

## ICVA Services for Veterinary Licensing Boards

### NAVLE

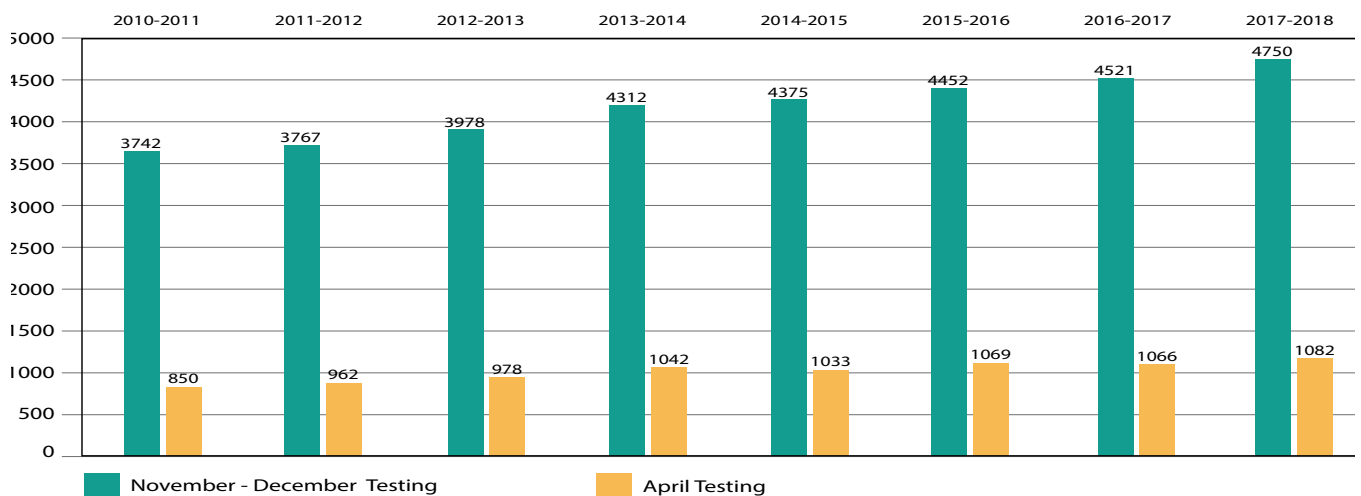
The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE), administered by the ICVA since 2000, is a requirement for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in all licensing jurisdictions in the US and Canada. The NAVLE consists of 360 clinically relevant multiple-choice questions.

The NAVLE is offered at all approved Prometric testing centers domestically and internationally. The NAVLE is available during a four-week testing window in November–December, and a two-week window in April.

The NAVLE is sponsored by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) and the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®). The ICVA supports veterinary licensing authorities through its leadership in the development, delivery, and continual improvement of high-quality assessments across the continuum of veterinarians' preparation for practice.

**NAVLE Exam Administration** – 68,704 candidates have taken the NAVLE as a computer-based test since 2000 - 2001. The total number of tests given (which counts repeating candidates) is 84,517. The chart below shows the total number of candidates who have taken the test since 2010.

NAVLE Candidate Data 2010 - 2018



The chart shows the total number of test takers for three primary groups:

- (1) Criterion Group: senior students of accredited veterinary schools who took the NAVLE for the first time under standard testing conditions;
- (2) Non-criterion Group: senior students of accredited veterinary schools who had previously taken the NAVLE or took the NAVLE with test accommodations or graduate veterinarians from accredited schools; and
- (3) Non-Accredited Group: graduates or senior students of foreign veterinary schools that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education.

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**NAVLE Performance Data** – Complete data can be found here on our website by clicking on the heading “How have others done on the NAVLE”: <https://www.icva.net/faqs/>

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**NAVLE Fees** – The ICVA NAVLE application fee is \$650 for candidates to take the test. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the US or Canada, there is an additional \$305 overseas testing fee.

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### **NAVLE Practice Analysis Summary and Implications for Examination**

This blueprint was submitted as a memo to the Veterinary Licensing Boards on April 25, 2018.

