
ICVA North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE) RETAKE POLICY

Upcoming revisions to NAVLE retake policy:

As noted in ICVA's update at the September 28-30, 2023 AAVSB meeting, the ICVA will be implementing revisions to the NAVLE retake policy for candidates:

Candidates will be permitted to take the NAVLE up to five times, including incomplete attempts.

An incomplete attempt is any attempt where a candidate initiates the NAVLE and responds to questions without completing the exam.

Candidates may appeal to the ICVA Board of Directors for approval to take the NAVLE more than five times.

This NAVLE retake policy takes effect with the November-December 2024 administration. Attempts made prior to this administration are counted toward the five-attempt limit.

How does this differ from the previous NAVLE retake policy?

1. This NAVLE retake policy will apply to all candidates.
 - a. Beginning in November-December 2007, ICVA had a recommended NAVLE retake policy of five attempts per candidate, with all attempts taking place within five years of the first attempt and with a year between each of the last two attempts. However, licensing boards were given the option to have their own NAVLE retake policy with their own limits, or to have no limits at all.
 - b. With the new policy, the retake limits apply to all candidates. If a candidate wants to be approved for a NAVLE attempt after they have failed five previous times, they go through an appeal process with the ICVA, which includes the candidate securing verification from a licensing board that they will accept the candidate's NAVLE score if they pass the test on that attempt.
2. This NAVLE retake policy will include all previous attempts.
 - a. The ICVA-recommended NAVLE retake policy that began in 2007 did not include attempts completed prior to the November-December 2007 testing window. The new policy includes all previous attempts in the five-attempt limit.

Why is the NAVLE retake policy being revised?

1. This NAVLE retake policy follows assessment best practices.
 - a. Limiting the number of test attempts by a candidate is a best practice for maintaining test security, since it reduces the exposure of test items. Additionally, allowing the candidate to repeat the test multiple times may lead to the assessment providing less accurate information as to the candidate's knowledge level.
2. This NAVLE retake policy aligns with the policy of the VTNE.
 - a. The limit of five attempts and the appeal process for an additional attempt are both similar to the current retake policy for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), providing more clarity for applicants and for licensing board personnel.