



# 2020

## REPORT FOR VETERINARY LICENSING BOARDS

SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD TOGETHER®

# Letter from the Chair and CEO

It's difficult to even recall anything before Covid-19. While the months between mid-March and the end of May only occupy the final quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the impact of this unprecedented time is significant and lasting. From the continued change in NAVLE testing dates and windows, to the transition to remote proctoring for the Species Specific Examination, adversity was no match for our dedicated veterinary community.

Through these efforts, ICVA remains on a strong path toward our vision to be the world leader in veterinary assessments and in line with our mission to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.

In the midst of a global pandemic, complete with challenges and uncertainty, we remain thankful – to our tenacious volunteers, to our outstanding staff, to our talented colleagues and candidates, and to the entire veterinary community. The solidarity of people helping each other through hard times shows the extreme commitment of the entire team.



Dr. Mike Chaddock



Dr. Heather Case

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Chaddock".

**Mike Chaddock, DVM, EML**

ICVA Chair  
At-Large

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather Case".

**Heather Case, DVM, MPH,  
DACVPM, CAE**

Chief Executive Officer

## 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.

## VALUES

### Transparency

organizationally and in testing procedures, materials and content

### Confidentiality

when collecting and reporting personal information, credit card data, and test scores

### Reliability

in relevant test design, implementation, and scoring

### Service

to candidates, licensing boards, and society at large

### Respect, Civility & Collegiality

towards staff, stakeholders, board members, and across veterinary medicine

### Integrity

in all actions and business relationships

### Fiscal Responsibility

to ensure continuous improvements in our testing products and customer service, as well as a viable future for our organization

### Diversity and Inclusion

treat everyone with fairness, respect and dignity, and purposefully act to attract and retain staff and Board members with a broad range of ideas, viewpoints, perspectives, expertise and experiences reflecting the diversity of the populations we serve. We respect and value these differences and encourage opportunities to learn from and be enriched by them as they challenge us to grow and think differently.





# North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®)

Administered since 2000, the NAVLE consists of 360 clinically relevant multiple-choice questions and is a requirement for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in all licensing jurisdictions in the US and Canada.

Developed in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) through the Collaboration for Veterinary Assessments Governance Committee (CVAGC), the NAVLE is offered at Prometric computer testing centers throughout North America and certain overseas sites.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

represents a slight decline from the 6173 candidates who tested during the 2018-2019 testing cycle. This decline was due to the substantial number of candidates who deferred from the April 2020 testing window because of the COVID-19 situation.

## CUMULATIVE EXAM COMPLETIONS BY CANDIDATES

2019-2020 TESTING CYCLE

6159

candidates took the NAVLE

November/December

2019

was the first implementation of NAVLE forms per the new NAVLE blueprint

79,885

candidates completed the NAVLE since 2000-2001

96,849

total tests given since 2000-2001

11.55% ↑

candidate pool in the last five years

## ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE PASSING RATE

for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools

95%

2019/2020

94%

2018-2019

0% passing the exam

remains relatively consistent for the past five years

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/>

## NAVLE FEES

The ICVA NAVLE application fee is \$690 U.S.D. for candidates to take the test. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the U.S. or Canada, there is an additional \$330 U.S.D. overseas testing fee.



## COVID-19 RESPONSE

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in several changes to the Spring and Fall 2020 NAVLE administration. As COVID-19 policies and guidelines were released, and continued to rapidly evolve, the ICVA worked hand-in-hand with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and Prometric Testing Centers to make informed decisions regarding testing.

### KEY CHANGES:

#### Extended Exam Completion Options for Candidates

The NAVLE is typically offered twice a year – during a four-week window in November-December, and again during a two-week window in April. This provides most candidates two opportunities to pass the NAVLE before graduating from veterinary school.

In March 2020, as the scale and scope of Prometric Test Center closures began to increase, ICVA proactively gave all current April 2020 NAVLE candidates an extension to complete the exam by May 31, 2020. Once several governmental entities implemented longer closure times and stay-at-home directives, ICVA lengthened the extension to June 30, 2020.

Then, to further assist with candidate scheduling and test administration, ICVA announced all examinees with a current scheduling permit could take the NAVLE through September 30, 2020 – regardless of the country where testing.

#### Opportunity to Defer

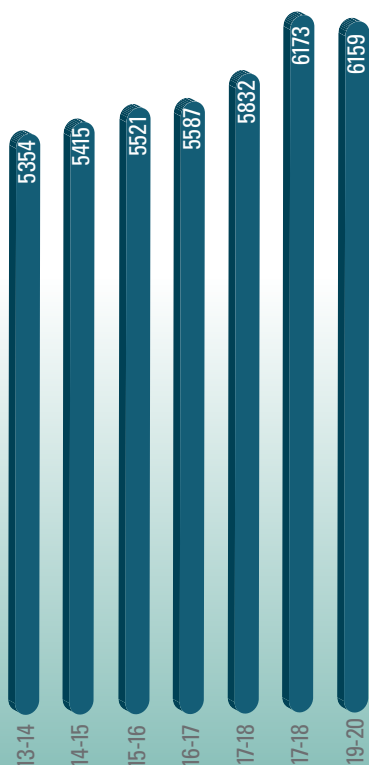
ICVA also provided candidates with an option to defer to the November-December 2020 testing window with no additional fee.

