



International Council for Veterinary Assessment

Many people ask questions such as “How much does each question count on the NAVLE?” or “How many questions do I have to get right to pass the NAVLE?” when preparing to take the examination. The answer is not as simple as one may think, because of the need to create scores that are comparable across forms and over time.

After an individual finishes their NAVLE, the examination data file is delivered electronically to the NBME. Examinee responses are first converted into raw scores (the sum of the points earned from correct responses). Next, the raw scores are converted into three-digit scores using a non-linear algorithm that incorporates both the candidate's proficiency and information on the items (e.g., difficulty) in which they responded. This process, known as equating, statistically adjusts for differences in difficulty between forms of a test to facilitate score comparisons across all NAVLE test-takers. Equating also makes it possible to hold the passing standard at a constant proficiency level across forms and testing cycles. The equating process does NOT mean that the NAVLE is graded on any sort of a curve. The passing score is developed using a criterion-referenced standard setting procedure. If 100% of the candidates meet the standard, then 100% of the candidates pass the test.