



CANADIAN VETERINARY  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE  
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES

### ***National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association***

You will find below information regarding the veterinary licensing examination process of the National Examining Board (NEB) of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). A graduate of a non-accredited veterinary school is required to complete all three parts of the NEB examination sequence in order to receive a Certificate of Qualification (CQ). A CQ is a prerequisite to apply for a general license from any of the ten provincial veterinary licensing boards in Canada.

The NEB's veterinary licensing examination process for graduates of non-accredited veterinary schools involves:

- the Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE);
- the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE®);
- the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE).

To become a candidate of the NEB, one must obtain an application package, which is available for a fee of \$15 CAD (including 5% GST). The package includes an application form, a list of documents to be submitted and a booklet that explains the exam process in full detail. The items listed below must be provided to the NEB for assessment. If you have already passed one or more of the exams in the USA, you must provide an original or notarised copy of your score report(s) or written confirmation may be sent directly by the testing agency.

- NEB application form completed and signed;
- **Original or notarised copy** of your veterinary degree;
- Proof of proficiency in English or French (please see below for the specific requirements);
- Application/document examination fee of **\$450.00 CAD** for non-residents of Canada; **\$472.50 CAD** including 5% GST for residents of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and PEI; **\$504.00 CAD** including 12% HST for residents of British Columbia; **\$508.50 CAD** including 13% HST for residents of Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador; or **\$517.50** including 15% HST for residents of Nova Scotia, by cheque or money order payable to CVMA, or by providing a Visa or MasterCard account number and expiry date;
- Three **(3)** recent passport size (70mm X 50mm) photograph of the applicant, which must be signed by the applicant;
- **Original or notarised copy** of the official transcript of your academic record from your school of graduation;
- Letter of recommendation from a licensing organization within the veterinary profession in the country of origin or, if not yet licensed, from an individual in the veterinary profession;
- Letter of recommendation from a responsible individual in the veterinary profession;
- **Notarised copy** of birth certificate, passport or other piece of official, government-issued identification.

Applicants to the NEB whose first language is neither English nor French are required to submit evidence of completion of any of the language proficiency exams listed below.

- **Internet-based TOEFL (iB-TOEFL)**, the minimum requirements are 23 in Reading, 25 in Listening, 22 in Speaking, 22 in Writing and no minimum overall score is specified. Candidates **MUST** achieve at least the minimum passing scores for each of the four sections, with section scores accepted from separate exam attempts conducted over a two-year period.
- **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)**, Academic version with an overall score of no less than 6.5, with at least 6.5 in the Listening band, 6.0 in the Writing band and 7.0 in the Speaking band. Candidates **MUST** achieve the minimum passing scores for each of the three sections with section scores accepted from separate IELTS examination administrations conducted over a two-year period;
- **Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment** with an overall score of 60, with at least 60 in listening, 50 in writing and 60 in speaking; OR
- **Exam of French** of the Office de la langue française of the Government of Quebec, with a score of no less than 60 for each component.

At the time of applying to become a candidate of the NEB, one must provide an original copy of a score report for one of these examinations that is no more than two years old, or have it sent directly to our offices by the testing agency. Applicants **MUST** achieve the minimum scores for the required sections of the foregoing exams on the same exam attempt, except as noted for the iB-TOEFL and IELTS.

For applicants whose native language (i.e. the common language of an individual’s country of birth) is English or French, the English or French language examinations may be waived. To do so, an applicant must provide documentation of at least three years full-time attendance at a secondary school at which the complete language of instruction was English or French. Acceptable documentation includes a letter directly from school officials stating dates of attendance and verifying that the complete language of instruction was English or French. In addition, applicants who have been granted a certificate by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) are exempted from having to provide evidence of language proficiency in English.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Maxwell Hollins  
 Manager - NEB  
 CVMA

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**Information Brochure - The National Examining Board and its Examination**

**1. Licensing to Practice Veterinary Medicine in Canada**

In Canada, legislative authority to regulate the practice of professions and trades is a provincial responsibility. In each province, licensing bodies are established by statute. Licensing for veterinary medicine is, therefore, the responsibility of the provincial veterinary association or a separate licensing body. While the general requirements to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine are similar in all provinces, specific requirements, including examinations, may differ from province to province.

Individuals intending to apply for a license must correspond with the registrar of the licensing body in the province in which they wish practice, to enquire about provincial requirements.

## **2. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association**

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national organisation of veterinarians in Canada. Membership in the CVMA is open to all veterinarians who are licensed to practice in any province. The CVMA acts as a forum on national veterinary issues and offers many services to veterinarians and to the animal-owning public across Canada. The CVMA does not have the power to license or discipline veterinarians. Such powers belong to the provincial bodies.

## **3. The National Examining Board**

The National Examining Board (NEB) was established by the CVMA to administer the NEB Examination. The NEB also recognizes certified specialists in selected disciplines of veterinary medicine, and participates with the Council on Education (COE) of the American Veterinary Medical Association in a program of accreditation of colleges of veterinary medicine. The accreditation program consists of evaluations and regular on-site inspection of colleges to ensure they meet the essentials of the COE.

In addition, on behalf of some of the provincial licensing bodies, the NEB reviews the credentials of graduates of non-Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine who wish to obtain a license to practice veterinary medicine in Canada. The NEB does not have power to license or discipline veterinarians.

