



2024 BY THE NUMBERS - REPORT FOR VETERINARY SCHOOLS

SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD TOGETHER®

Letter from the Chair and CEO



As we share our 2024 *By The Numbers* report, it's incredible to consider all of the events that have impacted our community since 2020. For the ICVA's part, we have continued expansion of NAVLE testing windows and provided remote proctoring options for the VEA as measures to assist with the increasing number of candidates in both exam programs. ICVA is also taking steps on a number of new initiatives to assist our stakeholders, and we are pleased to report on these exciting projects in this report. Our veterinary community has been extraordinary, continually adjusting to every change in circumstance over the past few years.

We're so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey — our wonderful volunteers, our dedicated staff, and our amazing partners in academia. Through this tumultuous period, the veterinary community's continued determination and resolve speak to an exciting future.



As ICVA moves forward, we strive to be the world leader in veterinary assessment and continuing to provide world-class examinations and other assessment tools to protect the public, and animal health and welfare.



Fernando Marqués,
DVM, DACVIM, DACVSMR
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 U.S. and Canada.

Cumulative Exam Completions by Candidates

8,230

candidates for 2022-2023

125,100

total candidates have taken the exam to date

33.3%

increase in exams delivered in the past 5 years

Ultimate Performance Passing Rate

for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools

2021-2022 - 90%

2022-2023 - 86%



NAVLE Fees

The NAVLE fee for the upcoming 2024-2025 testing cycle is \$760, in U.S. funds. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the U.S. or Canada, there is an additional \$365 fee for international testing.

NAVLE Candidate Dashboard

ICVA has designed an on-line dashboard where individual candidates are able to review their progress through the system from the point their application is downloaded into the ICVA database to the time they receive their passing NAVLE score and move into the veterinary licensure process. The dashboard provides information on approval status, accommodation request status, permit availability, and score report release.



The Next Phase – beyond COVID

As we move beyond the recent COVID pandemic, we continue to see increasing numbers of NAVLE candidates worldwide. Our commitment to having candidates test safely and receive score reports in a timely manner to proceed with licensing, while maintaining the high standards of the NAVLE itself, remains a top priority.

Going forward, ICVA is assessing how all aspects of the NAVLE process (from application through score reporting) can be revised to meet the changing needs of those involved.

KEY CHANGES

Extended and Additional Exam Windows for Candidates

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NAVLE was offered twice a year – during a four-week window in November-December, and again during a two-week window in April. This provided most candidates two opportunities to pass the NAVLE before graduating from veterinary school.



At the request of Prometric, ICVA proactively gave all 2023 Spring and Fall NAVLE candidates an expanded timeframe to complete the exam. The Spring NAVLE testing window ran from April 3-22, 2023, and the Fall 2023 NAVLE window ran from November 1 - December 16, 2023. This was done to allow for additional scheduling capacity to serve the increasing number of NAVLE candidates.

Moving into 2024 and beyond, NAVLE testing windows will be updated due to larger numbers of NAVLE candidates and limited capacity at Prometric Testing Centers. The increase involves several factors, including increasing numbers of AVMA-accredited schools, larger class sizes at AVMA-accredited schools, and increasing numbers of candidates from the ECFVG and PAVE educational equivalency programs. Beginning with the 2025-2026 testing cycle, ICVA will move to three testing windows each year – a four-week window from mid-October to mid-November, a three-week window in March, and a three-week window in mid-July to early August.

Early Application and Advance Scheduling

Candidates for the Spring and Fall 2023 NAVLE testing windows were encouraged to apply early. In order to ease scheduling, candidates also received access to their scheduling and admission e-permits online earlier, allowing them to make their testing appointments with Prometric as soon as the permits were ready. This practice will continue for the foreseeable future.



Changes to NAVLE Application Process

In response to the changing needs of NAVLE candidates and their growing numbers, ICVA will make three major changes to the NAVLE application process beginning with the November-December 2024 testing window.

First, NAVLE candidates will be provided with an option to be approved directly by the ICVA and not through a US or Canadian licensing board. These candidates will then not have their NAVLE score report sent to a specific licensing board after score release. Their NAVLE score information would be on file with AAVSB for future transfers to the licensing boards of their choosing. NAVLE candidates will still be provided the option to apply through a licensing board, as had been required for previous administrations.



Second, the licensing board selected on a NAVLE application will not be able to be changed after submission. Candidates will need to be aware that if they choose a licensing board with an early application deadline or a board with specific documentation requirements, they will no longer be able to switch to another board for the NAVLE approval process.



Third, AVMA-accredited schools that provide a roster to the ICVA for the NAVLE approval process will need to provide their senior student information no later than May 31. Any changes to the eligibility standing of senior students must be accompanied by written notification from the school of the student's new expected graduation date, and the provision of a new roster for ICVA use.

