



## 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.*

Section 8 of the *Veterinary Profession General Regulation* establishes that the Registration Committee may approve an applicant from a non-accredited school:

- (2.01) *The Registration Committee may approve an applicant for registration as a registered veterinary technologist if the applicant*
  - (a) *is a graduate of a program in animal health technology that is not accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association but whose curriculum is considered by the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association and the Council to be substantially equivalent to a program in animal health technology that is accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association,*
  - (b) *has passed an examination in animal health technology approved by the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association and the Council, and*
  - (c) *has completed a clinical assessment approved by the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association and the Council.*

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

- 7.6 *The following categories of Veterinary Technologist Members are hereby continued or established:*
  - 7.6.1 *General Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist*
  - 7.6.2 *Limited Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist*

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:

- 7.7.1.2 *a graduate of a non-accredited program of animal health technology substantially equivalent to a CVMA or AVMA accredited program, and has successfully completed an assessment approved by Council and have received a passing score on the examination as described in the Regulation section 8(2.01)(b) (VTNE) in accordance with the Regulation section 8 (2.01); or*

In order for an applicant from a non-accredited school to become a Limited Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist, they shall be:

- 7.7.3 *... a graduate of a non-accredited program of Animal Health Technology substantially equivalent to a CVMA or AVMA accredited program and has 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 has received a passing score on the VTNE in accordance with the Regulation section 8 (2.01).*

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

- 7.7.4 *... eligible to practice veterinary medicine in Alberta within a certified veterinary practice entity (VPE) under no less than indirect supervision of a responsible Registered Veterinarian, except a Supervised Limited Practice Registered Veterinarian, or a Restricted Veterinarian in accordance with the Act, General Regulation, Bylaws and Professional Standards, 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:

- 7.17.1.1 *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*
- 7.17.1.2 *a graduate of a non-accredited Animal Health Technology program substantially equivalent to a CVMA or AVMA accredited program who has commenced but not completed the examination as described in the Regulation section 8(2.01)(b) (VTNE) and has not completed an assessment approved by Council.*

## Policy:

Two pathways are available for internationally trained animal health/veterinary technologists or veterinary nurses to become registered with the ABVMA.

1. Applicants that have a certificate from the [Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence \(PAVE\) for Veterinary Technicians](#) administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).
2. Alberta process detailed below:

The process for registration as a veterinary technologist with the ABVMA required for 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. Educational transcripts
4. Course curriculum including detailed individual course descriptions.

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

1. One veterinarian member appointed by ABVMA Council, and
2. One ABVTA representative appointed by the Alberta Veterinary Technologist Association.

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 accepted.

If the 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 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 Association, licensing authority, or statutory body of which the applicant is or has been a member as a 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 Candidate's Ability to Communicate in English:**

Proof of the Candidate's ability to communicate in English is consistent with the National Examining Board requirement for veterinarians (except 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 with the ABVTA 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 Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist registration.

### **Limited Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist Member**

If an applicant wishes to become a Limited Practice Registered Veterinary Technologist, 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.

Date Approved by ABVMA Council:	April 15, 2024 August 28, 2013
Date Approved by ABVTA BOD:	January 19, 2024 August 6, 2013
Date Reviewed:	April 15, 2024 August 28, 2023 June 15, 2016
Reviewed By:	ABVMA Council and ABVTA BOD
Future Revision Date:	2029