

Competency Examination and Assessment Pathways

Published: March 2021

Revised: June 2022

Introduction

Successful completion of a College-approved examination and assessment pathway is one of the indicators that applicants for licensure have demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to meet entry to practice requirements. This policy outlines, in the interests of transparency and fairness, the examination and assessment pathways accepted by the College of Veterinarians of Ontario.



Scope

This policy applies to all General and Public Service licensure applicants.

Applicants who are applying for licensure under the auspices of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) are not required to demonstrate successful completion of an entry to practice examination or assessment pathway.

Policy

Recognized third-party providers

The following are College recognized providers: Canadian Veterinary Medical Association – National Examining Board (CVMA-NEB), the American Veterinary Medical Association – Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (AVMA-ECFVG), the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) and the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA).

Graduates of an American Veterinary Medical Association – Council on Education (AVMA-COE) Accredited Veterinary School

Section 3 of Ontario Regulation 1093 indicates that a graduate of an accredited veterinary school must successfully complete the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) within two attempts. The CVMA-NEB in collaboration with the Canadian Council of Veterinary Registrars has determined that a graduate of an accredited veterinary school must successfully complete the NAVLE within three attempts. A graduate of an accredited veterinary school who is not successful in the completion of the NAVLE within three attempts may be indicative of a potential knowledge deficiency. Therefore, the graduate is required to undergo additional evaluation before an acceptable level of competence can be ascertained. If a graduate is not successful within three attempts, they will be required to complete the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE) and any other prerequisites to the CPE, such as the Preliminary Surgical Assessment (PSA) in Canada, after successfully completing the NAVLE.

Graduates of an AVMA listed unaccredited veterinary school

As per Section 3 of Ontario Regulation 1093, a graduate of an acceptable unaccredited veterinary school must successfully complete the NAVLE and the CPE. The traditional exam sequence has expanded to include the Basic and Clinical Science Examination (BCSE) as a prerequisite to the NAVLE and the PSA as a prerequisite to the CPE. In addition to the traditional pathway, the College has approved alternative pathways to demonstrate competency.



The College's permitted examination and assessment pathways for these graduates are:

The National Board Examination Process:

1. Registration with CVMA-NEB or AVMA-ECFVG
2. CVMA-NEB or AVMA-ECFVG Credential assessment
3. BCSE
4. NAVLE
5. PSA (This only applies if the applicant is registered with the CVMA-NEB; if they are registered with ECFVG then this requirement does not apply)
6. CPE

The National Board Examination and AAVSB Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence option* (AAVSB-PAVE):

1. Registration with CVMA-NEB
2. CVMA-NEB and AAVSB-PAVE Credential assessment
3. PAVE [Qualifying Science Examination (QSE) and Evaluated Clinical Experience (ECE)]
4. NAVLE (If NAVLE is not passed within three attempts, then the PSA and CPE must also be completed.)

The National Board Examination and Clinical Year option*

1. Registration with CVMA-NEB or AVMA-ECFVG
2. CVMA-NEB or AVMA-ECFVG Credential assessment
3. BCSE



4. Successful completion of the final evaluated clinical year in a CVMA/AVMA accredited program
5. NAVLE (If NAVLE is not passed within three attempts, then the PSA and CPE must also be completed.)

*Only applicants that have successfully passed the BCSE are eligible for the final (clinical year) in a CVMA/AVMA accredited program

An applicant whose examination and assessment pathway is beyond what is laid out in the regulation must be reviewed by the Registration Committee in order to be granted a licence.

Examination and Assessment Pathway Results

All applicants (whether they are graduates of an accredited veterinary school or unaccredited veterinary school) must supply the College with evidence from an approved certification body indicating successful completion of an approved examination and assessment pathway.

Requests for Exemptions

The Registration Committee may consider exempting an applicant from a licensure requirement, including the requirement to complete all or a portion of an approved examination or assessment pathway. Exemptions may be granted with Terms, Conditions or Limitations, and/or additional training activities as specified by the Registration Committee. Exemptions for such an important, comprehensive, objective demonstration of entry-to-practice competencies will require the demonstration of alternative comprehensive and objective evidence of entry-to-practice competencies.

Authority

Veterinarians Act R.S.O. 1990, s. 14
R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 1093: General s. 3

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario veterinarians in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained. The College encourages you to refer to the website (www.cvo.org) to ensure you are referring to the most recent version of any document.