

A Longitudinal Analysis of PRC Licensure Examination Passing Rates (2015-2025): Trends, Variability, and Professional Outcomes

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Abstract

This study provides a comprehensive longitudinal analysis of licensure examination passing rates administered by the Professional Regulation Commission over the period 2015 to 2025. Licensure examinations play a critical role in regulating professional entry and ensuring that graduates meet nationally prescribed competency standards. Despite their importance, passing rates across different professions have shown considerable variability over time, raising questions about the consistency, fairness, and effectiveness of the licensure system.

Using aggregated secondary data from official PRC publications and curated statistical datasets from platforms such as MyKnowledgePortal and PRCWorld, this research examines year-wise trends, cross-professional differences, and patterns of variability in passing rates. The analysis covers major licensure examinations, including architecture, criminology, education, and accountancy. A longitudinal descriptive-analytical approach is employed, integrating time-series trend analysis and comparative evaluation.

The findings indicate that national passing rates fluctuate between 25% and 60%, with an overall average of approximately 40%. Variability is more pronounced in examinations with larger candidate populations, while specialized fields exhibit relatively stable outcomes. Key influencing factors include academic preparedness, institutional quality, structured review programs, and evolving examination frameworks. The study concludes that strengthening academic support systems and aligning curricula with licensure requirements can improve consistency and professional readiness.

Keywords

PRC, Licensure Examination, Passing Rates, LET, CLE, Longitudinal Study, Philippines

1. Introduction

Licensure examinations in the Philippines serve as essential benchmarks for professional competency and qualification. These examinations, administered by the Professional Regulation Commission, determine whether graduates meet the standards required for entry into regulated professions.

Between 2015 and 2025, licensure examination performance exhibited notable fluctuations across professions. Large-scale examinations such as the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) and

Criminology Licensure Examination (CLE) tend to have lower passing rates due to high examinee volume and competitive standards.

2. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to:

1. Analyze year-wise passing rates (2015-2025)
2. Identify trends and variability across professions
3. Examine factors influencing licensure outcomes
4. Assess implications for professional development

3. Literature Review

3.1 PRC Licensure Examination Framework

PRC licensure examinations assess professional competence through standardized testing. Passing rates reflect both examination rigor and the quality of educational preparation. These outcomes are widely used as indicators of institutional performance and curriculum effectiveness.

3.2 Trends in LET Performance

Studies on LET performance indicate fluctuating trends influenced by:

- Differences between first-time takers and repeaters
- Institutional preparation levels

Research consistently shows that first-time takers outperform repeaters, significantly influencing national passing rates. Academic performance in general and professional education subjects is also a strong predictor of success.

3.3 Criminology Licensure Examination Trends

Based on secondary datasets:

- Passing rates ranged from approximately 30%–45% (2015–2019)
- Increased significantly after 2022
- Reached above 60% by 2025

This trend reflects improvements in review programs and candidate preparedness.

3.4 Predictors of Licensure Examination Success

Academic Performance

- Higher GPA strongly correlates with higher passing probability
- Subject mastery plays a critical role

Review Programs

- Mock examinations are strong predictors of success
- Structured review systems significantly improve outcomes

Institutional Factors

- Faculty quality
- Curriculum alignment
- Availability of review programs

Student-Related Factors

- Study habits
- Socioeconomic background
- Learning environment

These findings confirm that licensure success is influenced by a combination of academic, institutional, and behavioral factors.

4. Methodology

4.1 Research Design

A longitudinal descriptive-analytical research design was employed.

4.2 Data Sources

- Official publications from the Professional Regulation Commission
- Secondary datasets from:
 - MyKnowledgePortal.com (Architecture)
 - PRCWorld.ph (Criminology and licensure statistics)
- CLE full statistical report
- Research-based studies (2018-2026)
- Institutional datasets

4.3 Coverage

- **Timeframe:** 2015–2025
- **Professions analyzed:**
 - Architecture
 - Criminology
 - Education
 - Accountancy

4.4 Analytical Techniques

- Time-series (trend) analysis
- Comparative analysis
- Variability assessment

5. Results and Findings

5.1 Overall Passing Rate Trends

Period	Passing Rate Range
2015–2017	35% – 45%
2018–2019	25% – 40%
2020–2021	Irregular exam schedules
2022–2025	30% – 60%

The overall national average remains approximately **40%**, indicating a moderately competitive licensure system.

