

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Veterinary Examiners

(Amended at ARRS Committee)

201 KAR 16:530. Examination requirements for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

RELATES TO: KRS 321.193, 321.201, 321.441

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 321.190, 321.193(5) , 321.235(1)(a)-(c), (2)(b)1.a., 3.b., 321.441(1)(b), (d)

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 321.193(5) requires the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners to establish required examinations and passing scores for veterinarian applicants. KRS 321.441(1)(b) requires the board to establish required examinations and passing scores for veterinary technician applicants. KRS 321.235(1)(a)-(c) requires the board to promulgate administrative regulations to implement and enforce KRS Chapter 321. KRS 321.235(2)(b)1.a. and 3.b. authorizes the board to promulgate administrative regulations to establish and enforce mechanisms to ensure continuing competence, and to administer licensure, certification, permitting, and registration. This administrative regulation establishes examination requirements and passing scores for veterinarians and veterinary technicians for applicants to qualify for licensure by the board.

Section 1. National Exam Qualifications for Veterinarians.

(1) The board shall require a passing score on a board-approved national veterinary medical examination as one (1) requirement for licensure by the board as a veterinarian.

(2) The required qualifying national veterinary medical examination for veterinarian licensure shall be determined by the date of the completed examination, and shall be approved by the board as listed in this subsection.

(a) Applicants for licensure who tested during or after May 2000 shall be required to successfully complete and achieve a passing score on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) as administered by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA), its designee, or current administrator of the NAVLE for admission to the examination. A passing score shall be established by the ICVA or current examination administrator at the time of testing.

(b) New applicants for licensure who tested between 1954 and April 2000 shall have successfully completed and achieved a passing score on the National Board Examination (NBE). A passing score on the NBE shall be seventy-five (75).

(c) Applicants for licensure who tested prior to 1954 shall have successfully completed and achieved a passing score on a state level competency exam, if one (1) was available.

(3) Exam Qualification and Registration.

(a) Applicants for licensure shall apply to the board for verification of eligibility to take or retake the NAVLE through the spring 2024 testing window. For all future testing windows, the ICVA shall conduct examination eligibility review.

(b) Candidates seeking to take the NAVLE shall apply directly to the ICVA, its designee, or current administrator of the NAVLE for admission to the examination.

(c) Candidates seeking to take or retake the NAVLE may:

1. Sit for the examination up to twelve (12) months in advance of the applicant's anticipated graduation date from an approved veterinary medical program if the veterinary student is in good academic standing with the approved veterinary medical program; and

2. Seek to retest after five (5) attempts if the candidates make a request to the board to sit for the examination for additional times beyond five (5) attempts.

a. A candidate request to retest after five (5) attempts shall include a detailed remediation plan, including the process by which the applicant proposes to improve their performance on the NAVLE, the time proposed to be spent on remediation, and with whom the applicant proposes to study or obtain further instruction, and any other information requested by the board.

b. Upon approval of the remediation plan by the board, the board shall petition ICVA or the current examination administrator for the candidate to have the opportunity to sit for the exam again.

(4) Applicants for veterinarian licensure to the board shall request and pay all necessary fees directly to the ICVA, its designee, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), or current official records custodian, to have examination scores sent directly to the board. Unofficial copies of scores from applicants or other sources shall not be accepted.

(5) Candidates for the NAVLE who designate Kentucky as their chosen state for a score report, and who do not receive a passing score shall apply to the board to retake the NAVLE on the Application for a Special Permit form or online equivalent form through the spring 2024 testing window. For all future testing windows, the ICVA shall conduct examination eligibility review.

Section 2. State Jurisprudence Exam Requirements for Veterinarians.

(1) The board shall require a passing score on a board-approved state jurisprudence examination as one (1) requirement for licensure by the board as a veterinarian.

(2) Candidates seeking a veterinarian license shall pay a state examination fee pursuant to 201 KAR 16:510.

(3) Candidates shall complete the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners Jurisprudence Examination for Veterinarians, which shall cover the specific requirements of KRS Chapter 321 and 201 KAR Chapter 16, in either paper or electronic format.

(4) Applicants for a veterinarian license shall be required to achieve a score of eighty (80) percent or higher on the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners Jurisprudence Examination for Veterinarians.

Section 3. National Exam Qualifications for Veterinary Technicians.

(1)

(a) Except as provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection, the examination required for licensure by the board as a veterinary technician shall be the successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). A passing score for the VTNE shall be established by the AAVSB or current examination administrator at the time of testing.

(b) If the applicant for licensure as a veterinary technician graduated from an approved veterinary technology program prior to 1990, and successfully completed and passed one (1) of the following examinations prior to 1990, the board shall, as qualification for board approved licensure, accept official score report results showing a passing score on:

1. The Animal Technician National Exam (ATNE) if taken during the years 1986 – 1989; or

2. A jurisdictional level competency exam if taken prior to 1986.

(2) Candidates seeking to take the VTNE shall apply directly to the AAVSB, its designee, or current administrator of the VTNE for verification of eligibility and admission to the examination.

(3)

(a) Candidates seeking to take the VTNE may:

1. Apply to sit for the exam up to two (2) months in advance of graduation from an approved veterinary technology program provided the student is in good academic standing with the program, and a resident of Kentucky; and
 2. Seek to retest after five (5) attempts if the candidates make a request to the board to sit for the examination for additional times beyond five (5) attempts.
- (b) A candidate request to retest after five (5) attempts shall include a detailed remediation plan, including the process by which the applicant proposes to improve their performance on the VTNE, the time proposed to be spent on remediation, and with whom the applicant proposes to study or obtain further instruction, and any other information requested by the board.
- (c) Upon approval of the remediation plan by the board, the board shall petition AAVSB or the current examination administrator for the candidate to have the opportunity to sit for the exam again.
- (4) Applicants for veterinary technician licensure to the board shall request and pay any required fees directly to the AAVSB, the current exam service provider, one (1) of their designees, or to the current official records custodian to have examination scores sent directly to the board. Copies of scores from applicants or other sources shall not be accepted.

Section 4. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) "Application for a Special Permit", 09/2024, is incorporated by reference.
 - (2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subjected to applicable copyright law, at the Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Suite 104, Lexington, Kentucky 40511, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This material may also be obtained at kbve.ky.gov.
- (46 Ky.R. 1731, 2609; eff. 6-30-2020; 51 K.R. 731, 1426; eff. 5-6-2025.)

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