



CPNRE 2025 Annual Report

Pass Rates for the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination in Alberta

Reported by the CLHA Exam Manager: March 12th, 2026

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INTRODUCTION

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses and Health Care Aides of Alberta (CLHA) is the professional regulatory college for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Health Care Aides (HCAs). As a regulatory college and with authority under the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, the CLHA's core role is to protect the public through its regulatory functions. Educational institutions delivering practical nurse diploma programs have their programs approved by the Council of the CLHA as mandated by the HPA. Additionally, through the registration process, the CLHA manages access to the Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE) in Alberta.

The CPNRE is an assessment of entry-level competence for the practical nursing profession in Canada, ensuring there is a consistent benchmark amongst participating jurisdictions in the country. The CPNRE is utilized by all provinces and territories with the exceptions of British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. The CPNRE is the final step in Alberta to fulfill entry-to-practice requirements for new graduates of Canadian practical nursing programs and internationally educated nurses seeking registration to practice.

Developed by Meazure Learning, 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.

There are 160-170 questions on the examination: 40-60% are stand alone multiple-choice, and 40-60% are case-based assessment questions related to a case scenario. Each question consists of a stem (approximately three sentences) and four options to cover 76 competencies and three levels of cognitive ability (Knowledge/Comprehension, Application, Critical Thinking).²

The CPNRE is offered in six testing windows throughout the year:

- January
- March
- May
- July
- September
- November.

In January 2022, the CPNRE moved to linear on-the-fly testing (LOFT). This means that each candidate has questions which are pulled from a bank of questions. The questions are selected from the question bank so that each candidate has a comparable examination in terms of content and difficulty. However, the combination of questions creates a unique examination. The move to LOFT testing enhances test security by reducing the number of times a question is seen to aid in preventing collusion.

¹ Yardstick, "Examination Blueprint (2022-2026) Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®)," 20

² Yardstick, "Examination Blueprint (2022-2026) Canadian Practical Nurse Registration Examination (CPNRE®)," 9

In 2025, two candidates were flagged as having potentially breached examination rules. Candidates writing the CPNRE are made aware of what may constitute a breach of examination rules prior to writing the examination through an agreement they acknowledge before starting the examination.

The CLHA used online proctoring administered by ProctorU in 2025. Exceptions for the use of online proctoring are managed individually and generally focus on the required accommodation of providing the candidate a reader for the examination. With online proctoring, there continued to be incidents reported during the examination writes. The incidents generally centered around technological issues and affected the ability to complete the examination. The CLHA works closely with Meazure Learning to be responsive to candidate feedback to ensure that the candidate experience is a positive one.

ALBERTA EDUCATED PRACTICAL NURSES

The following information represents:

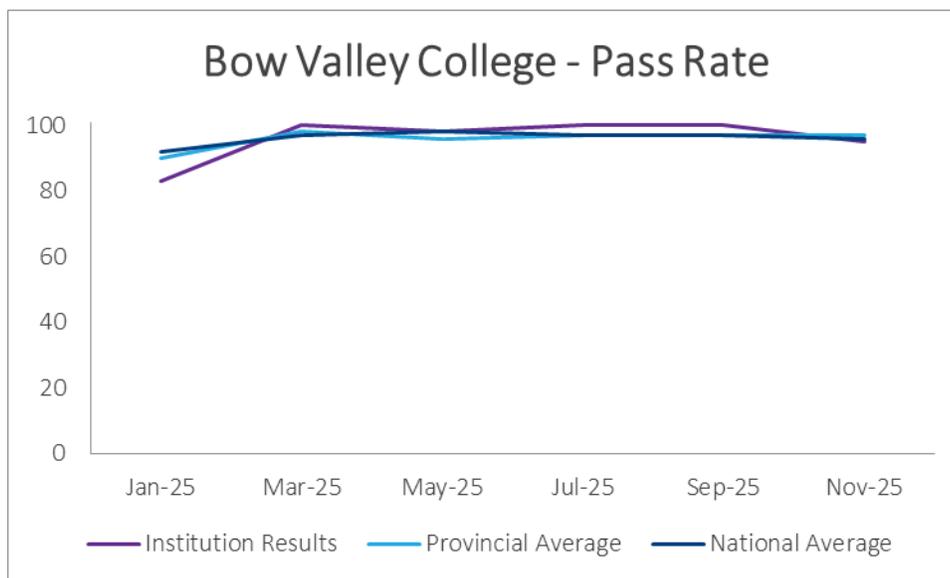
- the CLHA-approved practical nurse programs in Alberta and their graduates.
- numbers of first-time CPNRE writers from the Alberta programs.
- the pass rate for each educational institution in comparison to the provincial and national average.
 - where the numbers of writers are low, it is important to consider the number of writers from each educational institution, which is included in table below the graph.