NAVLE Self-Assessments

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 self-assessment form consists of 200 retired NAVLE items, which are presented in four sections of 50 items each. All NAVLE Self-Assessments follow the current blueprint of the NAVLE.



Each 200-item assessment costs \$50, with multiple English and French versions offered. Additionally, at a cost of \$65 per form, there is one form in each language with expanded feedback that includes correct answers to individual questions that were answered incorrectly.

There are 2 types of self-assessments: Regular and Expanded Feedback

English Form 1 - Regular Form 2 - Expanded Feedback Form 3 - Regular	\$50 Regular Self-Assessment Fee
French Form 1 - Regular Form 2 - Expanded Feedback	\$65 Expanded Feedback Self-Assessment Fee

A score report is available immediately after completing a self-assessment, showing the strengths and weaknesses in performance for each of the main topic areas. The report also indicates the performance of a comparison group of candidates on the same items. The score report includes a projected NAVLE score range based on the participant's performance on the assessment.

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

Schools interested in providing NAVLE Self-Assessment vouchers for their students should contact [ICVA](#).



Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA)

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 over time, and to compare the performance of their students to that of students from other veterinary schools.

The VEA is a 240-item web-based standardized examination covering five content areas:

Anatomy

Physiology

Pharmacology

Microbiology

Pathology

2022-2023 TESTING CYCLE

23.7%

Increase over the last five years



1,781

students were submitted to take the VEA over three testing windows at 14 schools, with either in-person or remote testing

VEA Exam Fee

The VEA candidate fee remains \$75, payable by the school to the ICVA. An on-line order form was added to the ICVA website, where schools upload their roster and pay the VEA fee with a credit card.

VEA Proctoring Options

VEA remote proctoring started in May 2020 to allow for more accessible testing during the pandemic. The web-based proctoring system used for the VEA allows for the proctors (individuals from the school designated to assist with the administration of the assessment) to give the test to students on-site, off-site, or a mix of both. If there are students taking the VEA outside of an on-campus site, the proctor can use a third-party video conferencing system of their choosing (such as Zoom or Teams) to watch over the students during the administration.

VEA Workshops

Since 2022, ICVA has offered VEA workshops for participating institutions. These workshops support schools using VEA to measure student knowledge in the veterinary basic sciences.

The VEA Data Workshops are interactive events designed for anyone working with VEA data or with students taking the VEA, regardless of their institutional role or title. These virtual workshops provide additional information on how to effectively communicate and use the feedback provided by the Veterinary Educational Assessment (VEA). Two tracks of workshops are offered - one for those new to the VEA and one for those who are seeking more advanced skill-building. The primary workshop - *Introduction to VEA Reports and Data Sets* - will be offered every fall in order to benefit any faculty or staff unfamiliar with the VEA. Advanced workshops will be held each spring, beginning with *The Basics of Data Visualization*, which will allow participants to develop skills in data visualization while utilizing VEA data.





Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee

The Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC) is charged by the ICVA BOD with identifying what assessments and measurement resources currently exist across academia, and where ICVA could best serve the assessment needs of academic veterinary medicine. Current initiatives include overseeing ICVA's Assessment Grant Program, promoting Assessment Development Workshops, and developing and updating the Assessment Tools and Resources page on ICVA's website.

Currently, there are ten members of the AVAC and five ICVA staff providing support.

AVAC Committee Members 2023-2024

Elizabeth Armitage-Chan, MA, VetMB, PhD, ACVAA, FHEA, MRCVS, University of London-RVC, London, UK

Kristin Chaney, DVM, ACVIM (LIAM), ACVECC, Texas A&M University-CVM, College Station, TX

Pedro Diniz, DVM, PhD, Western University-CVM, Pomona, CA

Tamara Hancock, DVM, MS, DACVP, PhD, University of Missouri-CVM, Columbia, MO

Kathryn Michel, DVM, MS, MSED, DACVN, University of Pennsylvania-CVM, Philadelphia, PA

Liz Norman, BVSc, MVM, EdD, MANZCVS, Massey University, CS, Palmerston North, NZ

Emma O'Neill, BSc, BVSC, PhD, DSAM ECVIP-CA, PGDip, University College of Dublin-CVM, Dublin, IE

Malathi Raghavan, DVM, MS, PhD, Purdue University-CVM, West Lafayette, IN

Fern Tablin, VDM, PhD, University of California, Davis, CA

Joie Watson, DVM, PhD, Board Liaison, University of California, Davis, CA

Staff Support

Jeanne Blasewitz

Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, ICVA CEO

Kent Hecker, PhD

Elizabeth Johnson Million, DVM

Courtney Vengrin, MS, PhD



Assessment Grant Program

In 2019, the Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC) created and the ICVA Board of Directors approved the ICVA 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 veterinary medical education assessment.