## **North American Veterinary Licensing Examination Practice Analysis Summary and Implications for Examination Blueprint for Veterinary Licensing Boards – April 25, 2018**

### **About the Practice Analysis Survey**

- Consisted of three sections: Demographics and Practice Characteristics, Species and Diagnoses, and Clinical and Professional Competencies. Respondents evaluated specific species or competency statements based on their responses to demographic questions at the beginning of the survey.
- Administered via the web in 2016 to a sample of 19,829 licensed veterinarians throughout the United States and Canada. The web-based survey tailored questions to each respondents’ area of practice due to its dynamic design. A total of 6,975 responses, or 35% of the sample, responded to enough of the survey questions to be included in the survey analysis.

In addition, the NAVLE Practice Analysis Study asked Subject Matter Experts (SME) to further refine NAVLE specifications. Their evaluation identified the criticality of the diagnoses and the competencies. The SMEs also assisted the project team by classifying competency statements into meaningful groups based on their similarities. This information was used to determine the final subgroupings of competency statements.

### **Study Findings**

Based on the results of these activities, a blueprint for the future NAVLE was developed and approved by the ICVA Board (see Fig. 1 and 2). The blueprint consists of three dimensions: (1) Diagnoses (nested within Species), (2) Competencies, and (3) Foundational Veterinary Sciences. **The most notable change in the blueprint is the representation of Public Health, which was removed from the species dimension and integrated into the competency dimension since many public health activities are tran-species.**

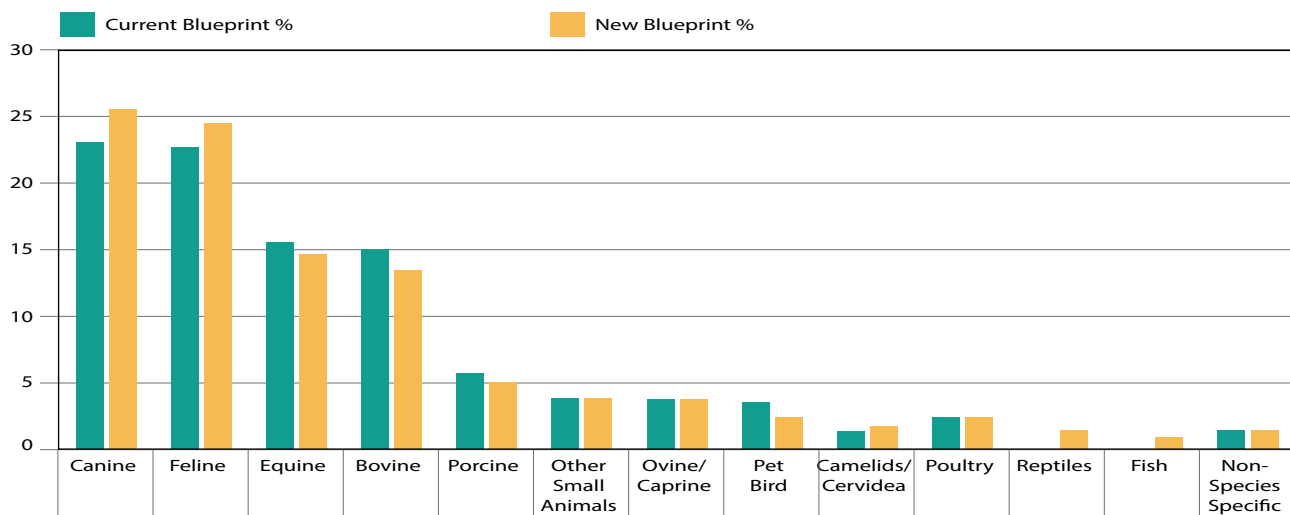
**Next Steps:** SMEs and National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) staff began to re-code the NAVLE item bank based on the new diagnoses and competency codes in the fall of 2017.

**Moving Ahead:** An item-writing workshop was held in February 2018 to train new item writers in the areas of Aquatics and Reptiles. Additionally, **the need for more items about communication skills was identified.** The ICVA will convene a Communications Task Force to start exploring how to increase the item bank of communications items.

