INTRODUCTION

Find below a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of all examination officials, i.e. SAVC examination administrators, examiners, moderators, the logistics co-ordinator and the examination officer.

NOTE: All examination officials will be expected to sign an agreement that the examination rules will be strictly adhered to.

The minimum requirements for, as well as the method for appointment of, examination officials are listed.
1. **SAVC EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATORS * **

- Director of Education (one person);

- Examination co-ordinator (one person);

- Registration official (one person): only for the provision of lists of prospective candidates derived from the requirements for authorisation; and

- Invigilator/s.

* SAVC Administration personnel or persons delegated/appointed by the SAVC to assist in administrative activities.

**Duties and responsibilities of the SAVC examination administrators**

The Director of Education, together with the examination co-ordinator, are responsible for the successful execution of all functions as listed below relating to the examinations.

**The Director of Education is responsible for:**

- Immediately reporting any deviations from the examination rules to the Registrar.

- Time management of the various functions and duties of the SAVC examination administrators and other examination officials;

- All communication relating to the examination including Council and/or Executive Committee decisions (executed and communicated);

- Seeking approval to hold examinations at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP) at Onderstepoort and/or at any other venue/s annually;

- Co-ordination of all communication. All parties are informed continually to ensure that there is no misunderstanding of what each examination appointee/official need to do and when it needs to be done;

- Inclusion of the examination officer and chairperson of the SAVC Education Committee in all communication;

- Inclusion of the holder of the banks of questions (currently the Faculty of Veterinary Science, UP) and its officials in the communication relevant to the arrangements pertaining to the examination;
The amendment of examination documentation (annually) as per the moderators’, examination officer’s and SAVC Education Committee’s recommendations. The documentation includes:

- Duties of SAVC examination administrators, examiners, moderators, logistics co-ordinator and examination officer;
- Examination administrative rules;
- Examination information and application forms; and
- Examination templates (Computer and/or written and Practical).

Submission of the finalised examination information in the relevant format for publication on the SAVC’s website;

Role in appointment of examiners, moderators, examination officer and logistics co-ordinator includes:

- Establish availability of examiners, moderators, examination officer and logistics co-ordinator. This function includes succession planning and liaison with experienced appointees for nomination of successors;
- Appoint examiners, moderators, examination officer and logistics co-ordinator after approval by the Education Committee;
- Arrange, in liaison with the examination officer, a pre-arranged appointment session to ensure that moderators have a clear understanding of what is required;
- Submit all examination documentation including instructions and details of the respective duties to all examination appointees;
- Process and submit claim forms; and
- Communicate information on any changes relating to any aspects of the questions, during the year up to and upon conclusion of the examinations.

All liaison with regards to the updating and analysis of the examination bank/s including:

- Have intimate knowledge of the scope of the examination;
- Assist examination officer and moderators in the sourcing of new questions from members of the veterinary professions;
- Ensure questions submitted are in the correct format and suitable for written / Computer Based Examinations (CBE);
- Arrange a meeting with moderators for finalisation of the new questions and relating only to questions that are problematic in one way or the other;

- Oversee the updating of the question databank after completion of each examination according to the relevant guidelines;

- Provide secretarial support to the moderators’ meeting.

- Booking and arrangement of:

  (These functions are exercised with the assistance of the examination co-ordinator.)

  - Accommodation;
  - Any materials required;
  - Recordings;
  - Refreshments;
  - Travel; and
  - Venues.

- Preparation and/or distribution of:

  (These functions are exercised with the assistance of the examination co-ordinator.)

  - Access controls (venues);
  - Attendance registers (both candidates and moderators/examiners);
  - Claim forms;
  - Information for candidates;
  - Meetings;
  - Notices; and
  - Copies of the examination rules placed at the venues.
• Processing and circulation of:

  (These functions are not exercised with the assistance of the examination co-ordinator, but are the sole responsibility of the Director of Education.)

  ▪ Budget and control of the examination budget (examination income funds the examination expenditure) in liaison with the SAVC Finance Section;

  ▪ Control sheets for expenditure (processing and control for submission to the Finance Section);

  ▪ Newsletter inserts relating to the examinations; and

  ▪ Result sheets.

• Updating and amendment of:

  ▪ All examination correspondence;

  ▪ All manuals relating to the administrative functions pertaining to the examinations;

  ▪ Checklists; and

  ▪ The SAVC website.

• Liaison with examination candidates including:

  ▪ Submission and explanation of information to candidates;

  ▪ Scrutiny of applications and registering applicants for the examination;

  ▪ Submission of problem applications to the Education Committee;

  ▪ Liaison with the SAVC Finance Section regarding payments received from candidates; and

  ▪ Communication of examination details, results and decisions.

2. EXAMINERS

Examiners for Computer Based Examination (CBE)

• Examiners (academic professionals and/or private practitioners) are requested to:
  o source, with the assistance of the SAVC examination administrators,
up-to-date new written / CBE formatted questions and answers from private practitioners / academic professionals;
  o be responsible for the scientific and editorial content of these questions and of the existing bank of questions. Examination questions must ideally be ratified at an institution that offers a prescribed qualification in the relevant field one month before the examinations take place.

