



2025

REPORT FOR
VETERINARY
SCHOOLS

BY THE NUMBERS

Letter to Our Stakeholders

In this 2025 By The Numbers report, we're thrilled to celebrate the upcoming 25th anniversary of the NAVLE. It's a very different world now from 2000 – and ICVA is transforming to meet the times.

First and foremost — Due to the increase in examinees and the needs of candidates and licensing agencies, the NAVLE will be moving to three annual administrations — October-November, March, and July-August. This impacts every aspect of the NAVLE from the application process to the school reports, and we'll continue to communicate with schools as we proceed.

Simultaneously — ICVA continues to build our assessment portfolio to assist stakeholder groups, including academia. Along with providing the VEA, we are building a new progress test, and beginning the creation of a communication skills assessment blueprint.

Finally — Our volunteers are leading the way on ICVA's priority of fostering collaboration. Along with announcing our 2024 Assessment Grant recipients, we're pleased to share that ICVA's first Collaborative Conference on Assessment (COCOA) was a resounding success, with over 150 attendees from twelve countries worldwide.

We're so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey with ICVA as we chart our course for the next 25 years (and beyond). Thank you!



Dr. Keith Poulsen



Dr. Heather Case

Keith Poulsen
DVM, PhD, DACVIM
ICVA Chair

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

6831

candidates took the North
American Veterinary
Licensing Examination®
(NAVLE®) during the **Nov.-
Dec. 2024** testing window

ICVA VISION

The world leader in veterinary assessments.

ICVA 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

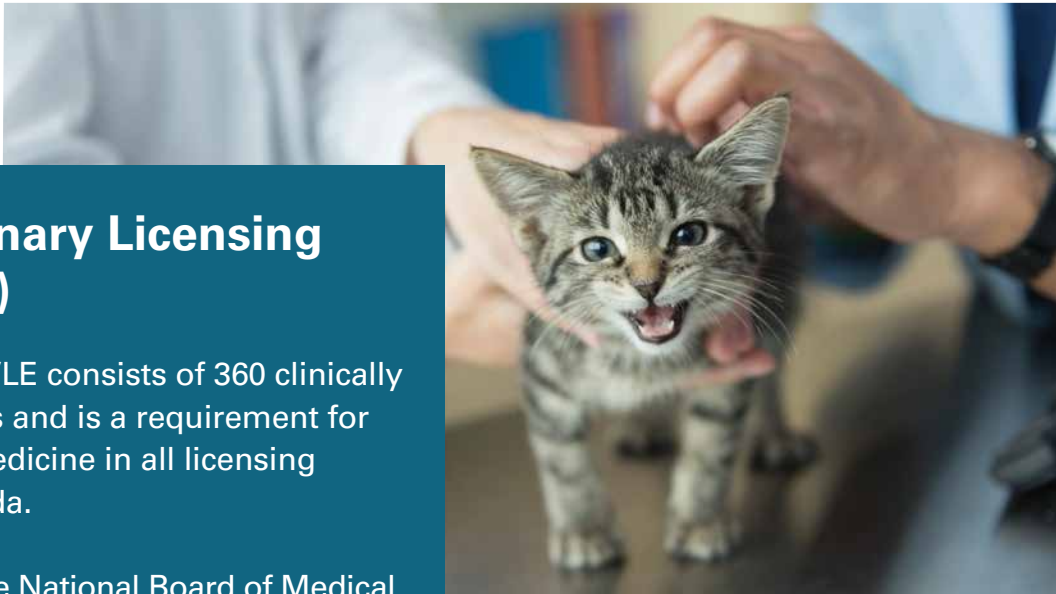
in all actions and business relationships

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.



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.

Developed in collaboration with the National Board of Medical Examiners[®] (NBME[®]), the NAVLE is offered at Prometric computer testing centers throughout North America and certain overseas sites.

Cumulative Exam Completions by Candidates

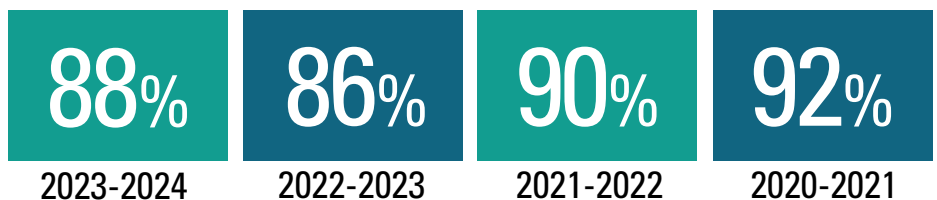


NAVLE Fees

The NAVLE fee for the upcoming 2025-2026 testing cycle is \$800, in US funds. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the US or Canada, there is an additional \$380 fee for international testing.