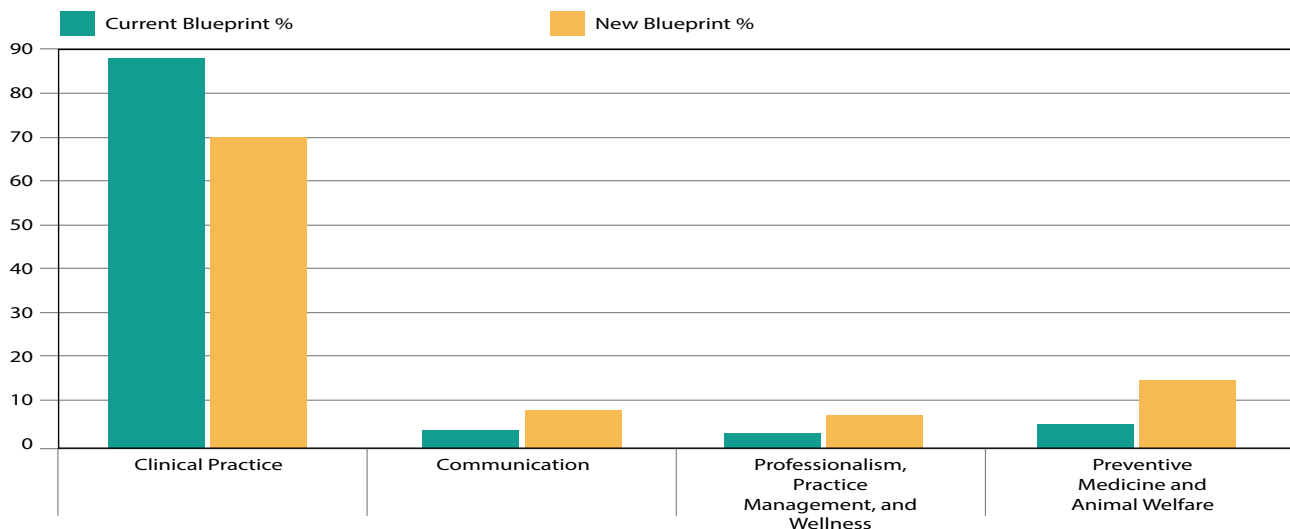
In 2018, beginning with the November/December administration, **examinees will see an increase in aquatics items** as we begin to pretest this content to build the item bank. Also, both Examinee and School feedback will be modified to contain sub-scores on the new competency domains.

In 2019, we anticipate updated examination forms will be built following the new blueprint as permitted by the bank of available items.

