

**PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION  
SAVC FULL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION  
VETERINARY NURSES - 2016**

Compiled by: Dr CH Annandale and Sr E Botha, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP)

### **Introduction**

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) registration examination for foreign veterinary nursing candidates has been offered on an annual basis. Experience has shown that it is a difficult examination to pass and preparation should be extensive, thorough and in detail. The Examination Officer of the SAVC examinations suggests that prospective candidates give themselves eighteen (18) months to prepare for the examination. The following document is a guide to potential candidates on how to prepare themselves for the examination to optimise their chances of passing.

### **Structure of the examination**

The examination consists of a Computer Based Examination (CBE) including multiple choice questions, while the practical examination is a structured oral and practical in the major disciplines namely Theatre Practice, Surgical Nursing, Medical Nursing, Anaesthesia, Radiology, Reproductive Nursing and General Nursing. Both companion and production animals may be used during the practical/oral examination.

To do well in the CBE, the following information may help:

- Do not look at the answers before you have read the question carefully;
- Formulate your own answer to the question before looking at the answers supplied. This will prevent the answers from tricking you or throwing you off guard;
- Eliminate all answers that according to your knowledge are incorrect;
- Read all the options before you answer;
- There is no guessing penalty in the examination, however, consider all options prior to responding;
- Do not alter your answer unless you have misread the question.

Experience has shown that very few candidates who pass the theoretical component (CBE) do not pass the practical examination. Thorough theoretical preparation is therefore also very important for the practical examination. Many veterinary nurses attempting to pass the SAVC registration examination have limited practical experience with certain species like horses and production animals. If this is the case it is recommended that you spend a couple of days in practice observing clinical practice and a community veterinary clinic (primary health care).

**Study material**

- The Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP offers study notes which are available to purchase. These notes are currently used by Dip Vet Nurs students. For more information, contact Student Administration at (012) 529 8000.
- In the Jotello F Soga Library at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP, copies are available of previous examinations for Dip Vet Nurs students. These examinations offer valuable insight into the way that questions are formulated and provide an indication of the type of questions asked, as well as the cognitive level expected of students.
- The Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, other veterinary related legislation and rules and regulations pertaining to the para-veterinary profession of veterinary nursing can be accessed at: [www.savc.org.za](http://www.savc.org.za)

*[Doc H – VET NURSES: Feb 2011; 10 Mar 2011; 30 Jul 2013; Feb 2015; Feb 2016]*