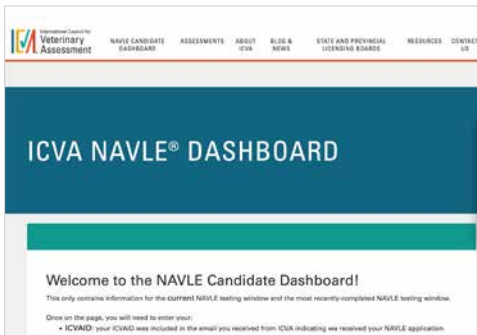
Ultimate Performance Passing Rate

for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools



Key NAVLE Updates

The past few years have continued to bring increasing numbers of candidates for the NAVLE. Several factors are involved, including new accreditations of veterinary schools by the AVMA COE, larger class sizes at AVMA-accredited schools, and higher numbers of candidates from the ECFVG and PAVE educational equivalency programs. To meet the needs of these candidates, ICVA has been implementing a number of updates throughout the NAVLE process:



NAVLE Candidate Dashboard

ICVA's NAVLE candidate dashboard enables individual candidates to review their progress through the system from the point their application is downloaded into the ICVA database to the time they receive their passing NAVLE score and move into the veterinary licensure process. The dashboard provides information on approval status, accommodation request status, permit availability, and score report release. NAVLE score history information has recently been included in the dashboard, and additional components will be in place by June 2025.

Additional NAVLE Testing Windows to Begin

At the request of Prometric, ICVA proactively gave all 2024 April and November-December NAVLE candidates an expanded timeframe to complete the exam. The NAVLE testing windows ran from April 1-26, 2024, and from November 4 - December 21, 2024 to allow for additional scheduling capacity to serve the increasing number of NAVLE candidates.

Beginning with the 2025-2026 testing cycle, ICVA will move to three testing windows each year, as seen below. This change will provide greater accessibility for the increasing number of candidates, allow for quicker turnaround times for those who do not pass or who miss application deadlines, and simplify scheduling for candidates with non-traditional graduation dates.

2025 – 2026 NAVLE® TESTING CYCLE					
Testing Window	Application Period	Testing Dates	Approx. Score Release	Roster Verifications	Approx. School Reports Release
October – November	June 1 – July 15	October 15 – November 15	December 15 – 27	December 2 – January 2	February 11
March	December 1 – January 7	March 1 – 21	April 20 – May 2	April 4 – May 4	June 11
July – August	April 2 – May 7	July 13 – August 8	September 7 – 19	August 21 – September 21	October 29

NAVLE Accommodations Updates

New timing format options

Beginning with the November-December 2024 NAVLE testing window, two new extended time formats became available for accommodation requests. In addition to the previously available options of more frequent breaks only, up to double testing time, and up to double testing time with more frequent breaks, candidates needing accommodations could also request up to one-and-a-quarter testing time or up to one-and-a-half testing time. These new formats provide additional options that more fully align with accommodations received in veterinary school, and can provide for easier scheduling with Prometric.

Move to rolling accommodations request process

Another consequence of the move to three testing windows is a revision of the NAVLE accommodation request process. Beginning with the 2025-2026 testing cycle, candidates approved for accommodations will be approved for all of their NAVLE attempts (rather than by individual testing window) to allow for earlier approvals and easier processing. Updated NAVLE accommodation request forms will be available on the ICVA website in early May.



NAVLE Approval Process Updates

First, NAVLE candidates now have the option to be approved directly by the ICVA and not through a US or Canadian licensing board. These candidates will then not have their NAVLE score report sent to a specific licensing board after score release. Their NAVLE score information would be on file with AAVSB for future transfers to the licensing boards of their choosing. NAVLE candidates will still be provided the option to apply through a licensing board, as had been required for previous administrations.

Second, the licensing board selected on a NAVLE application is not able to be changed after submission. Candidates should be aware that if they choose a licensing board with an early application deadline or a board with specific documentation requirements, they are no longer able to switch to another board for the NAVLE approval process.