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	83%	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	98%	96%	98%
Jul-25	100%	97%	97%
Sep-25	100%	97%	97%
Nov-25	95%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
96%	96%	97%



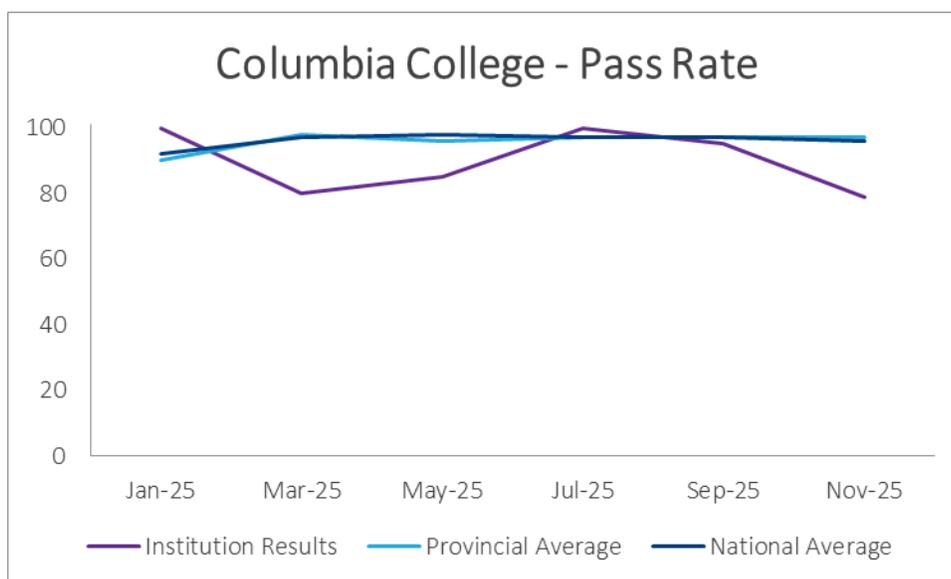
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	42	35	83%	7	17%
Mar-25	110	110	100%	0	0
May-25	44	43	98%	1	2%
Jul-25	106	106	100%	0	0
Sep-25	59	59	100%	0	0
Nov-25	151	144	95%	7	5%

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	80%	98%	97%
May-25	85%	96%	98%
Jul-25	100%	97%	97%
Sep-25	95%	97%	97%
Nov-25	79%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
90%	96%	97%



