

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE®)

2024-2025 Technical Report



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This report addresses data relevant to the North American Veterinary Licensing
Examination® (NAVLE®) for the designated testing cycle specified on the front
cover.

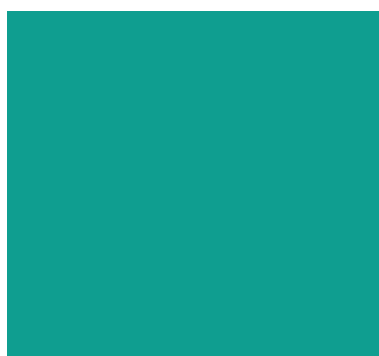
For general inquiries contact:



P.O. Box 1356
Bismarck, ND 58502
Website: <http://www.icva.net/>

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INTRODUCTION

The International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA®) provides the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) to assist the State Boards of Veterinary Medicine, the Canadian National Examining Board (NEB), and the Provincial Boards of Veterinary Medicine in evaluating the clinical competence of candidates seeking veterinary licensure. The NAVLE follows the [exam blueprint](#) and demonstrates the following primary objectives:

NAVLE OBJECTIVES

- 1 Provide a comprehensive objective examination to state, territorial, or provincial boards charged with the licensing of veterinarians.
- 2 Protect the public by ensuring that veterinarians demonstrate a specified level of knowledge and skills before entering veterinary practice.
- 3 Assess the professional competency of veterinarians in terms of their qualifications to enter private clinical practice.
- 4 Provide a common standard in the evaluation of candidates that will be comparable from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
- 5 Contribute to the veterinary profession through the development of improved definitions of the relationship between knowledge and professional practice.
- 6 Facilitate interstate/interprovincial licensing reciprocity for practicing veterinarians.

The computer-based NAVLE, developed for use by the state boards of veterinary medicine, serves as the standardized licensing examination for veterinary medicine across North America. The NAVLE is consistently administered and scored in accordance with the policies and procedures established and approved by the ICVA. Expertise in subject matter is contributed by members of the ICVA committees and designated item writers. **This report outlines the development, administration, and psychometric evaluation of the NAVLE for the 2024-2025 testing cycle.**



TEST DEVELOPMENT

The ICVA identified 32 veterinarians to write new items for NAVLE. All writers were trained in best practices for item writing before authoring test items. Item-writing assignments based on species, organ system, and competency codes were distributed to writers.

All new items were edited and reviewed for grammatical and technical flaws by NBME staff. Each author received his/her edited items for review and approval before inclusion in the item review meeting draft. A draft of edited materials was sent to the committee members for use at the item review meeting.

At the item review meeting, on November 8-9, 2023, committee members met to review all new items to determine their appropriateness for NAVLE and to ensure that the content reflects the common best practices in the United States and Canada. After the meeting, approved items were added to the pool of items for pretesting. A list of item writers and reviewers is shown in [Appendix A](#).

Multiple 300-item examination forms were generated from the NAVLE item bank using content and statistical constraints. Subject matter experts and recent veterinary graduates met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 9-10, 2024, to review the draft forms. Participants reviewed complete forms for quality, content overlap, and to ensure content equivalence. Following the meeting, NBME staff then replaced the items and created updated forms. The list of participants for the form review meetings is shown in [Appendix B](#).

After the English forms were finalized, the Canadian National Examining Board (NEB) assisted the ICVA with French translation and proofreading. Once the French forms were finalized, resource files for both the English and French versions of the examination were transmitted to Prometric for delivery. Quality control procedures were implemented at each stage of the test development process to ensure that standards are met.



TEST ADMINISTRATION

Pre-Administration

Seat Blocking

The NBME worked with the ICVA and Prometric to block seats at selected testing centers domestically and internationally. Data from the previous year were used to forecast the number of seats required for candidates during the 2024-2025 NAVLE cycle.

Eligibility Processing

The ICVA and the NBME processed the eligibility of 6,990 candidates for the November-December NAVLE window and 2,586 for the April window. Special accommodations in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and non-standard testing conditions due to temporary medical situations were approved by the ICVA and were processed by the NBME for 660 individuals for the November-December NAVLE and 418 individuals for the April NAVLE.

Examination Summary

November-December 2024

The November-December testing window spanned from November 4, 2024, to December 21, 2024. 6,831 examinees completed testing by the end of the administration window.

Exit Survey Information

Examinees were asked to complete an optional post-test survey after completing the last block of examination items. Survey results for examinees from the November-December and April NAVLE are presented in [Appendix C](#).



April 2025

The April testing window included examinees testing from April 1 to April 26, 2025. 2,470 examinees completed testing by the end of the administration period.

SCORING AND ANALYSIS

Key Validation/Pool Review

Based on the results of an item analysis, live and pretest items were selected to be reviewed at the January 2024 pool review. After reviewing the items and their associated statistics, content experts had the opportunity to either keep/add to the NAVLE item bank, rewrite items for future pre-testing, or delete or rekey items from the NAVLE item bank. Once the item bank was updated, forms for the November-December 2024 and April 2025 administrations were built using items with statistics that met the psychometric requirements for inclusion.

Summary Statistics

Summary statistics describing the performance of candidates on the November - December 2024 administration, the April 2025 administration, and the two NAVLE administrations combined are shown in Tables 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3. These tables present the mean three-digit scaled scores, standard deviations, along with numbers and percentages for failing candidates in three primary groups:

Passing Standard

It is a best practice in assessment to regularly conduct standard-setting exercises to keep the exam relevant, valid, and defensible. These exercises help gather evidence on how well individual items perform, which reflects the minimum competency needed. This information helps set the right pass/fail score for the exam. The NAVLE has held standard-setting exercises periodically, with the latest one in 2022.