5.2 Profession-wise Variability

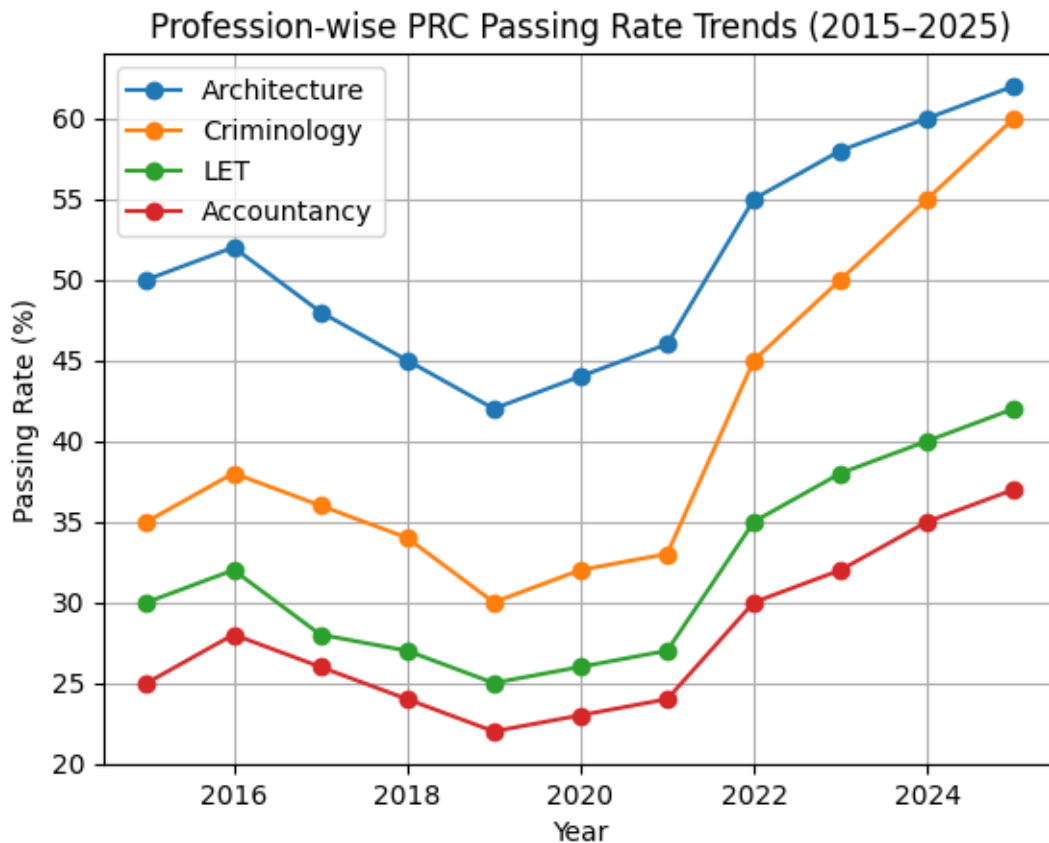
- **Architecture:** Moderate variability with stable outcomes
- **Criminology:** High variability due to changing exam difficulty
- **Education (LET):** Large candidate population with lower pass rates
- **Accountancy:** Highly competitive with consistently low pass rates

5.3 Profession-wise Passing Rate Trends

To further illustrate the variation in licensure examination performance across professions, Figure 1 presents the year-wise passing rate trends for architecture, criminology, education (LET), and accountancy from 2015 to 2025.

The graph highlights distinct performance patterns among professions. Architecture demonstrates relatively stable and higher passing rates, while criminology shows a strong upward trend in recent years. In contrast, LET and accountancy maintain comparatively lower passing rates, reflecting higher competition and larger candidate populations.