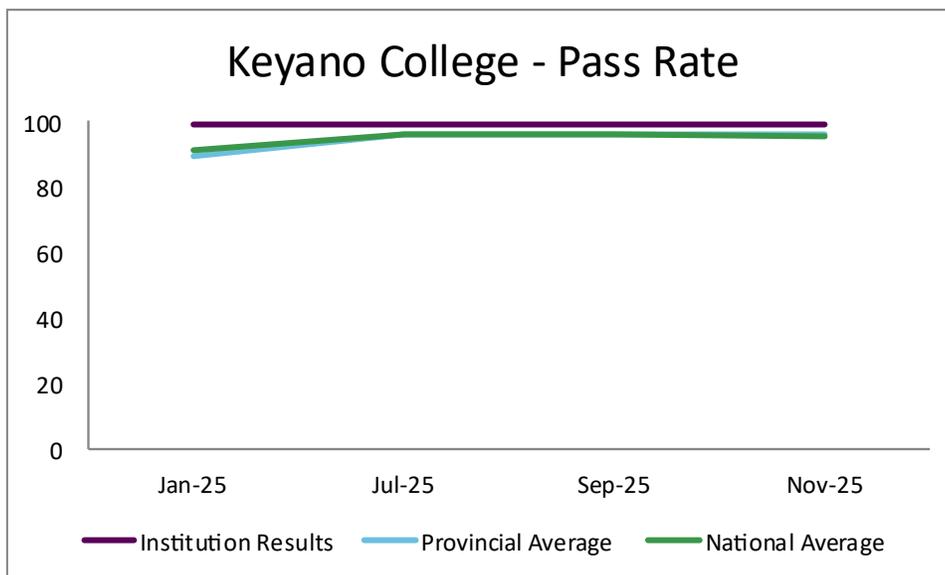
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	3	3	100%	0	0
Mar-25	5	4	80%	1	20%
May-25	20	17	85%	3	15%
Jul-25	2	2	100%	0	0
Sep-25	21	20	95%	1	5%
Nov-25	19	15	79%	4	21%

KEYANO COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	0	98%	97%
May-25	0	96%	98%
Jul-25	100%	97%	97%
Sep-25	100%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
100%	96%	97%



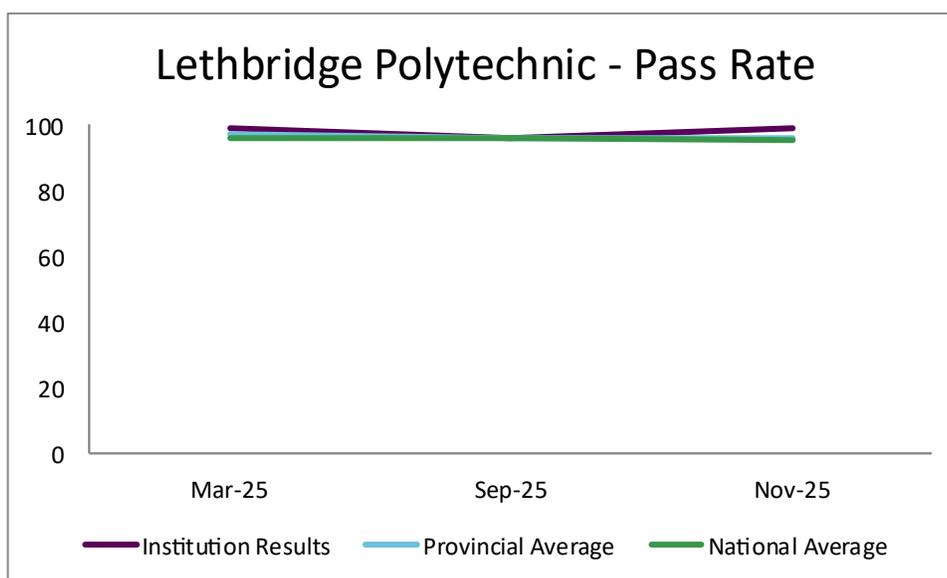
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	1	1	100%	0	0
Mar-25	0	-	-	-	-
May-25	0	-	-	-	-
Jul-25	13	13	100%	0	0
Sep-25	5	5	100%	0	0
Nov-25	9	9	100%	0	0

LETHBRIDGE POLYTECHNIC

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	0	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	0	96%	98%
Jul-25	0	97%	97%
Sep-25	97%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
99%	96%	97%



