

BY THE NUMBERS

Letter to Our Partners

In this *2026 By the Numbers* report, while we're still commemorating the 25th anniversary of the NAVLE, we are also keeping our focus on the next quarter century. The world has changed significantly since 2000—and ICVA is transforming to meet the times.

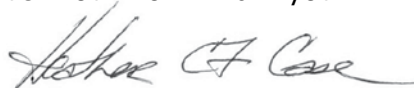
First and foremost— The NAVLE has moved to three annual administrations (October–November, March, and July–August) to better meet the needs of candidates and licensing agencies. This impacts every aspect of the NAVLE from the application process to the school reports, and we are continuing to communicate with schools as we proceed. ICVA is also in the midst of the NAVLE practice analysis, a process done routinely to ensure the test remains relevant for today's practitioners.

Simultaneously— ICVA continues to build our assessment portfolio to assist veterinary groups, including academia. Along with providing the VEA, we will soon be piloting a new progress test, and using our newly created communication skills assessment blueprint to develop assessments tools.

Finally— Our volunteers are leading the way with ICVA's priority of fostering collaboration. Along with announcing our 2025 Assessment Grant recipient, we're pleased to share that our Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee is building on the success of ICVA's first Collaborative Conference on Assessment (COCOA) to plan additional webinars and programs to assist veterinary educators.

We're so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this journey with ICVA, and welcome those who would like to join us in our work. Thank you!


Helen Tuzio,
DVM, DAVBP, CVA
ICVA Chair


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



Dr. Helen Tuzio



Dr. Heather Case



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.

6,730

test administrations of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE®) during the Oct–Nov 2025 testing cycle.

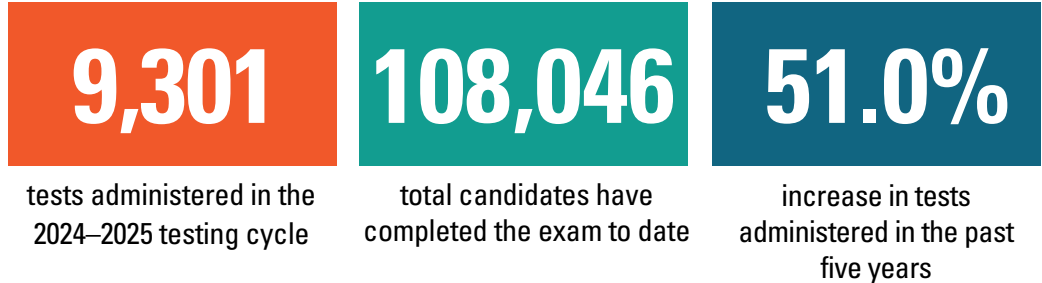
North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE®)

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.

Developed through work with the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®), the NAVLE is offered at Prometric computer testing centers throughout North America and certain international sites.



Cumulative Exam Completions by Candidates

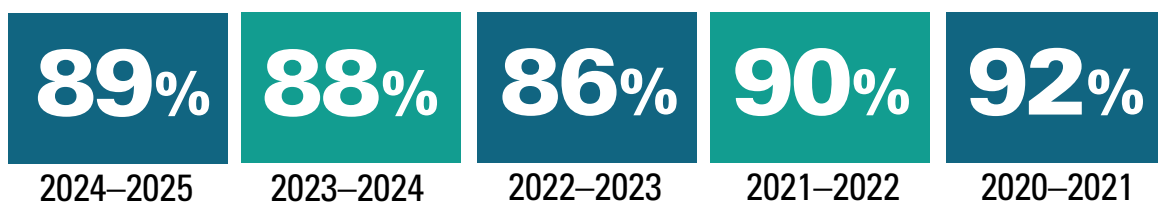


NAVLE Fees

The NAVLE fee for the upcoming 2026-2027 testing cycle will be \$825 (USD) for candidates to take the test. For those who want to take the NAVLE at selected Prometric Testing Centers outside of the U.S. or Canada, there will be an additional \$395 (USD) international testing fee..

