



NAVLE[®]

SPECIES SPECIFIC EXAMS

SETTING A HIGHER STANDARD TOGETHER[®]

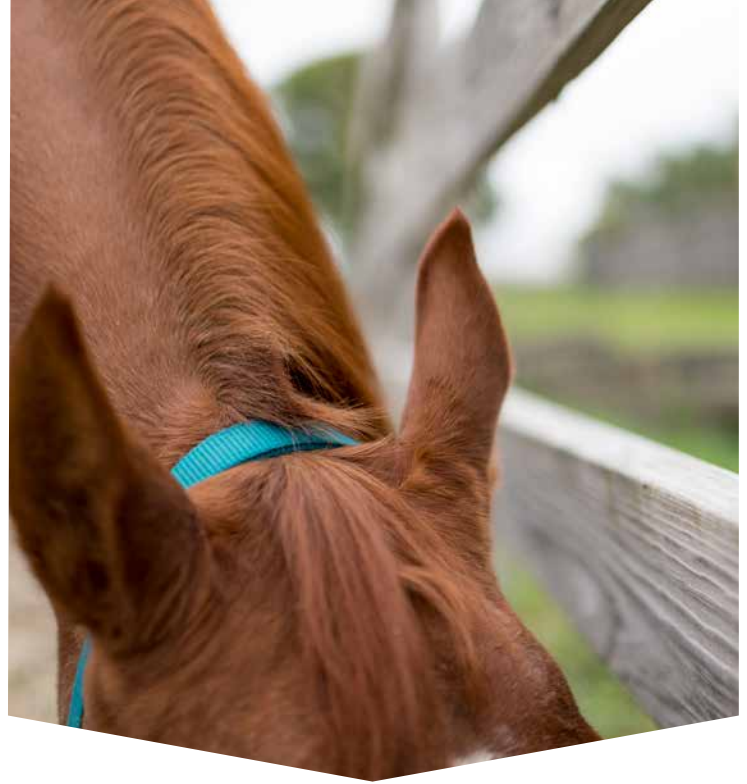
VISION

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

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.

Letter



Dr. Helen Tuzio



Dr. Heather Case

Letter from the Chair and CEO

ICVA is celebrating a huge milestone—25 years of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE®). As we look back on our history and forward to our future, we are happy to report that test administrations are continuing to proceed successfully, maintaining the world-class standards of our examination process while handling the increasing number of candidates worldwide taking ICVA's examinations.

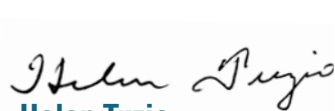
There were **9,301 test administrations** of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) during the 2024-2025 testing cycle, showing a **4.3% increase** from the 8,915 test administrations given during the 2023-2024 cycle.

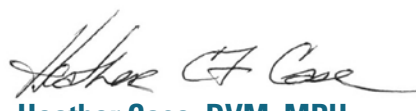
ICVA continues to focus on innovation in order to meet our commitment and vision of being a world leader in veterinary assessments. Over the last few years, we have increased our in-house assessment capabilities while also expanding the number of team members working directly in program operations, to keep pace with our expanding number of examinees and test administrations.

Responding to the needs of the veterinary community, ICVA has now moved from two to three annual NAVLE testing windows to assist boards with individuals entering the licensure process. We have streamlined the NAVLE approval process (including an option for NAVLE candidates who choose not to designate a specific licensing board to receive their test results), developed a NAVLE candidate dashboard to help examinees track their progress, and have implemented a NAVLE retake policy to align with the best practices of assessment. Additionally, we have streamlined the ordering, scheduling, and score reporting for the Species Specific Examinations, to assist boards in verifying the competence of individuals who are already licensed or have previously been licensed.

We also continue to develop initiatives as part of our strategic priorities to provide the highest quality assessments in a just and equitable manner to members of the veterinary community worldwide, such as our Examination Fairness Taskforce, our International Activities Taskforce, and our Communications Skills Assessment Taskforce.