## **4. The NEB Examination Process**

The NEB veterinary medicine examination process is intended to measure entry-level competence in the theory and practice of veterinary medicine in a North American context. Graduates of a non-accredited veterinary school must complete all three parts in order to be granted a CQ. A graduate of an accredited college of veterinary medicine need only pass the NAVLE<sup>®</sup> within two attempts in order to receive a CQ. However, if such a candidate requires more than two attempts to complete the NAVLE<sup>®</sup>, they will also be required to complete the CPE in order to obtain a CQ.

All veterinary schools in Canada and the USA are currently accredited, as are those of the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands (graduates from 1973 onward), the Universities of London (graduates from 1999 onward), Glasgow (from 1999) and Edinburgh (from 2001) in the United Kingdom, Massey University in New Zealand (from 2001), Murdoch University (from 2002), the Universities of Sydney (from 2005) and Melbourne (from 2006) in Australia, University College Dublin in Ireland (2007), Ross University on St. Kitts (2011) and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México in Mexico City (2011).

The Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE) is designed to assess basic and clinical veterinary sciences knowledge. The knowledge level expected to receive a passing score on the BCSE is that of an entry-level veterinarian (i.e., a new graduate of an accredited veterinary school). The knowledge being assessed on the exam is that which one would typically acquire during the first years of a veterinary degree program at an accredited school. The computer-based BCSE consists of 225 multiple-choice questions, many with graphics, which must be completed within a 220-minute test session. In addition, the four-hour testing appointment will include a brief tutorial to introduce you to computer-based testing and an exit evaluation at the end. The BCSE must be completed first, before being eligible

to proceed to the NAVLE<sup>®</sup> or the CPE, and the fee is currently \$200.00 for non-residents of Canada; \$210.00 for residents of AB, SK, MB, QC and PEI; \$224.00 for residents of BC; \$226.00 for residents of ON, NB and NL and \$230 for residents of NS.

The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE<sup>®</sup>) comprises 360 multiple choice questions, which are administered one at a time by computer. About 15% to 20% of the questions will include relevant graphic or pictorial information (photograph, radiograph, chart, etc.). This exam is designed to measure one's general knowledge base in the various scientific and clinical disciplines required in veterinary medicine, as they apply to private clinical practice of the profession in North America. The NAVLE<sup>®</sup> requires one full day to complete and the fee is currently \$890.00 for non-residents of Canada; \$934.50 for residents of AB, SK, MB, QC and PEI; \$996.80 for residents of BC; \$1,005.70 for residents of ON, NB and NL; and \$1,023.50 for residents of NL.

The Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE) is a practical examination of the candidate's medical and surgical skills. It is designed to assess the candidate's ability to handle actual medical, surgical and diagnostic problems in a clinical or hospital setting. The CPE requires four days to complete and involves the examination/treatment of live animals and the performance of routine laboratory procedures. Currently, the fee for the CPE is \$7,200.00 for non-residents of Canada; \$7,560.00 for residents of AB, SK, MB, QC and PEI; \$8,064.00 for residents of BC; \$8,136.00 for residents of ON, NB and NL; and \$8,280 for residents of NS.

All three parts of the NEB examination process may be taken in either English or French.

## **5. Availability of the Examinations**

The BCSE is available four times per year during testing windows. Each test window will comprise a one- or two-week period during which testing appointments may be scheduled. The exam is administered at Prometric Inc.<sup>TM</sup> test centres throughout Canada and the USA. Please visit [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) and select "American Veterinary Medical Association" in one of the drop-down lists to locate test centres available to you for the BCSE.

The NAVLE<sup>®</sup> is offered during a two-week testing window in April and a four-week testing window from mid-November to mid-December of each year. The NAVLE is administered in Canada, the United States and U.S. Territories, and at selected PTCs in 13 testing regions overseas, as listed on the NAVLE registration form. There is an additional fee of \$300 CAD for overseas testing. Locations of PTCs available for the NAVLE can be found at the Prometric website ([www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com)). Select the "National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners" in one of the drop-down lists on the Prometric home page to search for test center locations for the NAVLE.

The CPE is available several times per year in English, at Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine. The CPE is available in French only at the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire (St-Hyacinthe, Québec) usually two (2) times a year. Candidates eligible to take the CPE will be informed by the NEB as to when they may register. Please note that, currently the waiting period between passing the NAVLE and the date of an opportunity to appear for the CPE that the NEB is able to offer is at least 24 on average.

## 6. The Certificate of Qualification

Candidates who successfully complete the NEB examination process are granted a Certificate of Qualification (CQ). A CQ or completion of the Examination is a prerequisite to obtain a veterinary license in all the provinces of Canada. The licensing authorities in any province may require further examinations in addition to or in lieu of those required to obtain a CQ.

Applicants are reminded to consult the licensing body of the province where they wish to obtain a license for specific requirements.

## 7. Candidacy for the Examination Process

Those seeking to become a candidate for the examination process should contact the NEB for further information. The NEB application form and *Information for Applicants* booklet are available electronically as .pdf files via e-mail. To obtain hard copies of the application form and booklet, please send the order form below and a cheque or money order for \$15 CAD payable to the CVMA (you may also provide a Visa or MasterCard account number and the expiry date).

### NEB APPLICATION PACKAGE ORDER FORM

Given Name:

Last Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

Province/State:

Postal Code:

Country:

Visa/MasterCard

Account number:

Expiry Date:

Please return to:

NEB - CVMA

339 Booth Street

Ottawa, Ontario

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fax: 613-236-9681

e-mail: [mmontpetit@cvma-acmv.org](mailto:mmontpetit@cvma-acmv.org)

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