Ultimate Performance Passing Rate

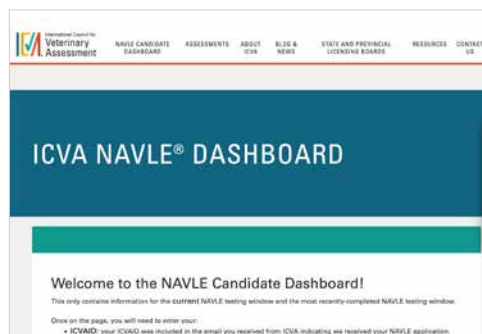
for senior students from AVMA-accredited schools*



* With the move to three annual test administrations, NAVLE school performance information will be provided solely by individual testing window beginning with the October–November 2025 administration.

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 NAVLE journey 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, score report release, and NAVLE score history information.

Additional NAVLE Testing Window Now Available

Beginning with the 2025–2026 testing cycle, ICVA has moved to three testing windows each year. This change provides greater accessibility for the increasing number of candidates, allows for quicker turnaround times

for those who do not pass or who miss application deadlines, and simplifies scheduling for candidates with non-traditional graduation dates. Dates for the upcoming 2026–2027 testing cycle are below.

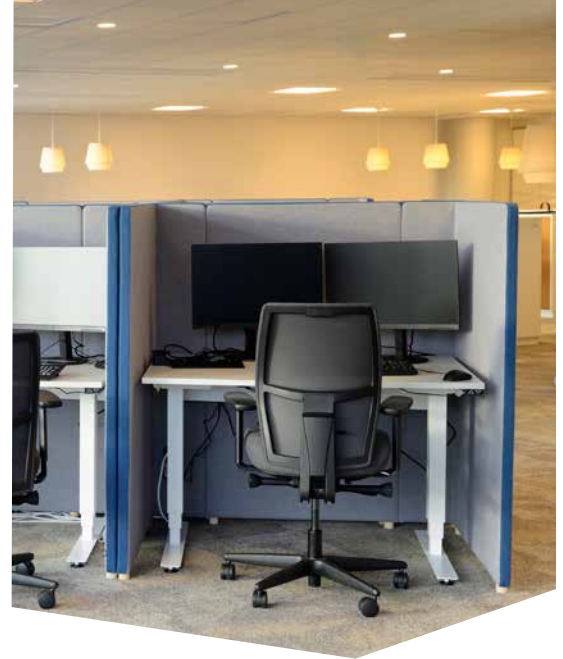
2026–2027 NAVLE® TESTING CYCLE					
Testing Window	Application Period	Testing Dates	Approx. Score Release	Roster Verifications	Approx. School Reports Release
October–November	June 1–July 15	October 12 – November 14	December 14–25	December 2–January 4	February 11
March	December 1–January 7	March 1–20	April 19–May 3	April 2–May 3	June 11
July–August	April 1–May 7	July 12–August 7	September 8–20	August 20–September 20	October 29

Veterinary Institution Portal (VIP)

The Veterinary Institution Portal was piloted in late 2025 to assist schools with verifying their senior students for the NAVLE school reports and with providing confirmation of student eligibility for NAVLE applications and approvals. With the move to three testing windows and the subsequent move to school report release after each administration instead of once per year, this portal will allow schools to more easily provide information to assist with multiple aspects of the NAVLE process.

Updated NAVLE School Reports

Beginning with the October–November 2025 test administration, NAVLE school reports that includes statistics regarding the performance of senior students at AVMA-accredited schools are provided after each administration, instead of a collated report at the end of the testing cycle. This change supplies information to schools more quickly and provides more useable data for schools with non-traditional graduation dates. The category listings within the reports were updated to reflect that all senior students at AVMA-accredited schools are included in the report, including those taking the test with accommodations or non-standard testing conditions.