To date, ICVA and the AVAC have awarded \$10,000 to five different projects in three different countries, impacting veterinary medical assessment worldwide.

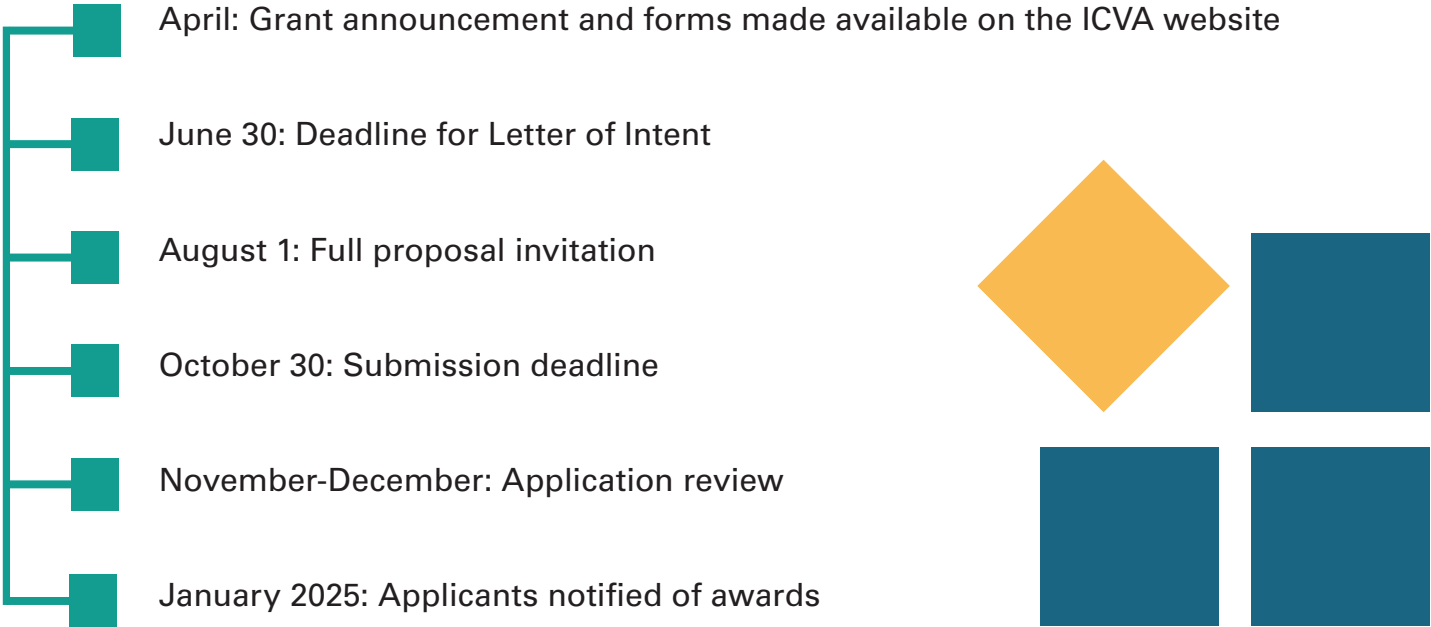
2023 ICVA Assessment Grant Program Recipient

ICVA is pleased to announce that Dr. Carolyn Legge of the University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, has been awarded funding for her proposal titled "Does the gamification of reinforcement-based learning affect summative assessment performance? It's a game of CARDS."

The study aims to develop and validate that the use of multiple, aligned, gamified low-stakes assessments (GLSAs) can reinforce learning of veterinary curricular content through rewarding retrieval practice and increase summative assessment outcomes in veterinary students. The hypothesis includes qualitative improvement of student learning and assessment experience when compared to traditional teaching methods (limited inclusion of low-stakes assessment).



Timeline for the 2024 Grant Application Process



Assessment Tools and Resources

With the move to remote exams and the emphasis on on-line 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 on-line: <https://www.icva.net/resources/assessment-resources/>

If you have questions or suggestions for resources for the list, please send your requests to mail@icva.net.



NAVLE School Statistical Report Update Process

The AVAC will begin a process to revise and update the NAVLE school statistical reports later this year. Dr. Courtney Vengrin, who is one of the ICVA staff members supporting the work of the AVAC, will lead the committee in utilizing the Delphi method. This method offers a systematic approach to identifying factors to be addressed and prioritizing these based on an expert panel consensus. One of the key benefits of the Delphi method is that it allows for input from a broad group of stakeholders, giving all schools the opportunity to provide input in the process in a formalized and efficient manner.