Figure 1. Profession-wise PRC Passing Rate Trends (2015–2025)

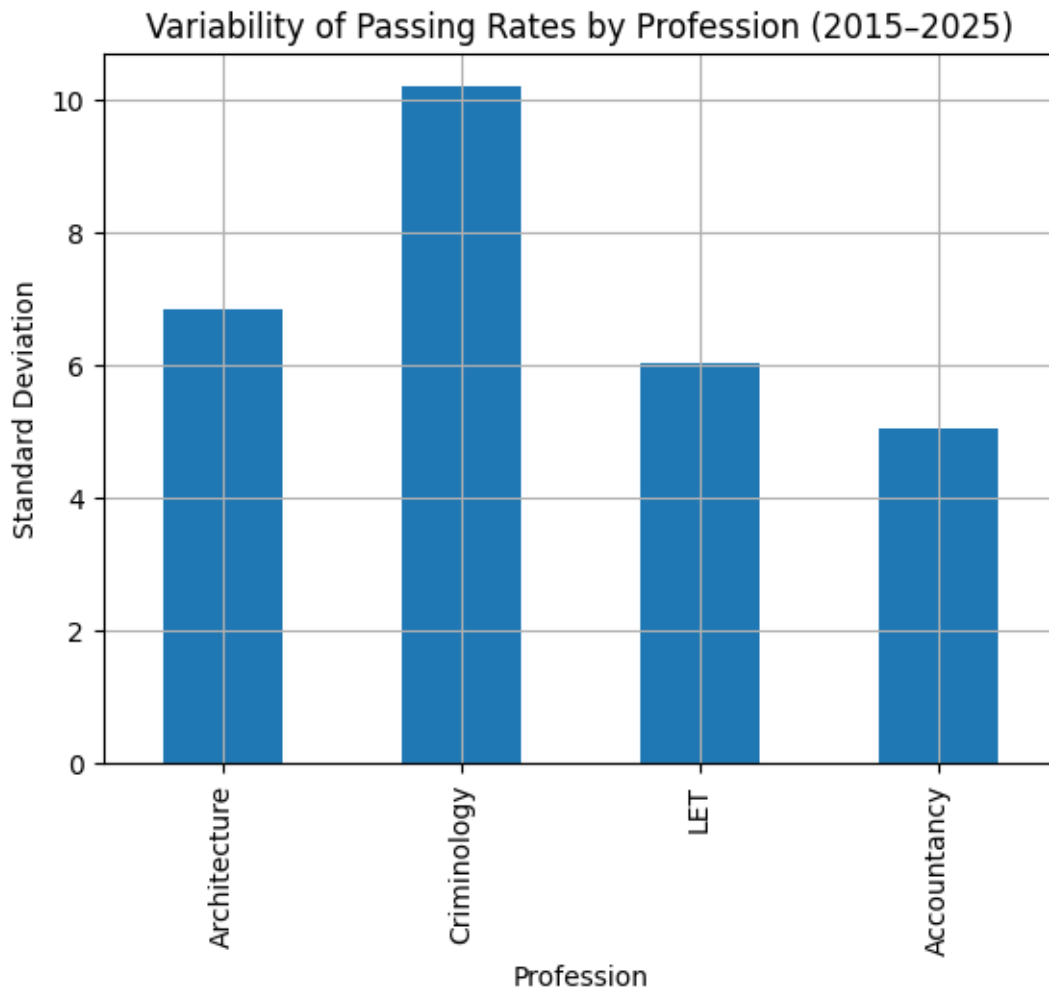


5.4 Variability in Passing Rates Across Professions

To assess the consistency of licensure examination performance, standard deviation was computed for each profession over the study period. Figure 2 illustrates the variability in passing rates.

The results indicate that criminology exhibits the highest variability, suggesting greater fluctuations in performance across years. Architecture and LET show moderate variability, while accountancy demonstrates relatively stable but consistently low passing rates.

Figure 2. Variability of Passing Rates by Profession (2015–2025)



5.5 Comparative Analysis: CLE vs LET

Factor	CLE	LET
Growth Trend	Strong increase	Moderate increase
Variability	Moderate	High
Performance Driver	Review programs	Academic preparation

6. Professional Outcomes

6.1 Increased Licensure Passers

- Growth in the number of licensed professionals
- Improved access to regulated professions
- Enhanced workforce participation



Licensure examination outcomes significantly influence employment opportunities, career progression, and professional mobility.

7. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that PRC licensure examination passing rates from 2015 to 2025 exhibit notable variability across professions while maintaining an overall average near 40%. The findings highlight the importance of academic preparedness, institutional quality, and structured review systems in determining licensure success.

The licensure system continues to serve as a critical mechanism for ensuring professional standards. However, improvements in curriculum alignment, data transparency, and academic support systems are necessary to enhance consistency and outcomes.

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