



ICVA Report for Veterinary Schools

NAVLE

The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination®, administered by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (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.

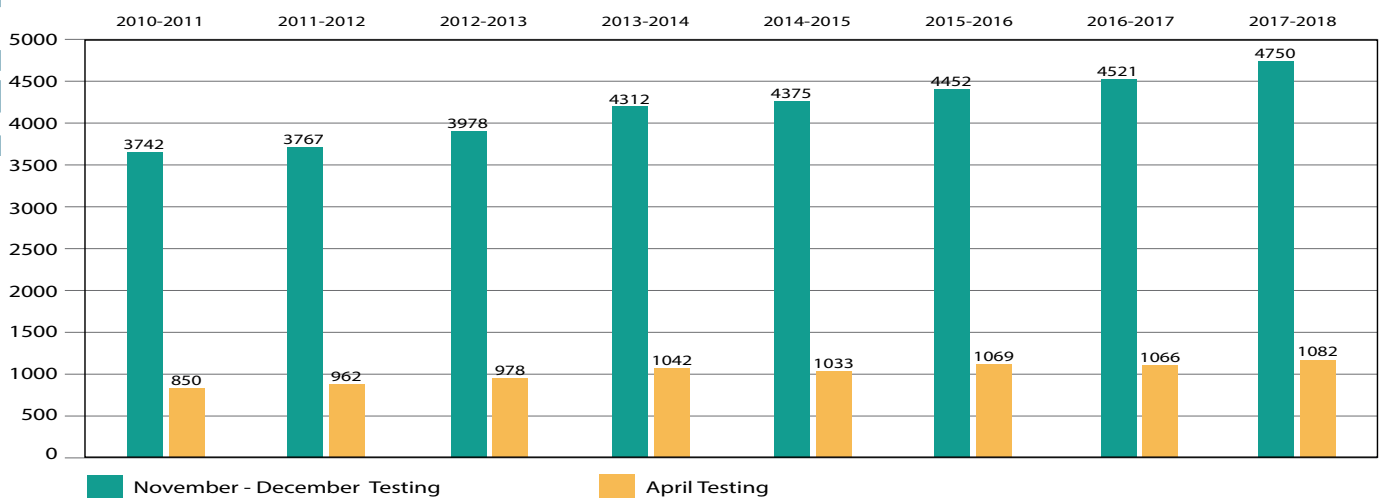
The NAVLE is sponsored by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) and the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®).



NAVLE®

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



Criterion candidates are first-time test takers who are senior students at AVMA Council on Education-accredited veterinary schools taking the test under standard testing conditions.

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

Performance on November/December 2017 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group	507	65	423	10.4%	4062
Non-Criterion Group	458	61	118	28.1%	420
Non-Accredited Group	412	75	157	58.6%	268
Total Group	497	69	698	14.7%	4750

Performance on April 2018 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group	472	68	38	21.1%	180
Non-Criterion Group	440	50	224	39.4%	568
Non-Accredited Group	411	70	199	59.6%	334
Total Group	437	63	461	42.6%	1082

- (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.