ICVA is grateful for the continued efforts of our incredible volunteers, dedicated staff, amazing regulatory and academic colleagues, and examinees as we all strive to fulfill our mission to provide world-class assessments that protect animals and humans alike.


Helen Tuzio,
DVM, DAVBP, CVA
ICVA Chair


Heather Case, DVM, MPH,
DACVPM, CAE
Chief Executive Officer

9,301
test administrations of
the North American
Veterinary Licensing
Examination® (NAVLE®)
during the **2024-2025**
testing cycle.



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

9,301

tests administered in the 2024-2025 testing cycle

108,046

total candidates have completed the exam to date

51.0%

increase in tests administered in the past five years

NAVLE Fees

The 2024-2025 ICVA NAVLE application fee was \$760 (USD) for candidates to take the test. For those who wanted to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the U.S. or Canada, there was an additional \$365 (USD) international testing fee.

Ultimate Performance Passing Rate

for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools

89%

2024-2025

88%

2023-2024

86%

2022-2023

90%

2021-2022

92%

2020-2021

Expanded Exam Window Options for Increasing Candidate Numbers

From 2000 to 2019, 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.

Beginning with the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, and continuing due to increasing candidate numbers, the November-December 2024 NAVLE window was expanded to over six weeks (spanning from November 4 - December 21) and the April 2025 NAVLE window was expanded to four weeks (from April 1 - April 26).



Performance on Fall 2024 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group ¹	487	67	820	17.6%	4658
Non-Criterion Group ²	434	61	538	42.8%	1258
Non-Accredited Group ³	401	72	557	60.9%	915
Total Group	466	74	1915	28.0%	6831

Performance on Spring 2025 NAVLE by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group ¹	459	68	94	39.5%	319
Non-Criterion Group ²	424	49	617	47.7%	1293
Non-Accredited Group ³	401	69	551	64.2%	858
Total Group	420	62	1262	51.1%	2470

Performance on Both Administrations by Examinee Group

	Mean Scale Score	SD Scale Score	Number of Examinees Failing	Percent of Examinees Failing	Total Examinees
Criterion Group ¹	485	67	914	18.4%	4977
Non-Criterion Group ²	429	56	1155	45.3%	2551
Non-Accredited Group ³	401	71	1108	62.5%	1773
Total Group	454	74	3177	34.2%	9301

(1) Criterion Group: senior students of accredited veterinary schools who took the NAVLE for the first time under standard testing conditions;

(2) Non-Criterion Group: senior students of accredited veterinary schools who had previously taken the NAVLE or took the NAVLE with test accommodations or graduate veterinarians from accredited schools; and

(3) Non-Accredited Group: graduates or senior students of foreign veterinary schools that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education.

NAVLE Communications

To handle the continued increase in candidate inquiries, ICVA has expanded the NAVLE dashboard to provide individualized information (including applications, accommodations, and test history), developed an automatic e-mail reply containing helpful links to answer frequently-asked questions, and revamped the NAVLE application and webpage for a more user-friendly experience.

NAVLE Outreach

To increase awareness of recent developments with the NAVLE, ICVA is providing information to stakeholders in multiple mediums. Along with the quarterly on-line newsletter, PDFs covering specific NAVLE-related topics (such as the application process or the retake policy) are distributed by targeted e-mails to licensing boards and to veterinary schools. ICVA staff and volunteers also continue to present at national conferences such as SAVMA, AAVMC, AAVSB, etc.

This year, ICVA hosted its first on-line roundtable for licensing board representatives to discuss topics of interest related to the NAVLE. Future roundtables and webinars are currently in the planning stages, along with new video content to complement the information already available on the ICVA website.

NAVLE Approvals

The ICVA currently reviews and approves NAVLE applications at the request of 43 licensing boards. This service allows boards to focus resources on other licensing priorities, at no cost to the board (candidates pay an application fee of \$55 to ICVA). Candidates also have an option to be approved directly through the ICVA if they do not want to choose at the time of application a specific board to receive the candidate's score report.