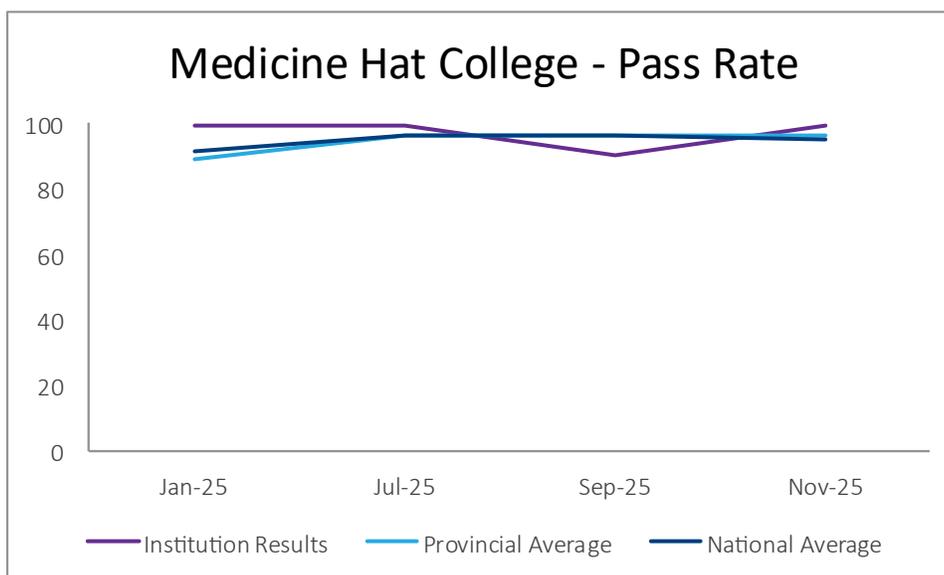
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	0	-	-	-	-
Mar-25	1	1	100%	0	0
May-25	0	-	-	-	-
Jul-25	0	-	-	-	-
Sep-25	89	86	97%	3	3%
Nov-25	4	4	100%	0	0

MEDICINE HAT COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	0	98%	97%
May-25	0	96%	98%
Jul-25	100%	97%	97%
Sep-25	91%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
98%	96%	97%



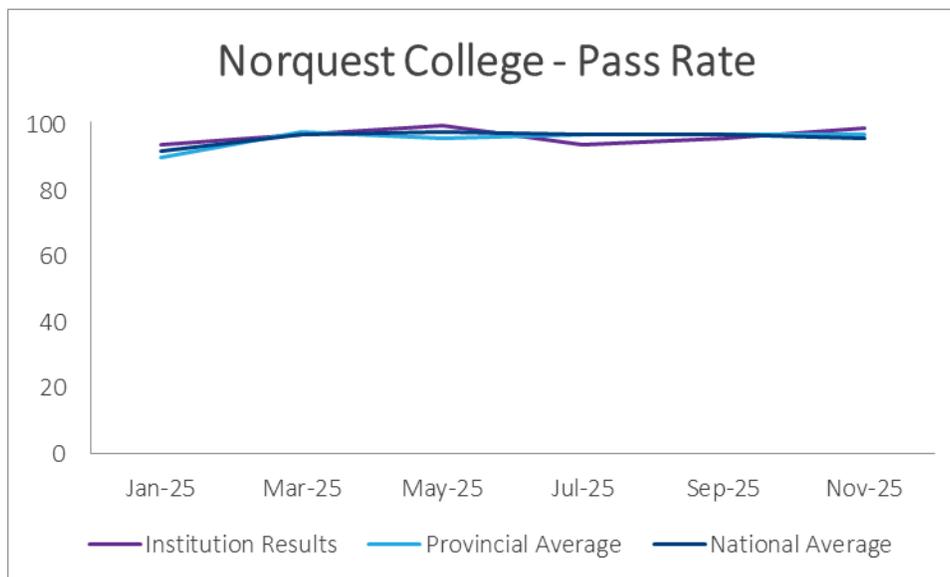
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	1	1	100%	0	0
Mar-25	0	-	-	-	-
May-25	0	-	-	-	-
Jul-25	17	17	100%	0	0
Sep-25	11	10	91%	1	9%
Nov-25	16	16	100%	0	0