Third, AVMA-accredited schools that provide a roster to the ICVA for the NAVLE approval process will need to provide their senior student information no later than May 31. Any changes to the eligibility standing of senior students must be accompanied by written notification from the school of the student's new expected graduation date, and the provision of a new roster for ICVA use.



NAVLE Self-Assessments

NAVLE practice (also known as NAVLE Self-Assessments) are **web-based examinations** designed to help candidates identify their strengths and weaknesses as they prepare for the NAVLE. Each NAVLE Self-Assessment form consists of **200 retired NAVLE items**, which are presented in four sections of 50 items each. All NAVLE Self-Assessments follow the current blueprint for the NAVLE.

Each 200-item assessment costs \$50, with multiple English and French versions offered. Additionally, at a cost of \$65 per form, there is one form in each language with expanded feedback that includes correct answers to individual questions that were answered incorrectly.

There are two versions of self-assessments: Regular and Expanded Feedback

English

Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback
Form 3 Regular

French

Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback

\$50

Regular
Self-Assessment Fee

\$65

Expanded Feedback
Self-Assessment Fee



A score report is available immediately after completing a self-assessment, showing the strengths and weaknesses in performance for each of the main topic areas. The report also indicates the performance of a comparison group of candidates on the same items. The score report includes a projected NAVLE score range based on the participant's performance on the assessment.

The expanded feedback form allows the examinee to review the questions and answers to incorrectly-answered questions. Schools interested in providing NAVLE Self-Assessment vouchers for their students should contact ICVA.



Veterinary Educational Assessment[®] (VEA[®])

The VEA offers veterinary schools a comprehensive, standardized, independent assessment of knowledge in basic veterinary medical sciences. It allows schools to track the performance of their students over time, and to compare the performance of their students to that of students from other veterinary schools.

The VEA is a 240-item web-based standardized examination covering five content areas:



VEA Proctoring Options

The web-based proctoring system used for the VEA allows for the proctors (individuals from the school designated to assist with the administration of the assessment) to give the test to students onsite, off-site, or a mix of both.

Faculty Review Form

ICVA offers two complimentary faculty reviews per school year, that can be completed at any time of year.

VEA Exam Fee

The VEA candidate fee remains \$75, payable by the school to the ICVA.

VEA Timing Format Updates

Beginning with the September 2025 VEA administration, two new extended time formats will become available for students with accommodations. In addition to the previously available option of up to double testing time, students needing accommodations can also receive up to one-and-a-quarter testing time or up to one-and-a-half testing time. These new formats provide additional options for students receiving test accommodations for disabilities covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



students took the VEA over three 2023-2024 testing windows at 19 schools



increase over the last five years

Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC)

The Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee is charged by the ICVA BOD with identifying what assessments and measurement resources currently exist across academia, and where ICVA could best serve the assessment needs of academic veterinary medicine.



Current initiatives include overseeing ICVA's Assessment Grant Program, promoting Assessment Development Workshops, and developing and updating the Assessment Tools and Resources page on ICVA's website. Currently, there are 16 members of the AVAC and ICVA staff providing support.

AVAC Committee Members 2024-2025

Elizabeth Armitage-Chan, MA, VetMB, PhD, ACVAA, FHEA, MRCVS, University of London RVC, London, UKRVC, London, UK

Kristin Chaney, DVM, ACVIM (LIAM), ACVECC, Texas A&M University - CVM, College Station, TX

Valerie De Boer, BVMS, MRCVS, University of Glasgow - SVM, Glasgow, UK

Pedro Diniz, DVM, PhD, Western University - CVM, Pomona, CA

Emily Erwin, PhD, Louisiana State University - SVM, Baton Rouge, LA

Tamara Hancock, DVM, MS, DACVP, PhD, University of Missouri - CVM, Columbia, MO

Ariana Hinkley-Boltax, DVM, PGDipVetEd, Tufts University - SVM, North Grafton, MA

Aliye Karabulut-Ilgu, PhD, Iowa State University - CVM, Ames, IA

Rachael-Kate Llewellyn, DVM, AVBS(HON), GC-SAECC, M-CLINED, MANZCVS (ECC), University of Melbourne - FVS, Werribee, VIC, AU

Kathryn Michel, DVM, MS, MSED, DACVN, University of Pennsylvania - CVM, Philadelphia, PA

Liz Norman, BVSc, MVM, EdD, MANZCVS, Massey University, CS, Palmerston North, NZ*