NAVLE Accommodations Updates

Move to rolling accommodations request process

Another modification from 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 are approved for all of their NAVLE attempts (rather than by individual testing window) to allow for earlier

approvals and easier processing. Approvals are based on the request and documentation received by the deadline and any information received after that date is rolled over for consideration in the next applicable testing window. NAVLE accommodation request forms are reviewed and updated as needed each year, to be available on the ICVA website by early May.

NAVLE Approval Process Reminders

NAVLE candidates 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, while NAVLE candidates who chose the option to apply through a licensing board will have their score report sent to that jurisdiction automatically. All NAVLE score information is kept on file with AAVSB for future transfers to the licensing boards of the candidate's choosing.

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 not able to switch to another board for the NAVLE approval process.

AVMA-accredited schools that provide a roster to the ICVA for the NAVLE approval process will need to provide their senior student information through the Veterinary Institution Portal. 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.

Candidates who take the test during the July–August testing window will not receive their scores back in time to apply for the October–November administration. Therefore their next opportunity to take the test if they fail would be the subsequent March testing window.



NAVLE Self-Assessments

NAVLE Self-Assessments (also known as NAVLE Practice Exams) 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. **A second expanded feedback form will be available in both languages by the end of 2026.**

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

English

Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback
Form 3 Regular

French

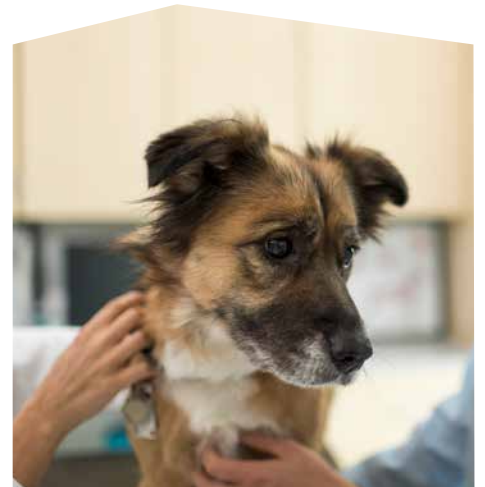
Form 1 Regular
Form 2 Expanded Feedback

\$50

Regular
Self-Assessment Fee

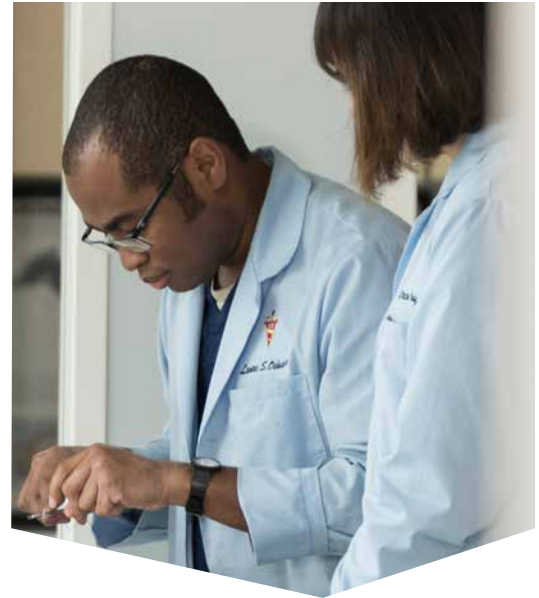
\$65

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 their students' performance to that of students from other veterinary schools.

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



VEA Timing Format Updates

Since the September 2025 VEA administration, two new extended time formats have 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).

VEA Exam Fee

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

3

testing windows per cycle:
August-September,
January, and May

2,854

students took the VEA
over the 2024–2025
testing cycle

22

schools administered the
VEA during the
2024–2025 testing cycle

78%

increase in students
testing over the
last five years

Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee (AVAC)

The Academic Veterinary Assessment Committee is charged by the ICVA Board of Directors 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 learning opportunities such as the Collaborative Conference on Assessment (COCOA) webinar for veterinary educators, and developing and updating the Assessment Tools and Resources page on ICVA's website.