NORQUEST COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	94%	90%	92%
Mar-25	97%	98%	97%
May-25	100%	96%	98%
Jul-25	94%	97%	97%
Sep-25	96%	97%	97%
Nov-25	99%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
97%	96%	97%



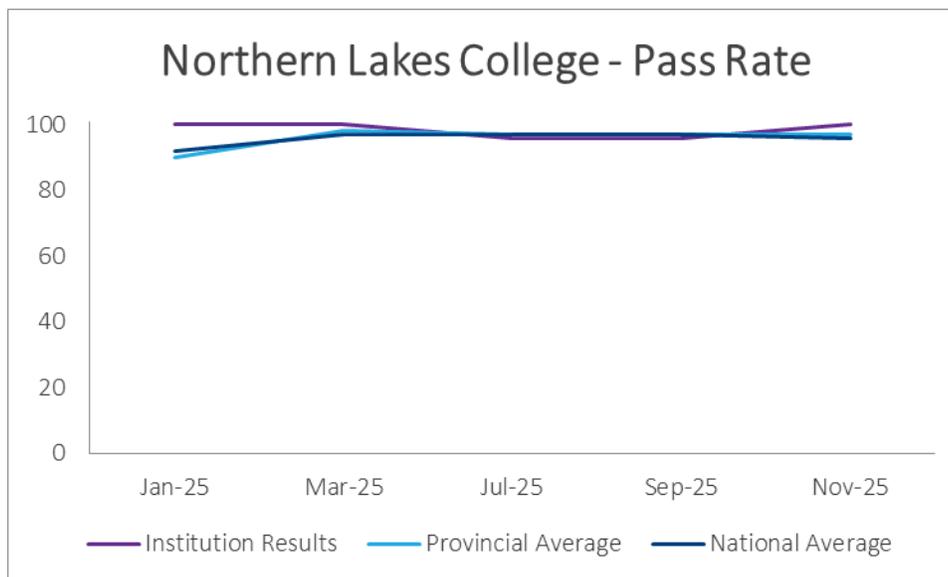
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	69	65	94%	4	8%
Mar-25	72	70	97%	2	3%
May-25	37	37	100%	0	0
Jul-25	119	112	94%	7	6%
Sep-25	78	75	96%	3	4%
Nov-25	203	201	99%	2	1%

NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	0	96%	98%
Jul-25	96%	97%	97%
Sep-25	96%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
98%	96%	97%



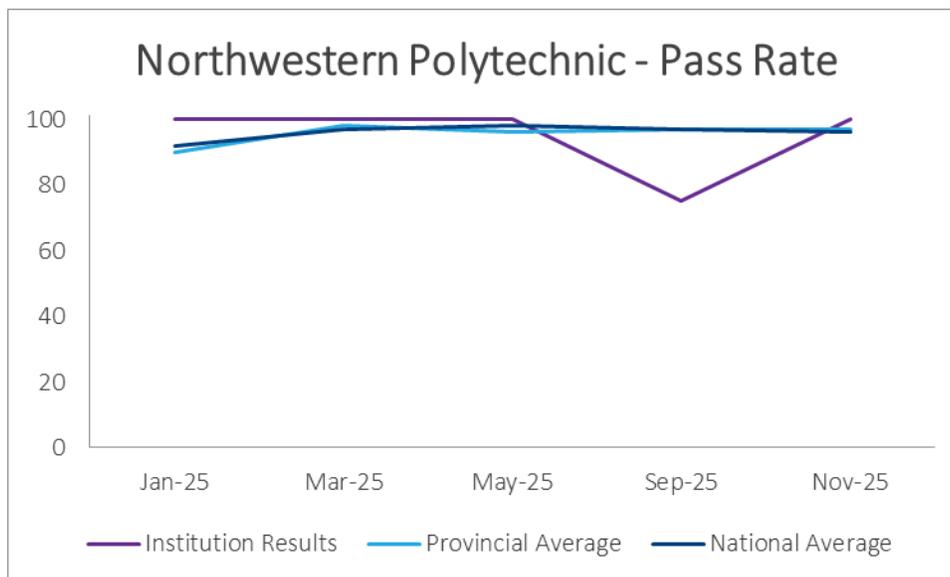
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	2	2	100%	0	0
Mar-25	1	1	100%	0	0
May-25	0	-	-	-	-
Jul-25	25	24	96%	1	4%
Sep-25	23	22	96%	1	4%
Nov-25	3	3	100%	0	0

NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	100%	96%	98%
Jul-25	-	97%	97%
Sep-25	75%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
95%	96%	97%



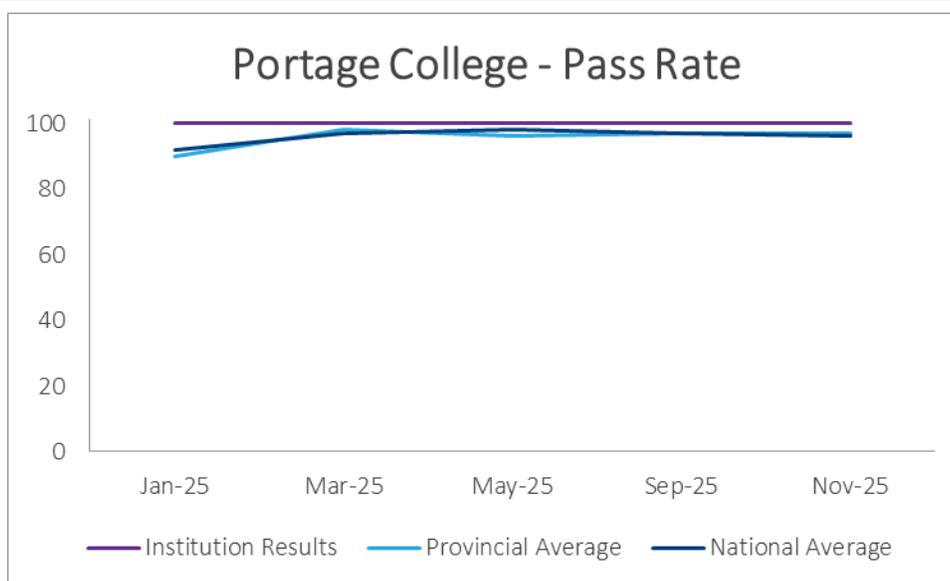
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	15	15	100%	0	0
Mar-25	5	5	100%	0	0
May-25	1	1	100%	0	0
Jul-25	0	-	-	-	-
Sep-25	4	3	75%	1	25%
Nov-25	1	1	100%	0	0

PORTAGE COLLEGE

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	100%	96%	98%
Jul-25	-	97%	97%
Sep-25	100%	97%	97%
Nov-25	100%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
100%	96%	97%