NAVLE Species Breakdown

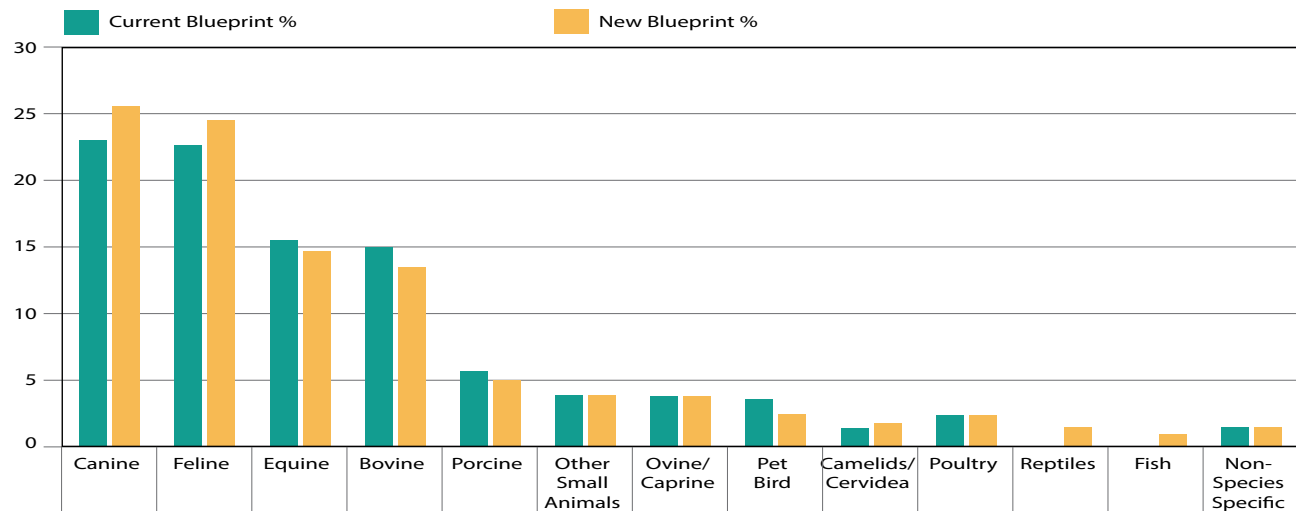
SPECIES	TARGET BLUEPRINT %
Canine	25.6%
Feline	24.3%
Equine	14.7%
Bovine	13.3%
Porcine	5.0%
Other Small Mammals	3.3%
Ovine/Caprine	3.3%
Pet Birds	2.3%
Poultry	2.0%
Non-Species Specific	2.0%
Camelidae/Cervidae	1.7%
Reptiles	1.5%
Aquatics	1.0%
TOTAL	100%



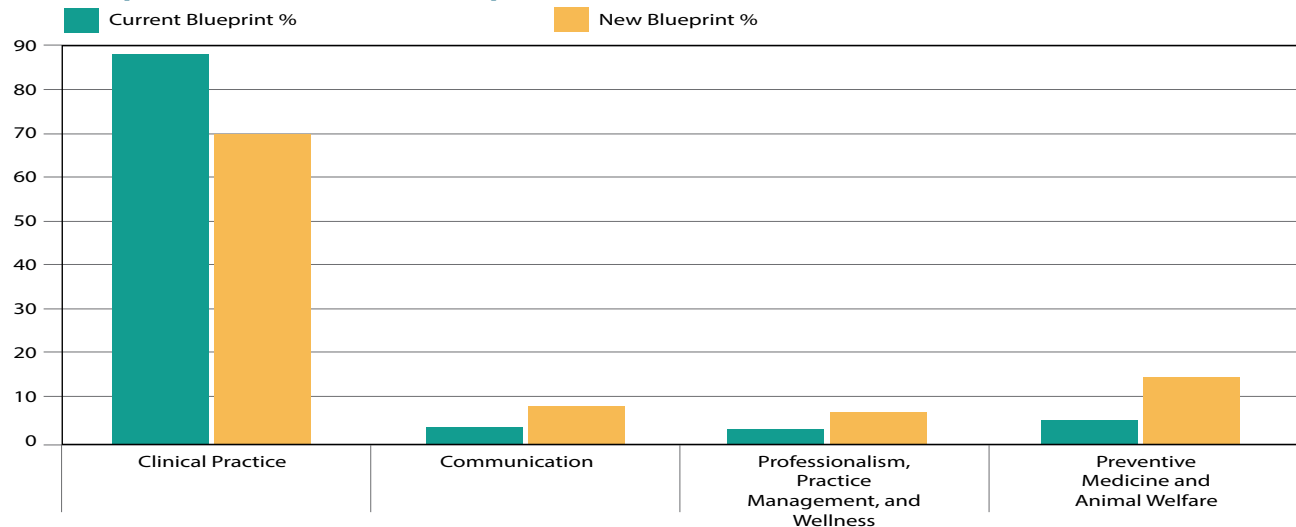
NAVLE Practice Analysis Update – In the fall of 2018, ICVA worked with NBME to gather NAVLE Subject Matter Experts to recode the first group of NAVLE items to match the new NAVLE blueprint. This project is a next step in the NAVLE Practice Analysis Process that began in 2016. Beginning with the 2018 November/December examinations, examinees saw an increase in aquatics and communication items as we began to pretest this content to build the item bank.