(Fig. 1) NAVLE Specifications Based on Species

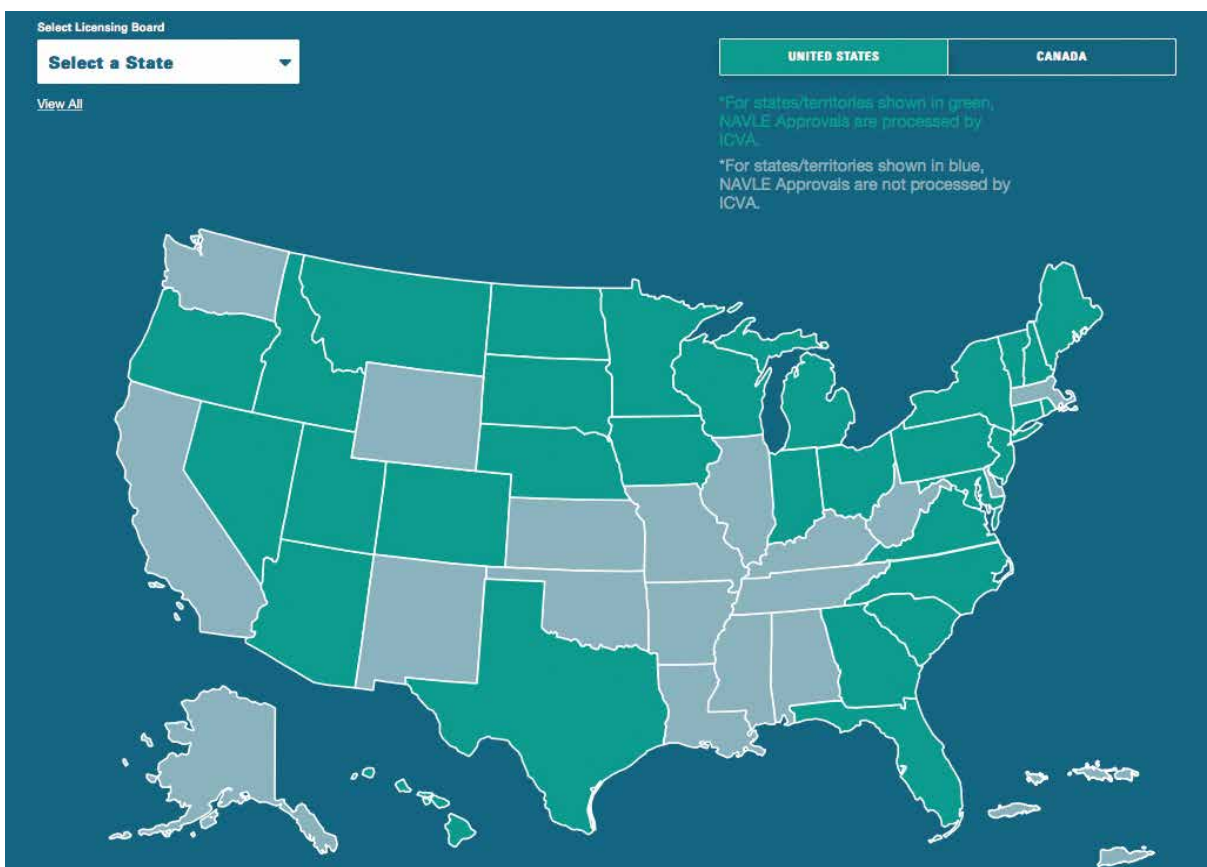


(Fig. 2) NAVLE Specifications Based on Competencies



**NAVLE Practice Exams** – NAVLE practice exams (also known as NAVLE Self-Assessments) are web-based examinations designed to help NAVLE candidates identify their strengths and weaknesses as they prepare for the NAVLE, and to help them learn about the content and format of the NAVLE. Each practice exam costs \$50. Research has confirmed that the projected score range for examinees who take the practice exams under the standard-paced timing mode is predictive of later performance on the NAVLE. NAVLE Self-Assessment forms (four unique forms in English, and three unique forms in French) will be updated in conjunction with any updates made to the NAVLE test forms, as noted in the Practice Analysis information above. Built to the same specifications as NAVLE and using content that is in the same format of NAVLE, the self-assessments may be valuable tools in preparing for NAVLE.

**NAVLE Approvals** – The ICVA currently reviews and approves NAVLE candidates on behalf of 33 licensing boards. This service assists licensing boards to focus resources on licensing priorities. Candidates pay an application fee to ICVA (generally \$55) and there is no cost to the licensing boards.



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**NAVLE volunteer opportunities** – Licensing board members, academicians, current practitioners, and other subject matter experts are needed on an on-going basis as part of ICVA’s commitment to assessment quality. Volunteer opportunities include the following:

- NAVLE Item Writing – writing questions (items) for the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) in accordance with the current NAVLE blueprint.
- Annual Pool reviews – where pretest items from the current cycle and NAVLE items that have not recently been used on the examination are reviewed for accuracy and relevance.
- Annual NAVLE Forms Review – where the NAVLE forms for the upcoming cycle are reviewed and finalized.

All ICVA volunteer reviewers begin the process by attending a one day Item Writers Workshop (IWW) at ICVA’s expense. The next IWW is scheduled for February 27, 2019 in Philadelphia. Anyone interested in volunteering for future committees should contact ICVA (mail@icva.net).

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### **Species Specific Examinations:**

ICVA developed these two examinations for use by licensing boards in evaluating a veterinarian’s knowledge in companion animal or equine medicine. Each examination consists of 100 multiple choice questions, and there are two versions of each available. Each version comes with an ICVA-recommended passing standard. Boards may use the examinations in a disciplinary case for a veterinarian already licensed in the state, or to determine a veterinarian’s competency if that veterinarian has been licensed previously in another jurisdiction (and is now seeking licensure in your state), or for other licensure-related purposes. The fee for each species specific examination is \$400. Currently, the Species Specific Examinations are in a paper-and-pencil format, but will be moving to an on-line format in 2019. Concurrently, we will be conducting a review and revision process of all four test forms, in accordance with best practices for assessment development. ICVA will be sending out further details to the licensing boards prior to this process, including information for interested board members who may want to volunteer as reviewers.

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### **State Board Examinations:**

The Wisconsin Veterinary Examination Board (VEB) requested that ICVA handle the administration of their web-based Wisconsin Rules and Laws Examination for veterinary licensure. The Wisconsin VEB provides ICVA with a list of eligible candidates, and ICVA then coordinates payment (a \$50 fee), test administration, and score reporting to both the Licensing Board and to the examinee. Test administrations began in October 2016.



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## ICVA VISION

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

## ICVA MISSION

Provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

Provide leadership and facilitate collaboration throughout veterinary medicine.

SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD TOGETHER™