Emma O'Neill, BSc, BVSC, PhD, DSAM ECVIP-CA, PGDip, University College of Dublin - CVM, Dublin, IE

Sue Rackard, MVB, PhD, PFHEA, University College Dublin - CVM, Dublin, IE

Malathi Raghavan, DVM, MS, PhD, Purdue University - CVM, West Lafayette, IN

Claire Sharp, BSc, BVMS, MS, DACVECC, Murdoch University - SVM, Perth, WA, AU

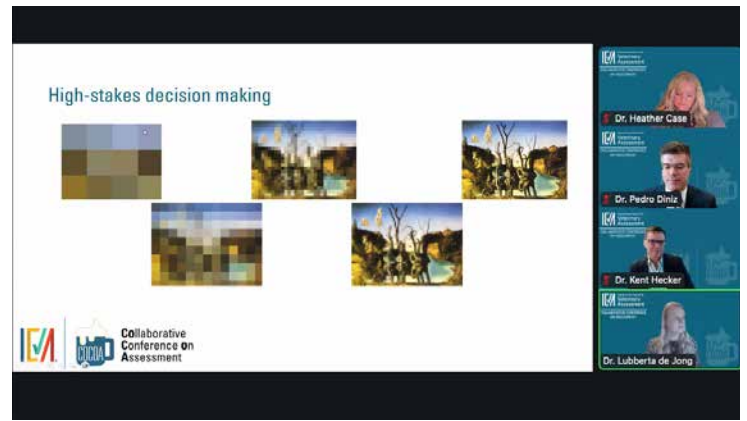
Fern Tablin, VDM, PhD, University of California, Davis, CA

Joie Watson, DVM, PhD, Board Liaison, University of California, Davis, CA

* Left the AVAC in August 2024.

Staff Support

Jeanne Blasewitz
Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE, ICVA CEO
Valerie Goddard
Kent Hecker, PhD
Courtney Vengrin, MS, PhD

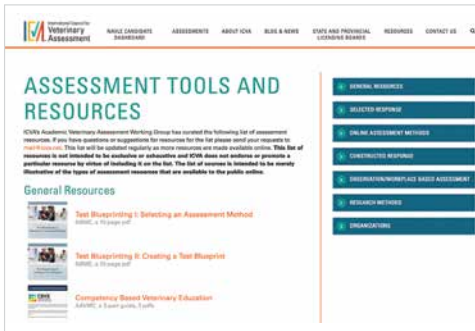


Collaborative Conference on Assessment

ICVA’s Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC) created the Collaborative Conference on Assessment (COCO) as a recurring forum to address the evolving and critical needs in veterinary education assessment, reflecting ICVA and the AVAC’s commitment to supporting meaningful dialogue and advancing the veterinary community’s understanding of assessment practices.



The first webinar was held on February 27, with 158 attendees from academic institutions in twelve countries worldwide logging in for presentations and discussions with Drs. Pedro Diniz of Western University and Lubberta de Jong of Utrecht University. Planning is underway for future events.



Assessment Tools and Resources

With the move to remote exams and the emphasis on on-line learning, ICVA’s Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee curated a list of veterinary assessment resources.

The resource list is updated regularly as more resources are made available on-line: <https://www.icva.net/resources/assessment-resources/>

If you have questions or suggestions for resources for the list, please send your requests to mail@icva.net.

NAVLE School Reports

In anticipation of the move to three annual testing windows, the NAVLE school statistical reports have been revised and updated. Dr. Courtney Vengrin, one of the ICVA staff members supporting the work of the AVAC, led the committee in utilizing the Delphi method. This method offers a systematic approach that identifies factors to be addressed and prioritizes these based on an expert panel consensus. One of the key benefits of the Delphi method is that it allowed for input from a broad group of stakeholders, giving all schools (as well as the AVMA COE) the opportunity to provide input in the process in a formalized and efficient manner.

Beginning with the October-November testing window, schools will do roster verifications and receive reports for each individual test administration (rather than one official report at the end of the testing cycle). Additionally, the statistical group will no longer be a “criterion group” (which excluded the scores of students taking the test with accommodations or with non-standard testing conditions), but will instead be a “senior student group” of all examinees who were senior students at AVMA-accredited schools at the time of the testing window.

ICVA Assessment Grant Program

ICVA Board of Directors approved the ICVA Assessment Grant program to fund research projects focused on veterinary assessment within academia. The purpose of an ICVA assessment grant is to validate current, discover new, implement, and support best practices in veterinary medical education assessment.