#### Multiple Score Report Releases

Normally, all scores for a testing window come out at once on the same day about a month after the testing window ends. For both of the 2020 NAVLE testing windows, scores are now released on a monthly basis, with tests taken during each month reported approximately two weeks after that month ends, so candidates can complete the licensure process and begin practice.



NAVLE Growth Chart



### Performance on November-December 2019 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group	499	65	474	11.5%	4122
Non-Criterion Group	447	64	179	34.0%	526
Non-Accredited Group	396	69	238	65.4%	364
<b>Total Group</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>5012</b>

### Performance on April 2020 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group	463	61	57	25.0%	228
Non-Criterion Group	443	50	203	33.5%	606
Non-Accredited Group	412	70	169	54.0%	313
<b>Total Group</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>1147</b>

### Performance on Both Administrations by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group	498	65	531	12.2%	4350
Non-Criterion Group	445	57	382	33.7%	1132
Non-Accredited Group	403	70	407	60.1%	677
<b>Total Group</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1302</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>6159</b>

- (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 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.

Each NAVLE self-assessment form consists of 200 multiple-choice items, which are presented in four sections of 50 items each. There are now 2 versions of self-assessments:



### REGULAR & EXPANDED FEEDBACK

#### English

**Form 1** Regular

**Form 2** Expanded  
Feedback

**Form 3** Regular

#### French

**Form 1** Regular

**Form 2** Expanded  
Feedback

Regular  
Self-Assessment

Fee: **\$50**

Expanded Feedback  
Self-Assessment

Fee: **\$65**

The expanded feedback form allows the examinee to review the questions and answers to incorrectly answered questions.

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.



## FREE Self-Assessments

Candidates were offered one FREE web-based NAVLE Self-Assessment (SA) practice exam through December 31, 2020, as they prepared to take the test under unprecedented conditions.





## STANDARD SETTING EXERCISE

As examinations like the NAVLE receive ongoing updates, the passing standard – the amount of knowledge required for passing – is also periodically evaluated through a standard setting exercise to ensure that it continues to be relevant, valid, and defensible. Specifically, for the NAVLE, standard setting is the process by which expert judgment and expertise about the tested content is mapped to the test score scale to describe how much content mastery is required for passing candidates.

Best practices associated with standard setting:

- Each panel of participants is typically made up of 5-15 SMEs with diverse demographic characteristics, geological location of practice, years of experience and veterinary medicine area of focus.
- Participants in the exercise should be guided by a practice analysis, highly familiar with the nature of practice being evaluated, collectively understand practice within important specialty areas and have a stake in the pass/fail decisions to be based on test performance.
- A standard setting exercise is recommended on a periodic basis to make sure the current passing rates still represent the standard of minimal competency necessary for safe and effective practice.

As one of the final steps in the updating process, the ICVA and National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) completed three



NAVLE Standard Setting Panels

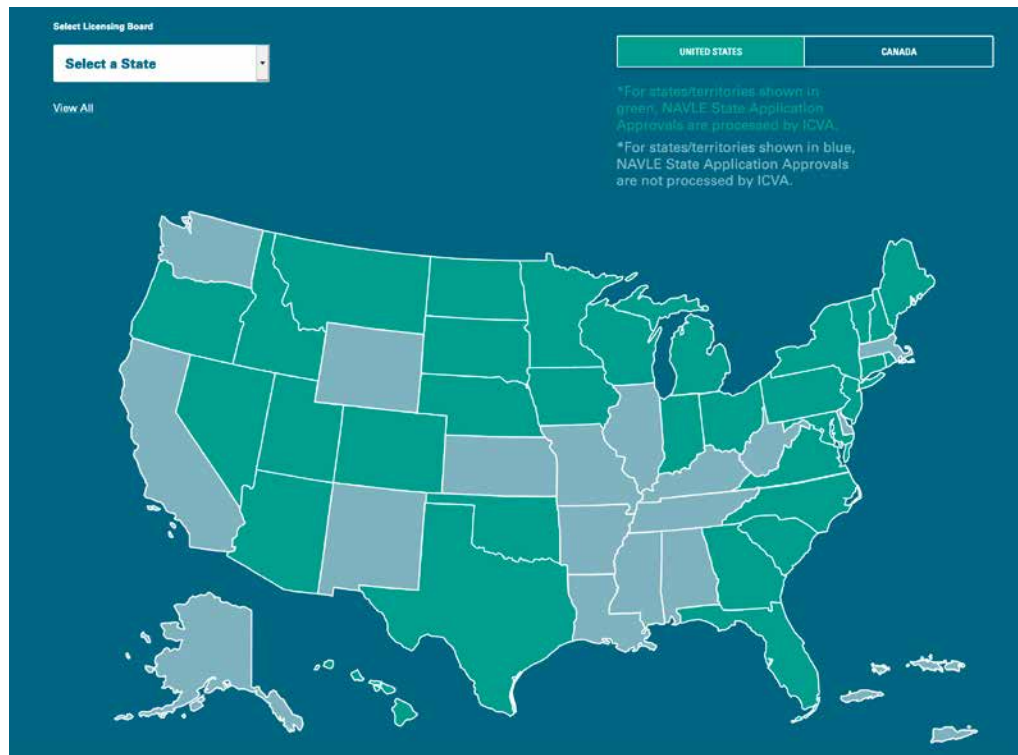
standard setting meetings to ensure the NAVLE passing score criterion is still appropriate and reflects minimum competency:

**October**  
3-4, 2019

**October**  
28-29, 2019

**November**  
14-15, 2019

To ensure that the broad range of species and competencies on the NAVLE are all evaluated appropriately, over **30 experts** across a range of species and competency specialties participated in the exercises.



## NAVLE APPROVALS

The ICVA currently reviews and approves NAVLE candidates on behalf of 34 licensing boards. This service allows licensing boards to focus resources on licensing priorities. Candidates pay an application fee to ICVA (\$55) and there is no cost to the licensing boards.



# Species Specific Examinations

At the request of licensing boards, in 2000 the ICVA developed the Species Specific examinations to evaluate a veterinarian's knowledge in companion animal or equine medicine. Veterinarians may take one or both of the examinations, depending on the needs of the licensing board.

Available in multiple forms of each examination, the 100 multiple-choice exam is only available to licensing boards. Exams are used to assess a veterinarian's competency in disciplinary cases or as verification of competency for a veterinarian who is licensed in another jurisdiction.



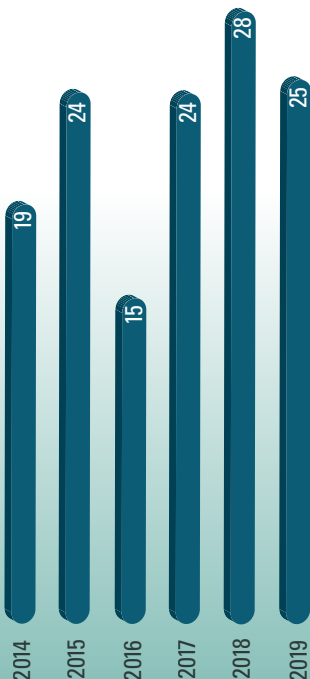
Species Specific exams given:  
**24**  
total in 2019/2020



**COVID**

ICVA implemented options to allow remote proctoring

Species Specific Use



**29%**  
Percent paper/pencil

vs

**71%**  
Online

## Use of Species Specific Exams by Licensing Board and Year

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
Arizona	5.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	26.3%	29.2%	13.3%	29.2%	14.29%	9.0%	-
Georgia	-	-	-	-	3.57%	4.0%	-
Kansas	-	4.2%	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	-	-	-	4.2%	7.14%	-	-
Minnesota	15.8%	-	-	4.2%	-	4.0%	7.0%
Nevada	52.6%	66.7%	86.7%	58.3%	67.86%	86.0%	93.0%
Ontario	-	-	-	4.2%	3.57%	5.0%	-
U.S. Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	3.57%	-	-

\*2020 numbers are year to date.



# 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** – NAVLE forms are reviewed prior to use in the next testing cycle.

**300+**  
total volunteers



Volunteering for the ICVA allows you to share your area of expertise and meet wonderful, dedicated colleagues from across the many specialties of veterinary medicine, all while working towards the common goal of improving the assessments used in veterinary medicine. It is very rewarding to give back to our profession!”

– Teresa Morishita, DVM, MPVM, MS, PhD, DACPV, Professor of Poultry Medicine & Food Safety and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine



Volunteering with the ICVA is a wonderful opportunity to help set standards for the profession, as well as to improve your individual ability to understand assessment on a professional level. It’s also a great place to meet experts in different areas of veterinary medicine!”

– Tamara Swor, DVM, DACVS-LA, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine



As a veterinary student and graduate of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, I did not realize the commitment, intensity or passion for item-writing that NAVLE authors bring to the table. I keep on coming back to the table, year after year, because I am inspired by the authors that I work with on an annual basis.”

– Ryane E. Englar, DVM, DABVP, Associate Professor, University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine

**If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the ICVA, please contact our office at [mail@icva.net](mailto:mail@icva.net).**