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

NAVLE Specifications Based on Species



NAVLE Specifications Based on Competencies



NAVLE Fees – The ICVA NAVLE application fee is currently \$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.

NAVLE Self-Assessments – NAVLE Self-Assessments are web-based practice examinations designed to help candidates identify their strengths and weaknesses as they prepare for the exam. Built to the same specifications as NAVLE and using retired content that is in the same format of NAVLE, the self-assessments may be valuable preparation tools. Research confirms 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.

The practice exams are available for purchase through the ICVA website. Each 200-item assessment costs \$50 and the fee is non-refundable. The assessments are offered in English and French.

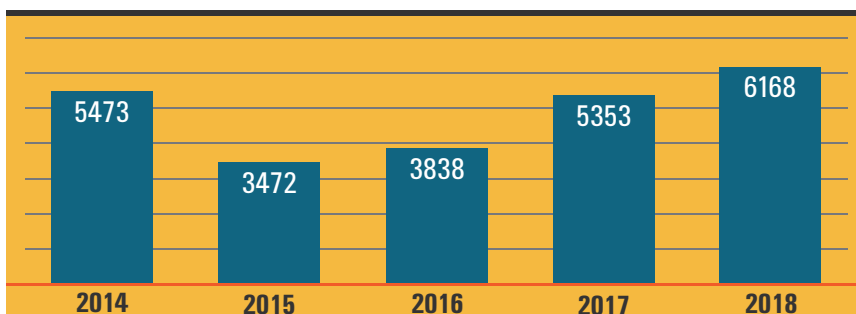
NAVLE Self-Assessments School Use – For the 2018 – 2019 testing cycle, nine schools purchased practice exams for their students. The chart below lists usage by schools for the last three years.

NAVLE Self-Assessments Purchases By Veterinary Schools

Veterinary Schools	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019
Auburn University	12	8	5
Lincoln Memorial	0	87	102
Michigan State University	0	0	117
Mississippi State University	178	87	166
North Carolina State University	0	110	0
Ross University	293	301	145
Tuskegee University	0	67	116
University of Glasgow	42	64	161
University of Melbourne	0	50	55
University of Wisconsin	90	93	84
Total	615	867	951

The chart below reflects total purchases of the practice exams for the years 2014 – 2018 and includes total exams purchased by both students and schools.

Total NAVLE Self-Assessments Purchases



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 items for the NAVLE in accordance with the current NAVLE blueprint.
- Annual NAVLE Pool Reviews – older NAVLE items are reviewed for accuracy and relevance.
- Annual NAVLE Form Reviews – the current NAVLE forms are reviewed prior to use in the next testing cycle.

All ICVA volunteer reviewers begin the process by attending a one-day NAVLE Item Writer Training Workshop (IWTW) at ICVA's expense. These Item Writer Training Workshops are typically held in late February of each year.

VEA

Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA)

The VEA is a 240-item web-based multiple-choice examination covering basic veterinary medical sciences. The five main content areas are anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology. This examination was previously known as the Qualifying Examination (QE).

The VEA offers veterinary schools a comprehensive, standardized, independent assessment of knowledge in basic veterinary medical sciences. It allows schools to track the performance of their students in the above content areas over time, and to compare the performance of their students to that of students from other veterinary schools.

New VEA Performance Guidelines and Updated Score Reports – The new VEA performance guidelines provide a benchmark of minimal competency that schools can use to identify which students need remediation. To define this benchmark, nine ICVA volunteer subject matter experts from across academic veterinary medicine participated as judges in reviewing a representative sample of items covering the major content subdomains: Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Microbiology, and Pathology.