In the most recent standard-setting process for the NAVLE, three virtual exercises took place from July to September 2022. Twenty-five panelists took part, with each panel consisting of 5 to 15 Subject Matter Experts from various backgrounds, experience levels, and areas of veterinary medicine. Failure rates from applying this standard in the current administration are shown in Tables 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3.

Scoring Procedures

Statistical targets were used to ensure that the test forms were as similar as possible in difficulty. Because test forms contain different items, it was necessary to estimate examinee proficiency on a common scale using equating methods. This involved calibrating responses given by senior students of accredited programs taking the examination for the first time, under standard testing conditions. These proficiency estimates were then translated into the reported scale scores ranging from 200 to 800. The proficiency estimate corresponding to a minimum passing score had a scale score value of 425.

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.
3	Non-Accredited Group	Graduates or senior students of international veterinary schools not accredited by the AVMA-COE.

TABLE 1.1. Performance on the November-December 2024 NAVLE By Examinee Group

	MEAN SCALE SCORE	SD SCALE SCORE	NUMBER OF EXAMINEES FAILING	PERCENT OF EXAMINEES FAILING	TOTAL EXAMINEES
Criterion Group	487	67	820	17.6	4,658
Non-Criterion Group	434	61	538	42.8	1,258
Non-Accredited Group	401	72	557	60.9	915
Total Group	466	74	1,915	28.0	6,831

TABLE 1.2. Performance on the April 2025 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	MEAN SCALE SCORE	SD SCALE SCORE	NUMBER OF EXAMINEES FAILING	PERCENT OF EXAMINEES FAILING	TOTAL EXAMINEES
Criterion Group	459	68	94	29.5	319
Non-Criterion Group	424	49	617	47.7	1,293
Non-Accredited Group	401	69	551	64.2	858
Total Group	420	62	1,262	51.1	2,470

TABLE 1.3. 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	485	67	914	18.4	4,977
Non-Criterion Group	429	56	1,155	45.3	2,551
Non-Accredited Group	401	71	1,108	62.5	1,773
Total Group	454	74	3,177	34.2	9,301

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

APPENDIX A

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) Item Review Participants November 8-9, 2023

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ Dr. Rose Baker | ➤ Dr. Chelsea Holschbach | ➤ Dr. Karen Rosenthal |
| ➤ Dr. Stacey Byers | ➤ Dr. Jared Janke | ➤ Dr. Gretchen Schoeffler |
| ➤ Dr. Christine Calder | ➤ Dr. Lester Khoo | ➤ Dr. Clare Scully |
| ➤ Dr. Serge Chalhoub | ➤ Dr. Matthew Kornya | ➤ Dr. Tamara Swor |
| ➤ Dr. Alice Chapman | ➤ Dr. Wesley Lyons | ➤ Dr. Danielle Teehan |
| ➤ Dr. Allan Corber | ➤ Dr. Kathleen MacMillan | ➤ Dr. Karen Tefft |
| ➤ Dr. Ryane Englar | ➤ Dr. Teresa Morishita | ➤ Dr. Helen Tuzio |
| ➤ Dr. Julie Fixman | ➤ Dr. Jeffrey Musser | ➤ Dr. Jonathan Yardley |
| ➤ Dr. Brad Heins | ➤ Dr. Maria Prado | ➤ Dr. Bianca Zaffarano |



APPENDIX B

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®) Form Review Participants April 9-10, 2024

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| ➤ Dr. Gordon Atkins | ➤ Dr. Brad Heins | ➤ Dr. Clare Scully |
| ➤ Dr. Madonna Benjamin | ➤ Dr. Christine Higbie | ➤ Dr. Ricardo Stockler |
| ➤ Dr. Joseph Butterweck | ➤ Dr. Chelsea Holschbach | ➤ Dr. Tamara Swor |
| ➤ Dr. Stacey Byers | ➤ Dr. Lester Khoo | ➤ Dr. Danielle Teehan |
| ➤ Dr. Christine Calder | ➤ Dr. Amanda Maclean | ➤ Dr. Christina Tran |
| ➤ Dr. Daniel Carreño | ➤ Dr. Kathleen MacMillan | ➤ Dr. Helen Tuzio |
| ➤ Dr. Cheryl Dhein | ➤ Dr. Danielle Mayr | ➤ Dr. Douglas Whiteside |
| ➤ Dr. Julie Fixman | ➤ Dr. Teresa Morishita | ➤ Dr. Maureen Wichtel |
| ➤ Dr. Sagar Goyal | ➤ Dr. Mo Salman | ➤ Dr. Jonathan Yardley |
| ➤ Dr. Tamara Gull | ➤ Dr. Taryn Schairer | |



APPENDIX C

TEST ADMINISTRATION STATISTICS	NOV-DEC 2024	APRIL 2025
➤ Eligible examinees (Scheduling and Admission Permits Sent)	6,990	2,586
➤ Examinees Tested	6,831	2,470
➤ Examinees with Test Accommodations	660	418
➤ Number in Criterion Group	4,658	319
➤ Percent in Criterion Group	68%	13%

EXAMINEE RESPONSES TO POST-TEST SURVEY (CRITERION CANDIDATES)	NOV-DEC 2024	APRIL 2025
➤ Received First Choice of Test Site	94%	95%
➤ Received First Choice of Test Date	87%	70%
➤ No Computer Difficulties Were Encountered	92%	97%
➤ No Distractions in Testing Area, Site, or Outside Site	40%	47%
➤ Not Enough Time for Test	39%	43%





Contact: mail@icva.net

Website: www.icva.net

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