

2020

BY THE NUMBERS – REPORT FOR VETERINARY SCHOOLS

SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD TOGETHER®

Letter to Our Stakeholders

As we share highlights in this **2020 By the Numbers** report, it's difficult to even recall anything before Covid-19. The impact of this unprecedented time is significant and lasting. From the continued change in NAVLE testing, to the transition to remote proctoring options for the VEA, adversity was no match for our dedicated veterinary community.

Through these efforts, ICVA remains on a strong path forward to be the world leader in veterinary assessments and 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 hard-working stakeholders in academia, 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. Karen Robertson



Dr. Heather Case

Karen Robertson,
DVM, DACVPM
ICVA Chair

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.

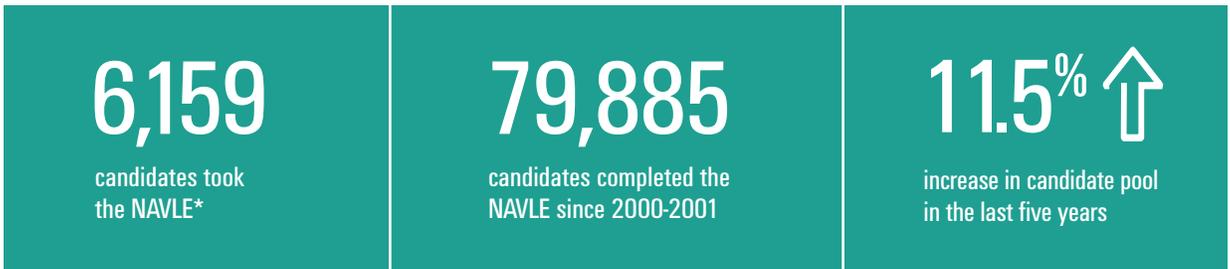


North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®)

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), the NAVLE is offered at Prometric computer testing centers throughout North America and certain overseas sites.

Cumulative Exam Completions by Candidates



*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.

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

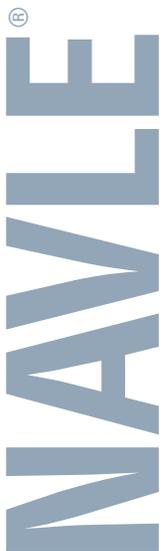
The ICVA NAVLE application fee is \$690 U.S.D. for candidates to take the test. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the U.S. or Canada, there is an additional \$330 U.S.D. overseas testing fee.

Ultimate Performance Passing Rate

for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools



% passing the exam remains relatively consistent for the past five years





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 expanded September – December 2020 testing window with no additional fee. Due to COVID-related Prometric site closures, an option was added for candidates to defer to the March-May 2021 window if necessary.

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 were released on a monthly basis, with tests taken during each month reported approximately two weeks after that month ended, so candidates could complete the licensure process and begin practice.



NAVLE Standard Setting Panels



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, geographical 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.

For more information about the NAVLE standard setting process, please contact the ICVA.



Experts across a range of species and competency specialties participated in the exercises



Standard setting exercises



NAVLE Self-Assessments

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 and Expanded Feedback

English

Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback
Form 3 Regular

French

Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback

\$50

Regular
Self-Assessment Fee

\$65

Expanded Feedback
Self-Assessment Fee

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.

Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA)

Designed as an independent assessment of basic veterinary medical sciences knowledge, the VEA is a 240-item web-based standardized examination.

The VEA is made available to veterinary schools to assess students' knowledge of subjects taught in the first two years of the curriculum of accredited veterinary schools and to give them experience taking a standardized multiple-choice examination.



The VEA covers five content areas:



During the 2019-2020 testing cycle:

- 1,601 students took the VEA over three testing windows at 12 schools, including three schools testing 143 candidates remotely
- 4% increase over 2018-2019 testing cycle
- 49.2% over the last five years



New VEA proctoring option was piloted in 2020 and remote proctoring started in May 2020.

VEA Research

Dr. Jared Danielson, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, completed a research study comparing internal veterinary school assessments to students' performance on the VEA and how well both measures predict clinical science knowledge. This study differs from previous research conducted in 2011 in that it focuses on how students perform at school in the five major content areas the VEA tests: anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology and pathology. Five schools are participating in the study, with a data set totaling 4,750 students. Findings from the research were initially set for release in early 2020, but with the COVID-19 situation, that window has been pushed to 2021.

In the interim, Dr. Danielson and ISU's Dr. Rebecca Burzette completed a paper discussing the use of undergraduate GPA and GRE Verbal Scores to predict achievement on three important subsequent measures, including the VEA, NAVLE, and veterinary GPA. Their work found significant positive relationships between both predictors and VEA. This paper was published in the *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* journal and can be accessed here: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2020.576354/full>

VEA Pool Review Meeting

Twenty-seven subject matter experts met virtually on October 26-30, 2020 to review several hundred items from the VEA item bank. Assisted by test development staff from the NBME, these experts in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology, and pathology assessed the viability for continued use of VEA test items in upcoming forms of the examination. Drs. Case, Million, and Hecker from the ICVA staff also attended the sessions.

VEA Pool Review Participants: Drs. Lora Ballweber, Linda Berent, Daniel Brown, Stephen Cole, David Cross, Abdalla Eljack, Tim Evans, Virginia Faji, Hilari French, Hari Goyal, Sagar Goyal, Megan Jacob, Jennifer Ketzis, Judy Klimek, M. Cathleen Kovarik, Brendan Lee, Martha Littlefield, Puliur MohanKumar, Sheba MohanKumar, Jeffrey Musser, Carly Patterson, Karen Russell, Wayne Schwark, Devendra Shah, Cathryn Sparks, Michael Stonerook, T. Thippeswamy, and Maureen Wichtel.

VEA



Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee*

Assessment Tools and Resources

With the move to remote exams and the emphasis on online learning, ICVA's Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee curated a list of veterinary assessment resources. The resource list is updated regularly as more resources are made available online: <https://www.icva.net/resources/assessment-resources/>

Assessment Grant Program

In 2019, the Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC) initiated the ICVA Assessment Grant pilot 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 veterinary medical education assessment.

The entry deadline for the second year of the Assessment Grant program was extended to July 6, 2020. The ICVA received 6 letters of intent and from those letters of intent, the AVAWG sent invitations for full proposals to all 6 applicants.

2020 ICVA Assessment Grant Program Recipients



Dr. Carla Gartrell and her co-investigator, Dr. Abolfazl Ghasemi, from Midwestern University, College of Veterinary Medicine, "Longitudinal Tracking of Outcomes Assessment: Growth Trajectories of Student Academic Success."



Dr. Sam Karpen, Director of Assessment at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, "Examining the psychometric properties of virtual objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE)s and how the move to online affects the quality of the assessments."

The 2021 Assessment Grant Program

- April 1: Grant announcement and forms made available**
- May 1: Letter of intent**
- June 1: Full proposal invitation**
- July 31: Deadline submission**
- August: Application review**
- September: Applicants notified of award**

*The ICVA BOD voted to make the Academic Veterinary Assessment Working Group a standing ICVA Committee at their August 2020 BOD meeting.

"It's imperative to look at the landscape of assessment practices to determine what resource constraints exist and what is feasible and practical as we move forward. **There is a tremendous opportunity** here to build some really interesting, unique, vet specific assessment methodologies."

– **Dr. Kent Hecker**,
Chief Assessment Officer
of the ICVA

