



AAVSB

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
VETERINARY STATE BOARDS

VTNE Fireside Chat: Your Questions Answered

Who We Are

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation headquartered in Overland Park, Kansas. We are an association of veterinary medicine regulatory boards whose membership includes licensing bodies in 63 jurisdictions, including all of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the ten Canadian provinces.

Vision: The AAVSB provides comprehensive information and services to enhance the efficiency of veterinary regulation.

Mission: To support and advance the regulation of veterinary medicine.

We value:

Protection of the public

Reliability & accuracy

Ethics & integrity

Service excellence

Active inclusion, participation, & collaboration

Stewardship of resources

Who You Are

This document has been assembled to respond to questions the AVTE Community raised in the Fireside Chat regarding changes to the forthcoming VTNE Eligibility changes effective in 2025. The conversation with Jim Penrod, CEO of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards on March 26, 2024, was open to all AVTE members. Many were able to join, but there is never a convenient time for everyone. It was evident throughout the conversation and in the chat that there is ongoing misinformation and misunderstanding. This document serves to inform and resolve some misunderstandings and respond to questions asked at the time.

Background

In November 2023, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) Board of Directors amended the VTNE policy:

Policy 1: To have the AAVSB approve pre-graduate testing for enrollees of AVMA CVTEA and CVMA accredited schools upon verification of good standing from the school, allowing testing during the final semester of the accredited program.

Policy 2: To amend the VTNE eligibility policy to have the AAVSB evaluate and determine the eligibility of on-the-job trained and alternate pathway candidates per each jurisdiction's qualifications.

VTNE Committee Purpose and Composition

The purpose of the Committee is the review and continued upkeep of the VTNE.

VTNE committee members may serve up to two (2) three-year terms and will consist of a minimum of 12 members.

- **two** (2) recommended by the **AVTE**,
- **two** (2) recommended by **NAVTA**,
- **two** (2) recommended by the **RVTTC**,
- **two** (2) recommended by the **AVMA/CVTEA**, and
- **four** (4) **Members At-Large**.

The AAVSB's Leadership Development Committee strives to ensure its committees are diverse. Diverse exam committees are more likely to make higher quality, unbiased decisions by leveraging a range of perspectives, identifying and managing implicit biases, and sending a strong message about the importance of diversity. The diversity of the committee composition is a key factor in ensuring fair and equitable decision-making.

The AAVSB's commitment is public protection.

We believe that allowing a veterinary shortage to continue with no solution **is not public protection.**

The public is **not protected if the animal care is inadequate or unavailable. The public is **not protected** if the practitioner is not properly trained or credentialed.**



Will the AAVSB consider changing the dates of the exam windows?



Yes. An open application and adjusted exam windows will be implemented in 2025. An open application means that eligible candidates will be able to apply at any time for an available exam window. An eligible candidate is any candidate who meets the requirements for graduation for their program and/or the licensure requirements for the state/province to which they are applying.

Additionally, there will be a fourth exam window available, and all exam windows will be 8 weeks long. By adding a fourth exam window and extending the length of all exam windows, the AAVSB believes it has created a testing schedule that will better accommodate the programs graduation dates. No longer will there be a need for some graduates to wait weeks or months after graduation to test.

The VTNE Committee reviewed several options and provided feedback leading to the creation of the new open application and four exam windows as presented below.

Exam Windows beginning in 2025:

- February 15 - April 15
- May 15 - July 15
- August 15 - October 15
- November 15 - January 15

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Open Application Window											
		Exam			Exam			Exam			Exam



What changes are coming to the VTNE process, and when are they expected to happen?

A

The determined changes to date **include a streamlined application process** for the candidates and program directors. Candidates will register directly with the AAVSB* to take the VTNE.

**Candidates in Missouri and Ontario are required by statute to first apply with the licensing board for approval prior to applying with the AAVSB.*

There will be no changes to any VTNE processes in 2024.

The New VTNE Application Process

Send all documentation along with your VTNE application to the AAVSB

The AAVSB reviews your submission according to your state board's requirements

Your application is processed for exam scheduling



What changed?

- Candidates send documentation directly to the AAVSB along with their VTNE application.
- Candidates from an accredited program can take the VTNE in their last semester before graduation with a letter of good standing from their program director and school approval.

What stayed the same?

- Your state/provincial board will determine your license eligibility.
- Only states/provinces that already allow on-the-job training or alternative pathways as a prerequisite for taking the VTNE will continue to do so.

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Will the AAVSB be taking over licensure decisions?

A

The proposed changes to the VTNE process only apply to the exam application process. Licensure decisions have always been and will continue to be up to the discretion of each jurisdiction based on its statutes and regulations.

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Is there an exam outline available to help students prepare for the exam?

A

Exam resources, including domains, tasks, and knowledge statements, are available on the AAVSB website at [Study for the VTNE | AAVSB](#). Anytime there are changes to these resources, the AAVSB hosts a town hall presentation for all schools to review the changes and answer questions.

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Are there different versions of the exam?

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Yes, for security purposes, there are different versions of the exam. All versions follow the same guidelines and contain statistically equivalent questions throughout to ensure fairness to each candidate.

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Does the AAVSB have any data on predictors of VTNE success for pre-graduate candidates?

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The AAVSB does not have data on the indicators of VTNE success in pre-graduate candidates.

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How does the AAVSB report scores of candidates who have taken the exam more than one year after their graduation date?

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Currently, all candidates are grouped by first time examinees and repeat examinees. The AAVSB understands this separating candidates who have taken the VTNE more than a year after graduation is important information for the programs and is working with its exam vendor to improve the current score reporting and separate out this group of examinees.

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Many schools have seen a decline in passing VTNE scores. Is the test getting more difficult?

A

The VTNE committee determines the pass rate following a very strict process led by a psychometrician in which each question is reviewed for level of difficulty. The process ensures that the passing point is set in a reliable and fair manner.

Additionally, our psychometrician will be joining us at AVTE this year and will be presenting on the exam development process, including explaining the cut score process. It is a session you should be sure to attend if you have additional questions.

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How do the VTNE domains align with the “Essential Skills” of the CVTEA?

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The **purpose of the job analysis survey is to align the tasks currently being performed in the field that are expected of the minimally competent candidate** with the questions on the VTNE. What is being taught in the classroom, utilized in the workforce, and reflected in the exam should align through the job analysis survey. The CVTEA has representatives actively involved in the VTNE job analysis study to ensure alignment.

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Where can we find data on passing VTNE scores?

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This can be found on the last page of the Program Score Report.

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How does the AAVSB work with the AVMA & CVTEA to ensure accredited schools are best preparing students for the VTNE?

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Currently, the AAVSB has two CVTEA representatives on the VTNE committee who are involved in the complete exam development process, including the job analysis.

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How is it determined if a student is eligible to sit for the exam in their last semester before graduation?

A

It is at each program's discretion to determine whether to permit students to sit for the exam in their final semester. Some program directors may opt out of participating. For the programs that opt in, the program directors will submit to the AAVSB a roster of students eligible for pre-graduation testing.

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When is the next job analysis survey due to occur?

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The most recent Job Analysis was completed in 2023 and resulted in the addition of the tenth domain, Communication and Veterinary Professional Support Services. A new job analysis is conducted every five (5) years; the next analysis will be completed in 2028.

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Are there plans to change the format of the VTNE?

A

There is currently no plan to change the VTNE from a multiple-choice exam.



**Lingering Questions?
Comment to Share?
Interested in Volunteering?**



Contact:

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