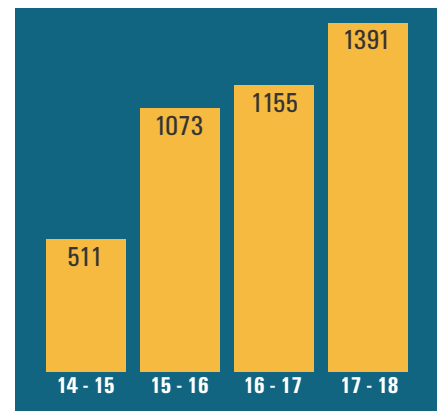
Schools and students now receive percentage and scaled scores at the end of each testing window, along with breakdowns by content area, comparisons to the performance of other candidates, and guidelines for what scores may show a need for remediation. This allows students to receive help, if needed, more quickly than during previous years.

New Research Study:

In 2011, Dr. Jared Danielson of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine led a study exploring the relationship among common student performance measures and how well they predicted a student’s performance on the NAVLE. The study focused on scores such as the GRE, undergraduate GPA, veterinary college GPA, and the VEA. The study revealed that the VEA was the strongest predictor.

Another study is underway in spring of 2019 lead by Dr. Danielson, focusing on concurrent validity. The new study seeks to compare internal veterinary school assessments to students’ performance on the VEA and how well both predict NAVLE performance. Five schools are participating with a data set totaling 4,750 students.

Increased Usage of VEA – The VEA continues to see increased usage. Since the 2014 – 2015 testing cycle, candidate numbers grew 270%. 2017 – 2018 saw an increase of 21% in candidates above the 2016 – 2017 testing cycle. First-time administration of the VEA by several veterinary schools contributed to the increase for the 2017 – 2018 testing cycle.



List of Veterinary Schools Administering the VEA

Testing Cycle	Veterinary Schools
2013 - 2014	Iowa State University, Ross University, the University of Missouri
2014 - 2015	Iowa State University, Ross University, the University of Missouri, the University of Georgia, and St. Matthew’s University
2015 - 2016	Iowa State University, Ross University, the University of Missouri, the University of Georgia, St. Matthew’s University, Tuskegee University, St. George’s University, the University of Tennessee, and Lincoln Memorial University
2016 - 2017	Iowa State University, Ross University, the University of Missouri, St. Matthew’s University, Tuskegee University, St. George’s University, the University of Tennessee, Lincoln Memorial University, Midwestern University, and Purdue University
2017 - 2018	Iowa State University, Ross University, the University of Missouri, St. Matthew’s University, Tuskegee University, St. George’s University, the University of Tennessee, Lincoln Memorial University, Midwestern University, Purdue University, Texas A&M University, Oklahoma State University, the University of Sydney, and University College Dublin

Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group (AVAWG)

The AVAWG was created by the ICVA's Board of Directors in 2017 with the purpose of identifying areas where ICVA can best serve the assessment needs of academic veterinary medicine. The committee represents a broad spectrum of individuals working in the veterinary academic field including psychometricians, professors, academic deans, and experts in pedagogy and teaching.

A current initiative of the AVAWG is development of an assessment grant program to fund research projects focused on veterinary assessment within academia. The purpose of an ICVA assessment grant is to validate current, discover new, implement and support best practices in assessment in veterinary medical education. Proposals that demonstrate capacity in building knowledge of assessment practices/methods (whether pre-clinical or clinical) will be given priority.

In 2019, a total of three \$10,000 grants are available for researchers. The AVAWG will begin accepting letters of intent for the grant program beginning April 1, 2019, with a submission deadline of May 1, 2019. Additional details on the new ICVA Grant Program will be posted on ICVA's website in the News and Updates section by the end of March.



ICVA's Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group (AVAWG) met this past January in Chicago to discuss upcoming initiatives for 2019. From left: Drs. Kathryn Michel, Gary Gackstetter, Jack Wilson, Kent Hecker, Courtney Vengrin, and Malathi Raghavan. Members not pictured: Drs. Jan Ilkiw, Emma Read, Ken Royal, and Liz Norman.



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®

