

## **POLICY - Registration Process for Veterinary Technologists who have graduated from a program not accredited by the CVMA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Section 16 of the *Veterinary Profession Act* (VPA) establishes the powers of the Registration Committee:

- (3) *The Registration Committee may*
  - (a) *approve the qualifications of an applicant,*
  - (b) *refuse to approve the qualifications of an applicant, or*
  - (c) *defer approval of qualifications until it is satisfied that an applicant has complied with a requirement made under this section.*
  
- (4) *The Registration Committee may, in its discretion, require an applicant for registration*
  - (a) *to pass one or more examinations approved by the Committee,*
  - (b) *to obtain more experience of a kind satisfactory to the Committee for a period set by the Committee, or*
  - (c) *to pass one or more examinations and obtain more experience before approving the applicant's qualifications.*

The ABVMA Bylaws establish the three categories of Registered Veterinary Technologist (RVT) members:

- 7.14 *The following categories of Veterinary Technologist Members are hereby continued or established:*
- 7.14.1 *General Veterinary Technologist Member*
  - 7.14.2 *Limited Veterinary Technologist Member*
  - 7.14.3 *Provisional Veterinary Technologist Member*

The Bylaws further establish that in order for an applicant from a Non-Accredited school to become a General Veterinary Technology Member, they shall be:

- 7.15.1.2 *a graduate of a non-accredited program of Animal Health Technology equivalent to a two year CVMA or American VMA accredited program, have successfully completed an assessment approved by Council and have received a passing score on the VTNE; or...*

In order for an applicant from a Non-Accredited school to become a Limited Veterinary Technologist Member, they shall be:

- 7.15.3 *... a graduate of a non-accredited program of Animal Health Technology equivalent to a two year CVMA or American VMA accredited program but shall have successfully completed an assessment approved by Council with respect to only one category or species of animal (for example, either large animal or small animal) and shall have received a passing score on the VTNE.*

The Bylaws go on to define the terms under which a Limited Veterinary Technologist Member may engage in practice.

- 7.15.4 *... eligible to practice veterinary medicine in Alberta within a certified veterinary practice entity (VPE) under the supervision of a responsible Registered Veterinarian, except Limited Practice Licensee – Supervised, in accordance with the Act, General Regulations, Bylaws and Council Guidelines, provided however that such practice shall be limited to the species or category of animal with respect to which the member has successfully completed the assessment approved by Council.*

In order for an applicant from a Non-Accredited school to become a Provisional Veterinary Technologist Member, they shall be:

7.15.5.1 *a graduate of an accredited Animal Health Technology program who has commenced but not completed the examination as described in the VPA General Regulation section 8(2)(a)(ii)(B); or*

7.15.5.2 *a graduate of a non-accredited Animal Health Technology program equivalent to a two year CVMA or American VMA accredited program who has commenced but not completed an assessment approved by Council.*

## **POLICY:**

The process by which an individual who has graduated from a program that is not accredited by the CVMA shall be a 5 step process which includes:

Preliminary Step:

1. Curriculum Review – will determine the eligibility of an individual to submit an application

Application:

2. Credential Review
3. Proof of applicant's ability to communicate in English
4. Obtain a Passing Score on VTNE
5. Clinical Assessment (Large Animal or Small Animal or Both)

## **PROCESS:**

### **PRELIMINARY STEP:**

#### **1. Curriculum Review:**

A graduate from a non-accredited program in animal health technology or a related program must submit to the ABVMA:

1. The name of the school, city and country of the school of graduation,
2. The year of graduation, and
3. Course curriculum including detailed individual course description.

The submitted information will be evaluated by two members of the ABVMA appointed as curriculum evaluators:

1. One veterinarian member appointed by ABVMA Council, and
2. One AAAHT representative appointed by the Alberta Association of Animal Health Technologists

Upon examination and review of the submitted documentation, if the two evaluators agree that the course of study is not substantively equivalent, the application will not be received.

If the ABVMA evaluators agree that the course of study is substantively equivalent to a CVMA accredited course in animal health technology, the applicant will be permitted to submit an application.

## **APPLICATION:**

### **2. Credential Review**

A person who has graduated from a non-accredited program that has been determined to be substantially equivalent according to the above review will be entitled to apply for registration.

In addition to the ABVMA Application for registration, the applicant will require:

1. A FULLY completed application form
2. A notarized copy of one of the following:
  - Valid Canadian Passport,
  - Canadian Birth Certificate,
  - Canadian SIN #,
  - Canadian Work Visa, or
  - Canadian Permanent Resident Visa
3. A notarized recent colour photograph
4. Notarized transcripts from the program attended
5. Notarized proof of graduation from the program attended
6. Letters of Good Standing from EACH Professional Associations, licensing authorities, or statutory bodies of which the applicant is or has been a member as an Veterinary Technologist or equivalent
7. Three character reference names and contact information
8. Declaration signed by Notary Public, Commissioner of Oaths, or Justice of the Peace
9. Registration application fee (non-refundable)
10. Applicable membership dues (see fee schedule)
11. Any other information required by the Registration Committee.

