



RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) TOWARDS STUDY AND AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) is regulated by the VETERINARY AND PARA-VETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT, Act No. 19 of 1982. The objects of council are set out in Section 3 of the Act below:

3. Objects of council. – The objects of the council shall be-

- (a) to regulate the practising of the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions and the registration of persons practising such professions;
- (b) to determine the minimum standards of tuition and training required for degrees, diplomas and certificates entitling the holders thereof to be registered to practise the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions;
- (c) to exercise effective control over the professional conduct of persons practising the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions;
- (d) to determine the standards of professional conduct of persons practising the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions;
- (e) to encourage and promote efficiency in and responsibility with regard to the practice of the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions;
- (f) to protect the interests of the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions and to deal with any matter relating to such interests;
- (g) to maintain and enhance the prestige, status and dignity of the veterinary professions and para-veterinary professions and the integrity of persons practising such professions;
- (h) to advise the Minister in relation to any matter affecting a veterinary profession or a para-veterinary profession;

The SAVC takes it seriously to be the guardian of the standards of training and practice of the veterinary and veterinary para-professions in South Africa, and is

proud to only register professionals based on high standard academic qualifications and training.

Within this frame of reference, the following forms of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) are used for the members obtaining veterinary, veterinary para-professions or post-graduate training. The veterinary para- group of professionals include the veterinary nurses, animal health technicians, veterinary technologists and laboratory animal technologists.

VETERINARY AND VETERINARY PARA-PROFESSIONS TRAINING

Undergraduate students training in South Africa

Deviations to admission policy

Council allows for deviations in the admission policy into training institutions, as long as these

deviations are reported to the SAVC Education Committee in the annual training institutional reports. Deviations must be justifiable and motivated with the training institution taking full responsibility for the quality of the graduate. The training institutions must report on how the deviations are supported by the institution with bridging courses and mentoring assistance.

Migration to and between veterinary/veterinary para-professions

At present, council does not have a process to allow veterinary para-professionals to enter into veterinary training, or for animal handlers to become veterinary nurses without having to start training from year 1. Council does, however, support this migration in principle, and is actively engaging with the relevant university and stakeholders to allow for this.

Students who trained internationally

For graduates from international training institutes that are not automatically registrable with the SAVC, their experience and training is recognised in the following manner:

Authorisation

Council can authorise professionals without the prescribed qualifications towards temporary arrangements to allow for undertaking of work where no suitably registered person could be sourced, for purposes of teaching or research contracts,

or to allow temporary employment whilst time is allowed to prepare for registration examinations. Authorisation is, however, always temporary, and subject to specified scope of work and employment situations. Authorisation may be granted on individual merits.

Annual Registration Examination

An annual registration examination is available for holders of equivalent qualifications for automatic registration. For entry into the exam, council evaluates the training curriculum of the said person. Additional special examinations may be arranged at the discretion of the council.

Competence Specific Registration (CSR)

For professionals without the prescribed qualifications, but who bring into the country expertise in the fields of education, research and/or laboratory work in which a shortage exists, and also in the case of physical handicaps, council may authorise the said person to practice based on their applicable knowledge. While council reserves the right to examine the said person in their field of expertise, in cases of adequate competence or needs (based upon a full motivation), persons can be tested on only their veterinary jurisprudence knowledge.

Creation of post-graduate programs

New Specialist Tracks

Council accepts that Recognition of Prior Learning can be used by incumbents that do not yet have a formal qualification, to create new fields of post-graduate studies or for training of students in new specialities. This in particular applies to senior researchers at universities, who already hold MSc, PhD or equivalent qualifications. It can also apply to practicing veterinarians who serve their veterinary communities through the provision of highly specialised services.

Acceptance of new professions

Grandfather Clause

Council accepts a six (6) month period 'grandfather clause' for veterinary para-professionals to come on board after the notice of a new profession was published in the Government Gazette. A 'grandfather clause' examination is used to bring members of a new profession on board: people who have been doing the work for a period of time are registered after successful completion of such an examination.

Certification

The envisaged veterinary para-profession titled Veterinary Welfare Assistant (WVA) will be a certified profession, based on in-service training at NQF Level 5.

General

- The keeping of a logbook is a requirement for Recognition of Prior Learning.
- Migration between veterinary para-professions and veterinary profession within a university, must be justifiable within the institution who will take responsibility of quality control and outcomes. The said migration must ensure that the student is able to meet Day 1 skills.

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