sep-20	27	23	85%	4	15%
Nov-20	14	11	79%	3	21%

PORTAGE COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of exam writers. Exams with few or no writers will show larger average fluctuations compared to provincial or national averages.

Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	100%	87%	91%
Jul-20	100%	91%	90%
Sep-20	91%	93%	90%
Nov-20	78%	80%	87%

Portage College - Pass Rate
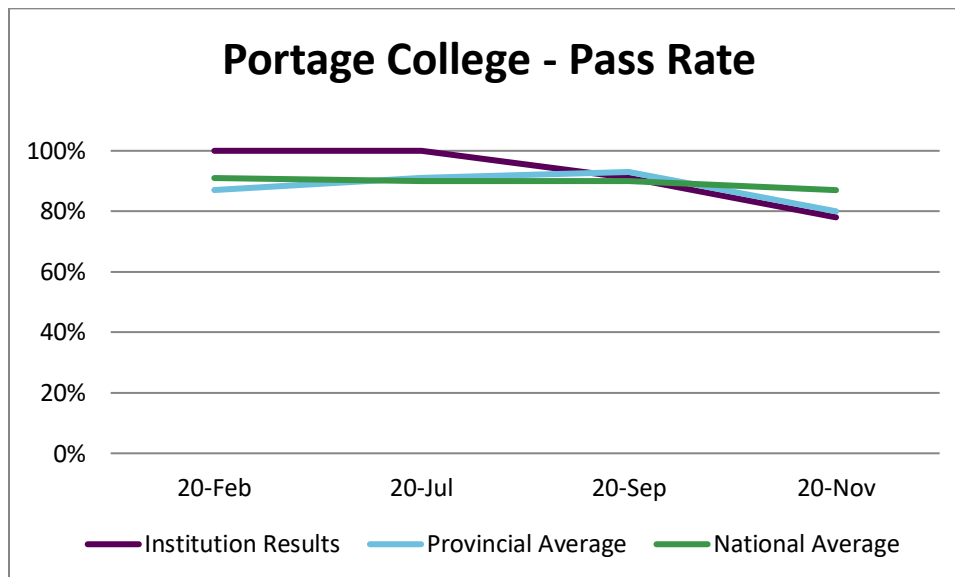
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	1	1	100%	0	0%
Jul-20	1	1	100%	0	0%
Sep-20	10	1	91%	1	9%
Nov-20	9	7	78%	2	22%

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RED DEER COLLEGE

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Date of Exam	Institution Results	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	-	87%	91%
Jul-20	100%	91%	90%
Sep-20	95%	93%	90%
Nov-20	-	80%	87%

Red Deer College - Pass Rate
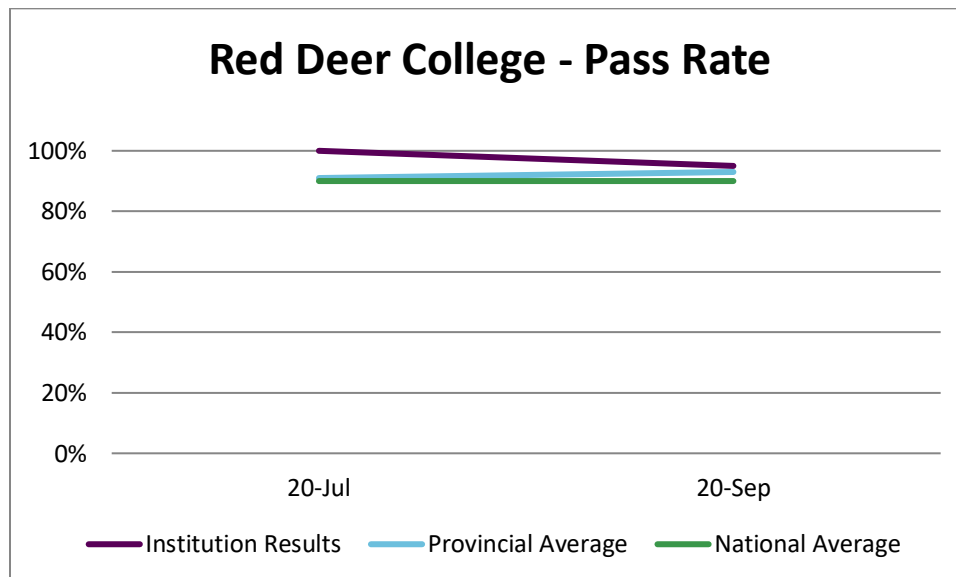
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	-	-	-	-	-
Jul-20	31	31	100%	0	0%
Sep-20	20	19	95%	1	5%
Nov-20	-	-	-	-	-

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INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED NURSES

The following represents the Internationally Educated Practical Nurse applicants to Alberta and their first-time performance on the Canadian Practical Nurses Registration Examination. Internationally Educated Nurses are graduates of a nursing education program outside of Canada. In 2019 Internationally Educated Nurses were primarily from the Philippines and India, please see the CLPNA Annual Report for more statistics about the CLPNA's members.

Date of Exam	IEN Average	Provincial Average	National Average
Feb-20	100%	100%	68%
Jul-20	86%	86%	53%
Sep-20	81%	81%	56%
Nov-20	92%	92%	46%

Internationally Educated Nurses - Pass Rate
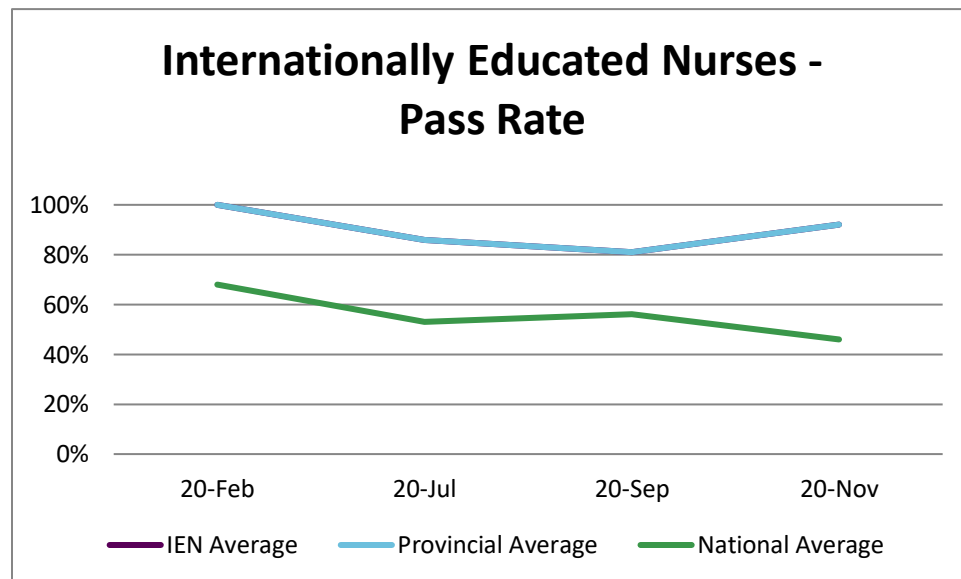
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Feb-20	6	6	100%	0	0%
Jul-20	22	19	86%	3	14%
Sep-20	26	21	81%	5	19%
Nov-20	12	11	92%	1	8%