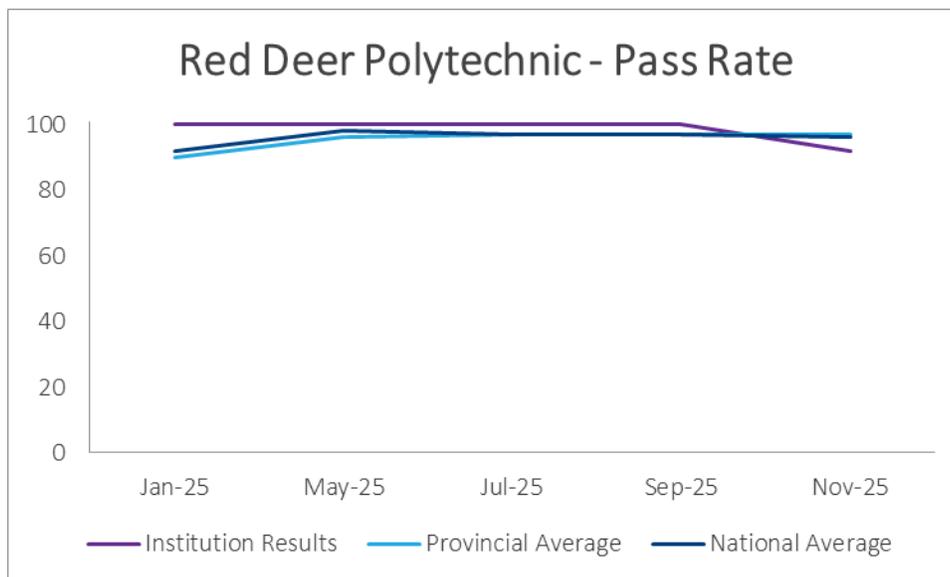
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	1	1	100%	0	0
Mar-25	2	2	100%	0	0
May-25	1	1	100%	0	0
Jul-25	0	-	-	-	-
Sep-25	30	30	100%	0	0
Nov-25	6	6	100%	0	0

RED DEER POLYTECHNIC

When evaluating pass rates, it is important to consider the number of examination writers. Examinations 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
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	0	98%	97%
May-25	100%	96%	98%
Jul-25	100%	97%	97%
Sep-25	100%	97%	97%
Nov-25	92%	97%	96%

Institution Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
98%	96%	97%



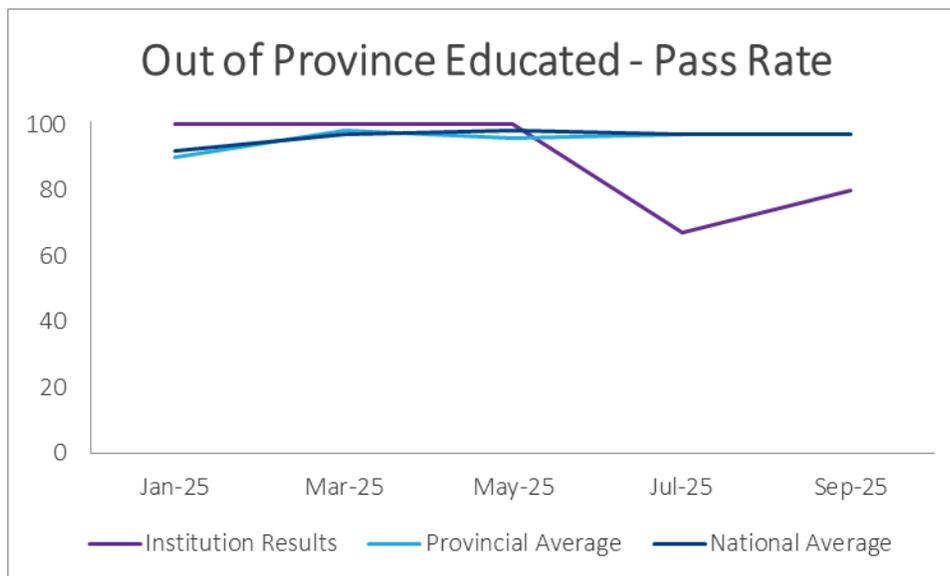
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	6	6	100%	0	0
Mar-25	0	-	-	0	0
May-25	3	3	100%	0	0
Jul-25	8	8	100%	0	0
Sep-25	10	10	100%	0	0
Nov-25	12	11	92%	1	8%

OUT OF PROVINCE EDUCATED PRACTICAL NURSES

The following represents the out-of-province (OOP) educated practical nurse applicants to Alberta and their first-time performance on the CPNRE. OOP educated nurses are graduates of a nursing education program from a Canadian jurisdiction outside of Alberta.