NAVLE Practice Analysis

The ICVA has begun the next NAVLE practice analysis, a crucial process that keeps the exam current, relevant, and aligned with the realities of veterinary practice.

Practice analyses are conducted periodically—such as the previous ones completed in 2003, 2010, and 2017—to identify the knowledge and tasks critical for safe and effective veterinary practice. The findings are then used to update the NAVLE blueprint, keeping the assessment aligned with the skills and competencies expected of newly licensed veterinarians.

Once the foundational practice analysis tasks are completed, veterinarians from across the United States and Canada will be invited to participate in surveys designed to capture a wide range of perspectives. Input will be sought from seasoned practitioners as well as those early in their careers, allowing the exam blueprint to reflect both long-standing professional experience and the evolving realities of new graduates entering the workforce.

ICVA is working with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) during the practice analysis process, which will encompass three phases.

Currently — Phase I is focused on research and assembling committees, including an Advisory Committee Workshop in October and Focused Competency Area Workshops in November.

Early 2026 — Phase II will move into survey development and outreach, with the survey planned for April 2026. Designed to reflect veterinarians' areas of practice, the survey will take about 20 minutes to complete while capturing robust, practice-based insights.

Mid 2026 — Phase III will focus on analyzing the results and applying them to an update of the NAVLE blueprint—the framework that guides the assessment's content and structure. This phase will translate the practice-based insights collected from veterinarians into actionable revisions, keeping the NAVLE aligned with the latest knowledge and skills required for safe and effective veterinary practice. Phase III is expected to conclude by October 2026.

Species Specific

Species Specific Examinations

In 2000, ICVA developed Species Specific examinations to evaluate veterinarians' knowledge of companion animal or equine medicine. Depending on the needs of the licensing board, veterinarians may take one or both of the examinations.

Exams assess a veterinarian's competency in disciplinary cases or to provide verification of competency for a veterinarian who is licensed in another jurisdiction. The 100-item exam is only available to licensing boards, each in multiple forms that come with an ICVA-recommended passing standard.



ICVA most recently updated the Species Specific examinations through a standard setting process in 2019, implemented remote proctoring options in 2020 for easier administration, and increased flexibility for scheduling and score reporting in 2024.



State Board Examinations

Since 2016, the Wisconsin Veterinary Examination Board (VEB) has had ICVA handle the administration of their web-based Wisconsin State Laws and Rules Examination for veterinary licensure. The Wisconsin VEB provides ICVA with a list of eligible candidates, and ICVA then coordinates payment (a \$50 fee), test administration, and score reporting to both the Licensing Board and to the examinee.

In 2024, ICVA implemented increased flexibility for scheduling and score reporting to assist the examinees and the board.

Volunteers

NAVLE Volunteer Opportunities

Licensing board members, academicians, current practitioners, and other subject matter experts are needed on an ongoing basis as part of ICVA's commitment to assessment quality.



Volunteer opportunities include the following:

NAVLE Item Writing: Writing items for the NAVLE in accordance with the current NAVLE blueprint.

Annual NAVLE Pool Reviews: Older NAVLE items are reviewed for accuracy and relevance.

Annual NAVLE Form Reviews: NAVLE forms are reviewed prior to use in the next testing cycle.

► LEARN MORE

If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the ICVA, please contact our office by [clicking this link](#) or scanning the QR code.



“

I did not realize how much work went into making the examinations the best they can be, and I have a much greater appreciation for what is involved and the detailed statistics that go into creating questions. ”

– Dr. Tamara Swor

“

I was inspired by ICVA's commitment to innovation and adaptability. It's exciting to join an organization that embraces new technologies and programs while addressing emerging needs in veterinary medicine with a forward-thinking approach. ”

– Trina Ralph

300+ volunteers
THANK YOU!