Workshops Available from ICVA

ICVA offers a variety of Assessment Workshops grounded in educational literature and best practices in the field. These interactive workshops are created and customized for each veterinary school to assist with expanding methods for assessing veterinary student performance and determining best practices specific to their institution's students, faculty, and administration. Currently, Drs. Kent Hecker and Courtney Vengrin provide Assessment Workshops in both virtual and in-person formats. The workshop team is currently scheduling dates for the second half of 2024.

Faculty or administrators interested in the ICVA Assessment Workshops should contact [Dr. Vengrin](#).



Presentations Available from ICVA

The NAVLE: Why the Test Matters and What You Need to Know PRESENTATION

ICVA Director of Veterinary Outreach Dr. Elizabeth Johnson Million has recently developed a new presentation for veterinary students and others planning to take the NAVLE. *The NAVLE: Why the Test Matters and What You Need to Know* highlights basic information about ICVA and the NAVLE, including an overview of the NAVLE blueprint, application timeline, and scoring. Dr. Million also discusses the best resources for NAVLE preparation.



Dr. Million also provides the presentation at open webinars each April with a variety of allied organizations (such as the Canadian NEB, the AAVSB, and the AVMA ECFVG program) in order to provide information to upcoming NAVLE candidates around the world.

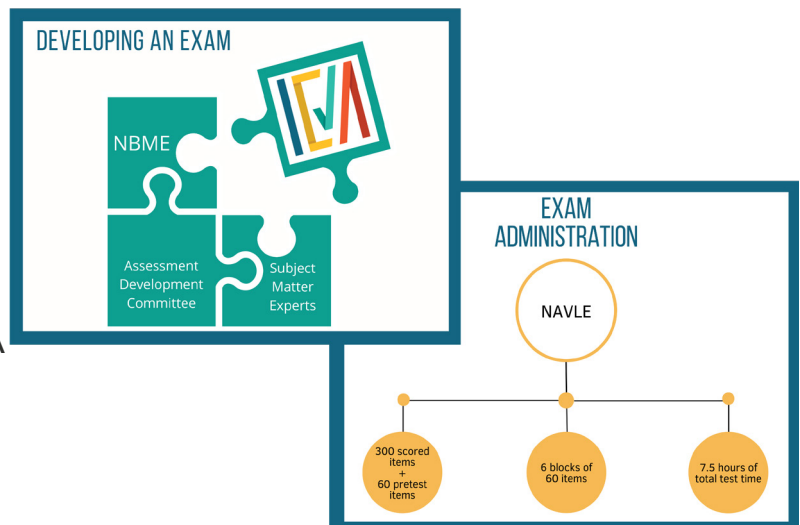


NAVLE DEEP DIVE PRESENTATION

Each year, ICVA staff presents the *NAVLE Deep Dive* presentation at the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) annual meeting and conference. This presentation provides an in-depth perspective on high-stakes exam development and creation, as well as the psychometric standards and processes for the NAVLE.

THE LIFE OF AN ITEM PRESENTATION

The Life of an Item is a presentation created for stakeholder groups to demystify the NAVLE®. It provides an overview of the International Council for Veterinary Assessment, the creation of NAVLE items and test administration. ICVA provides all of these presentations at no cost to veterinary stakeholder groups. Groups interested in any of the above presentations should contact [Dr. Million](#).





ICVA Progress Test

A progress test is typically a formative assessment blueprinted to a competency profile or set of program outcomes. Students are administered a progress test (usually multiple-choice questions) several times over the course of their program and typically once a year. The intent is to use the progress test as an assessment for learning to provide feedback about how the individual students are progressing through the curriculum. Feedback regarding student performance will be provided to the school for use by students, instructors, and administrators.

In 2023, a survey was sent to all AVMA-accredited schools seeking input on a draft blueprint for the Progress Test. Following review of the results and draft blueprint by the Rapid Blueprinting Advisory Committee, the resultant blueprint was reviewed and approved by the ICVA Board of Directors in October. In the upcoming months, ICVA staff will engage Subject Matter Experts to start the task of reviewing test questions previously used on the NAVLE or the VEA to identify questions that might be used on the Progress Test.

Moving Forward with Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

In 2022, ICVA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Privilege (DEI-P) Task Force was created to assist with diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the work of the Board and the organization as a whole. After a competitive Request For Proposal process, ReadySet was selected as the consulting group to assist ICVA with DEI-P strategic priorities. During 2023, ReadySet began work by conducting an organizational assessment to understand ICVA's current state and utilized this information to develop a DEI-P training plan, assist ICVA in standing up the DEI-P Task Force, and deliver a comprehensive DEI strategic plan and roadmap. Trainings with staff and board members were conducted in 2023 and early 2024, with plans for providing training opportunities to ICVA volunteers in the near future.