To date, ICVA and the AVAC have awarded \$10,000 to eight different projects in three different countries, impacting veterinary medical assessment worldwide.



Congratulations to the Three 2024 ICVA Assessment Grant Program Recipients

ICVA is pleased to announce that a record three proposals have been awarded funding.



Yatta Boakari, DVM,
MVSc, PhD

Texas A&M University:

“Impact of Student Demographic Background on Rubric Assessment Reliability and Consistency”

Led by **Dr. Yatta Boakari**, this research addresses a critical gap in veterinary education by evaluating how student demographic backgrounds may influence grading consistency when rubrics are applied to open-ended assessments.

The project will validate rubrics used in a key section of the DVM curriculum (reproduction section worksheets) and assess whether demographic factors contribute to grading discrepancies. The goal is to promote more equitable grading practices across diverse student populations.



Elpida Artemiou, PhD

Texas Tech University:

“Evaluating Three Standard-Setting Methods for a 13-Station Integrated OSCE and Their Relationship with Mini-CEX Assessment”

This study, led by **Dr. Elpida Artemiou**, evaluates standard-setting methods in Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) and their connection to clinical performance.

The research will compare three standard-setting methods—borderline regression, Angoff, and Hofstee—by analyzing pass/fail outcomes in a 13-station OSCE for third-year students. It will also examine the correlation between pre-clinical OSCE scores and clinical evaluations using the mini-Clinical Evaluation Exercise (mini-CEX).

The Ohio State University:

“The Effect of Standardized Training on Assessor Perception and Scoring of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) in the Clinical Year of a Curriculum-Based Veterinary Medical Program”

At The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU CVM), Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) are used for assessing veterinary students’ ability to perform key tasks that demonstrate their professional competencies.

The research project, led by **Dr. Missy Matusicky**, will involve providing a group of clinical assessors with standardized training on how to evaluate students using the entrustability scale before assessing students in the next academic year. The study will then compare the entrustability scores given by trained assessors to those assigned by untrained clinicians.

By examining this difference, the study will explore whether standardized training can improve the accuracy and variation in the assessment of students’ progress throughout the clinical year.



Missy Matusicky, DVM,
MPH, DACVPM

2025 Assessment Grant Program

April: Grant announcement and forms available on the ICVA website

June 30: Deadline for Letter of Intent

August 1: Full proposal invitation

October 30: Submission deadline

November-December: Application review

January 2026: Applicants notified of awards



INITIATIVES



Progress Test Update

ICVA is continuing development of a new veterinary educational progress test. The new test is designed to be used at multiple points during a student's time in veterinary school and provide information to bolster the student's knowledge by their graduation and entry into the workforce. In February 2025, the first technical review meeting was held virtually, bringing together subject matter experts to review retired VEA and NAVLE items and determine their possible suitability for use in the progress test item pool. Additional technical review meetings are planned for the near future, followed by item rewriting/writing work.



Individuals from AVMA COE-accredited veterinary schools have been invited to use their expertise by filling crucial roles in the test development process, including mapping the NAVLE and VEA codes to the new Progress Test codes, reviewing retired NAVLE and VEA items for possible use in the test, recoding selected content to reflect the Progress Test blueprint, updating references, item revision, and item writing for content areas requiring additional items to meet the test blueprint requirements.

Please **scan the QR code** or click to learn more and get involved.

Communication Skills Assessment Task Force

ICVA's Communications Skills Assessment Task Force, chaired by Dr. Cindy Adams, has completed a systemic review of communication assessment research across health professions.

Dr. Linda Dorrestein, who assisted the ICVA Communications Skills Assessment Task Force with their recent review of communication skills assessment research, discussed that work in her November 8 presentation "Communication Skills Assessment in Health Professions: A Systematic Review of Validity Evidence" at the International Conference on Communications in Veterinary Medicine in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario.

The task force is now focusing on creating a blueprint as the initial step in developing a communication skills assessment for use by the veterinary community. The blueprinting effort will follow a similar process to the one used for the upcoming Progress Test, and will be supported by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). It will proceed in two phases, with Phase I being an in-person meeting with a panel of subject matter experts taking place in June 2025 and Phase II being an online survey of a broader subject matter expert group. ICVA will be putting out a call for experts in communication skills in veterinary medicine to respond to the Phase II survey during the 2025-2026 academic calendar year.



Dr. Linda Dorrestein at ICCVM in 2024.