Date of Exam	OOP Average	Provincial Average	National Average
Jan-25	100%	90%	92%
Mar-25	100%	98%	97%
May-25	100%	96%	98%
Jul-25	67%	97%	97%
Sep-25	80%	97%	97%
Nov-25	0	97%	96%

OOP Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
89%	96%	97%



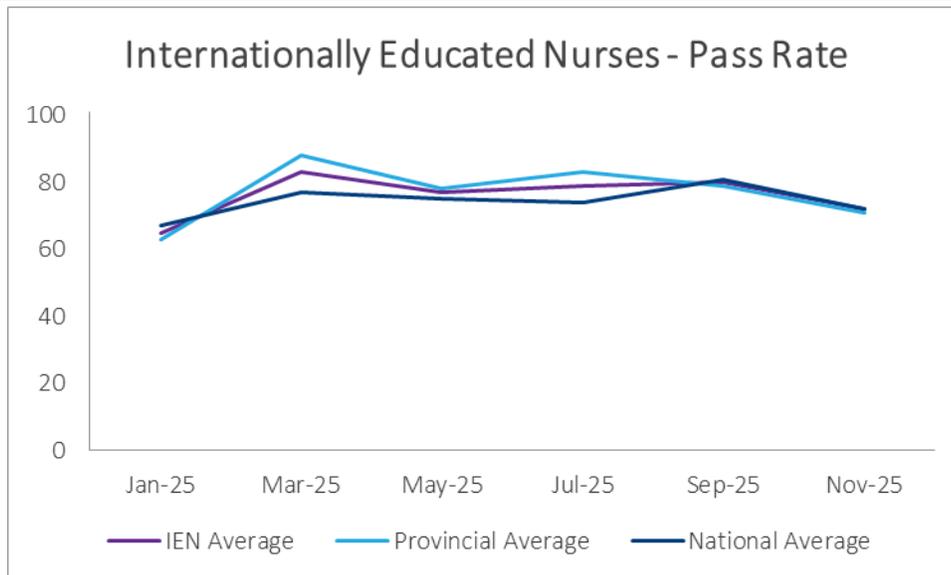
Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	2	2	100%	0	0
Mar-25	3	3	100%	0	0
May-25	4	4	100%	0	0
Jul-25	3	2	67%	1	33%
Sep-25	5	4	80%	1	20%
Nov-25	0	0	0	0	0

INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED NURSES

The following represents the internationally educated practical nurse (IEN) applicants to Alberta and their first-time performance on the CPNRE. IENs are graduates of a nursing education program outside of Canada. In 2025, IENs were primarily from India, the Philippines and Ghana. Please see the CLHA Annual Report for more statistics about the CLHA’s regulated members.

Date of Exam	IEN Average	Provincial average of candidates educated in Canada	National average of candidates educated in Canada
Jan-25	65%	63%	67%
Mar-25	83%	88%	77%
May-25	77%	78%	75%
Jul-25	79%	83%	74%
Sep-25	80%	79%	81%
Nov-25	72%	71%	72%

IEN Annual Average	Provincial Annual Average	National Annual Average
76%	96%	97%



Date of Exam	Number of Writers	Pass	Pass %	Fail	Fail %
Jan-25	40	25	63%	15	37%
Mar-25	26	23	88%	3	12%
May-25	54	42	78%	12	22%
Jul-25	58	48	83%	10	17%
Sep-25	86	68	79%	18	21%
Nov-25	58	41	71%	17	29%

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the number of first-time CPNRE writers from CLHA-approved practical nurse programs in Alberta, in addition to Out of Province educated nurses that are graduates of a nursing education program from a Canadian jurisdiction outside of Alberta and internationally educated practical nurse (IEN) applicants to Alberta writing the CPNRE for the first time. Pass rates for each educational institution are provided in comparison to the provincial and national average.