### **3. Proof of the candidates ability to communicate in English**

Proof of the Candidates ability to communicate in English is consistent with the National Examining Board requirement for veterinarians (except for option for French).

#### **Language Proficiency Requirement**

Applicants whose first language is not English must submit a score report for the:

- 1) Internet-based TOEFL (iB-TOEFL), with a minimum of 23 in Reading, 25 in Listening, 22 in speaking, 22 in writing and no minimum overall score is required. Candidates **MUST** achieve at least the minimum passing scores for each of the four sections of the internet-based TOEFL, with section scores accepted from separate internet-based TOEFL exam administrations conducted over a two-year period;
- 2) International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Academic version with an overall score of no less than 6.5, with at least 6.5 in the Listening band, 6.0 in the Writing band and 7.0 in the Speaking band. Candidates **MUST** achieve the minimum passing scores for each of the three sections with section scores accepted from separate IELTS examination administrations conducted over a two-year period;
- 3) Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) Assessment with an overall score of no less than 60, with a least 60 in the Listening band, 50 in the Writing band and 60 in the Speaking band; **OR**

At the time of applying one must provide an *original copy* of a score report for one of the foregoing language proficiency examinations that is **no more than two years old**. Applicants **MUST** achieve the minimum scores for all required sections of an exam on the same administration or attempt, except as indicated for the iB-TOEFL and IELTS.

## **Exemption**

For applicants whose native language (i.e. the common language of an individual's country of birth) is English, the foregoing language exams may be waived. In order to receive the exemption, one must provide documentation of at least three years full-time attendance at a secondary school at which the complete language of instruction was English. Acceptable documentation includes a letter directly from school officials confirming dates of attendance and that the complete language of instruction was English.

## **4. Obtain a Passing Score on VTNE**

Upon successful submission of credentials and proof of ability to communicate in English, the applicant will be granted ABVMA registration as a provisional veterinary technologist member and membership in the AAAHT and will be given permission to write the VTNE.

As a Provisional Veterinary Technologist Member, the applicant will be permitted to practice within the restrictions of that registration category. The VTNE must be attempted within 6 months of the Provisional Veterinary Technologist membership being granted.

Upon obtaining a passing score on the VTNE and providing a notarized copy of the result, a Provisional Veterinary Technologist from a non-accredited school must apply for and attend a clinical assessment arranged for by the ABVMA.

## **5. Clinical Assessment**

An ABVMA clinical assessment will include an assessment of the applicant's knowledge, application and technical abilities of all relevant aspects of veterinary practice, both large and small animal. It is expected that the applicant can demonstrate all expected first day competencies of a graduate from a CVMA accredited school.

The ABVMA clinical assessment must occur within 6 months of notification of achieving a passing score of the VTNE, but not to extend past the 24 months. Upon successful completion of the ABVMA clinical assessment the applicant will be granted a General Veterinary Technologist membership.

### **Limited Veterinary Technologist Member:**

If an applicant wishes to become a Limited Veterinary Technologist Member, they may request an assessment limited to either large animal or small animal. Upon successful completion of the ABVMA clinical assessment, an applicant will be granted a Limited Veterinary Technologist membership limited to the species or category of animal with respect to which the member has successfully completed the assessment approved by Council.

### **Unsuccessful Attempts**

If the applicant is not successful passing the clinical assessment, they will maintain a Provisional Veterinary Technologist membership, and must apply for another clinical assessment within 6 months of the failed assessment. A candidate that fails three or more assessments must appear before Council to request any additional attempts to pass the clinical assessment, outlining what they have done and are doing to ensure success on their next attempt.

**Extension:**

Application to extend a Provisional Veterinary Technologist membership beyond the 6 months must be made before it expires, and can be done three additional times to a maximum of 24 months. During this time, the applicant is expected to obtain a passing score on the VTNE and successfully complete the ABVMA clinical assessment. Further extension may be granted at the discretion of the Registrar.

**Provisional Registration Suspended**

Failure to take the clinical assessment in a timely manner (within 60 days of passing the VTNE) or failure to complete the entire process within 24 months may result in suspension of the applicant’s provisional registration, however the applicant may continue to the process

The ABVMA Council Policy on VTNE rewrite will apply.

Internationally educated veterinarians will not be entitled to apply for registration through this process.

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