AVAC Committee Members 2025-2026

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, Murdoch University - SVM, Perth, WA, AU

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-Ilgü, 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*

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 (Board Liaison), DVM, PhD, University of California, Davis, CA*

Melinda Camus (Board Liaison), DVM, DACVP, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

* Left the AVAC during the 2025-2026 term

Staff Support

Heather Case, DVM, MPH, DACVPM, CAE
ICVA CEO

Valerie Goddard
ICVA Committee/Volunteer Manager

Janine Hawley, MS, ICE-CCP
ICVA Chief Operating Officer

Kent Hecker, BSc, MSC, PhD
ICVA Chief Assessment Officer

What is the role of GenAI in Vet Education?

Generative AI can streamline **content creation, data analysis, and personalized learning experiences** at every level.

By **automating routine tasks** and providing **real-time insights**, it empowers educators to continuously refine teaching strategies and assessment methods, ultimately **enhancing the quality and consistency** of veterinary education outcomes.

High-stakes decision making

Collaborative Conference on Assessment

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, 2025 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.

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 discover, validate, implement, and support best practices in veterinary medical education assessment.

To date, ICVA and the AVAC have awarded \$10,000 to ten different projects (totaling \$100,000) in six different countries, impacting veterinary medical assessment worldwide. **The ICVA Board of Directors has approved an increase in the award amount from \$10,000 to \$40,000 (up to \$120,000 in funds per year), beginning with the 2026 Assessment Grant program.**



Congratulations to the 2025 ICVA Assessment Grant Program Recipient



Julie Dickson, BVM&S,
PhD, SFHEA, MRCVS, ASE

University of Bristol: “Development and Evaluation of Multi-Dimensional OSCEs”

Led by **Dr. Julie Dickson**, this research will design, implement, and evaluate a small set of multi-dimensional Veterinary Objective Structured Clinical Examination (mdOSCE) stations to assess student competence before clinical rotations.

This work addresses a potential gap between these approaches, using multi-dimensional OSCEs to assess skills, professionalism, and clinical reasoning—helping bridge classroom learning and clinical practice.

2026 Assessment Grant Program

April 22: 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 2027: Applicants notified of awards



INITIATIVES



Progress Test Update

ICVA is continuing development of a new veterinary educational progress test. This assessment 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 2025, initial form review activities were conducted, while follow-up item review activities continued. Next steps in 2026 include continued review activities along with further development 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** to learn more and get involved.

NAVLE Audit

The NAVLE is the cornerstone ensuring veterinary excellence across North America, and the ICVA is committed to ensuring that all members of the veterinary community feel confident in the exam's rigor and impartiality. Members of the veterinary community recently raised questions around how the NAVLE is developed, administered, and scored. To ensure the NAVLE continues to be a fair and impartial assessment of candidates' entry-level knowledge, skills, and abilities, ICVA made the decision in late 2025 to initiate an external audit of the examination performed by an independent third party.

This external audit is in the early stages of planning, with a request for proposal (RFP) recently sent to prospective vendors so a third-party auditor can be designated by an independent selection process. Further updates will be provided to the veterinary community as the process proceeds.

Communication Skills Assessment Committee

ICVA's Communications Skills Assessment Committee (formerly the Communication Skills Assessment Taskforce) is continuing its work on developing assessments for the communication skills required in veterinary medicine.

The volunteer group, chaired by Dr. Cindy Adams, has focused on creating a blueprint as the initial step in developing communication skills assessments for use by the veterinary community. The blueprinting effort, supported by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), proceeded in two phases.

Phase I was an in-person rapid blueprinting meeting with a panel of subject matter experts in June 2025. Phase II was an online survey of a broader subject matter expert group of the veterinary educational community. After both phases were complete, an initial blueprint was presented to the ICVA Board of Directors at their January 2026 meeting.

Next steps for the group include collecting feedback from the veterinary community and providing information on the blueprinting work via presentations and papers.