Examiners for Practical Examination

Panels consisting of veterinary and/or para-veterinary professionals employed in private practice/laboratories/state veterinary services/academia are appointed to conduct the Practical Examination as indicated below:

**VETERINARY EXAMINATION**
At least two (2) examiners per panel, except for the Skills Lab panels, where there is at least one (1) examiner per panel.
At least two (2) examiners of the ovariohysterectomy practical

Panels 1A, 1B and 1C: Companion Animals; Equines; Companion Animals (Skills Lab)
Panels 2A and 2B: Production Animals; Production Animals (Skills Lab)
Panels 3A and 3B: Pathology; Veterinary Public Health (VPH)

**VETERINARY NURSING EXAMINATION**
At least one (1) examiner per panel.

Panel 1: Theatre Practice
Panel 2: Surgical Nursing
Panel 3: Medical Nursing
Panel 4: Radiography
Panel 5: Anaesthesia
Panel 6: Reproductive Nursing
Panel 7: General Nursing

**ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN EXAMINATION**
At least one (1) examiner per panel.

Panel 1: Instruments/Equipment
Panel 2: Practical application

**VETERINARY TECHNOLOGIST EXAMINATION**
At least one (1) examiner per panel.

Panel 1: Laboratory technique
Panel 2: Basic diagnostics
Panel 3: Specialised diagnostics
Minimum requirements to act as an examiner

All examinations:

- Academic professional/practitioner with five years of teaching/practice experience;
- Previous experience as examiner of SAVC examinations is desirable;
- Commitment to availability.

Appointment of examiners

Practical Examinations:

- A list of examiners is maintained by the SAVC Administration;
- The examination officer nominates examiners based on their availability;
- The list of nominees is submitted to the SAVC Education Committee for recommendation and approval annually.

Duties and responsibilities of examiners

Practical Examinations:

The practical examiner will:

- draft questions for the practical examination for submission to the moderator before the examination;
- attend the examination;
- keep record of:
  - the candidate tested (keep an attendance register and hand it to the moderator after each examination day);
  - the answer supplied by each candidate to each question; and
  - the marks and results allocated;
- attend a meeting with the moderator after the examination for debriefing of the examinations.

3. MODERATORS

All examinations:

One (1), or more moderators for both the Computer Based Examination (CBE) session and the Practical Examination.

Minimum requirements to act as a moderator

- Experienced academic professional (with 5 years’ experience as an academic course co-ordinator) or a practitioner with experience as examiner;
- Previous experience as moderator of SAVC examinations is desirable;
• Commitment to availability.

Appointment of moderators

• A list of moderators is maintained by the SAVC Administration;
• The examination officer nominates moderators based on their experience and availability;
• The list of nominees is submitted to the Education Committee for recommendation and approval annually.

Duties and responsibilities of moderators

The moderator will:

• attend a pre-arranged appointment session with the examination officer to ensure that they have a clear understanding of what is required;
• analyse the bank of CBE questions after the examination held in the preceding year;
• approve the CBE questions in liaison with the examination officer;
• attend a moderator’s meeting under the chairmanship of the examination officer as soon as possible after the CBE examination to moderate and approve results. A final combined mark will be computed and a final decision will be made on whether candidates have passed or failed during this meeting;
• convene a briefing session with the candidates prior to the examination;
• assess the questions and memorandum for the Practical Examination as supplied by the examiners;
• make sure that the practical examination is organised in such a way that equivalent tasks are, as far as possible, given to all candidates;
• liaise with the logistics co-ordinator to ensure the smooth running of the Practical Examination;
• compute the combined mark for the Practical Examination;
• attend the moderator’s meeting: moderate and approve the results in conjunction with the examination officer for recommendation to Council;
• submit a report on both the standard of the examinations and the administration of the examination to the examination officer.

4. LOGISTICS CO-ORDINATOR

Minimum requirements to act as logistics co-ordinator

• A veterinary or para-veterinary professional familiar with the layout of the institution where the examination takes place;
• Past experience as logistics co-ordinator, is desirable;
• Commitment to availability.
Appointment of the logistics co-ordinator

Practical Examinations:

- Availability based on past experience and a list of logistics co-ordinators held by the SAVC Administration;
- Once availability is ensured, the list of nominees is submitted to the SAVC Education Committee for recommendation and approval annually.

Duties and responsibilities of the logistics co-ordinator

The logistics co-ordinator will:

- make and confirm all arrangements regarding venues to be used after consultation with the relevant person/s;
- establish the needs of examiners (and copy moderators for their information) for the Practical Examination by supplying a list of equipment, animals, furniture, specimens, etc. from the previous year’s examination. Examiners will be asked to indicate what they need in addition. Bio-security challenges will be brought to the attention of the examiners, where necessary;
- complete the necessary forms required to obtain animals and submit to the relevant committee. The maximum number of candidates per profession enrolled for the examination will be used when requesting animals for use;
- liaise with the institution’s pharmacy, where necessary, for all consumables needed for the examination;
- arrange for all equipment, animals, furniture, specimens, etc. to be available and displayed correctly and in time for the examination;
- attend the briefing session of candidates by the practical moderator/s prior to the examination;
- be available on the days of the Practical Examination to assist the practical moderator/s and examiners;
- ensure that all equipment, animals, furniture, specimens used during the Practical Examination are returned;
- ensure that all left over consumables are returned to the pharmacy and/or the SAVC Administration;
- attend the moderator/s’ meeting to give input on the course of the examination; and
- submit a report on the development of the Practical Examination to the examination officer.

5. EXAMINATION OFFICER

Description of the role

The examination officer is appointed by Council to take full responsibility for ensuring that a good quality and fair examination is completed. He/she oversees
all the registration examinations of the SAVC with the support of the SAVC examination administrators.

Council may appoint a deputy examination officer.

**Minimum requirements to act as examination officer**

- Experienced academic professional;
- Previous experience as examination officer of SAVC examinations is desirable;
- Commitment to availability.

**Appointment of the examination officer**

- Availability based on past experience and names held by the SAVC Administration;
- Once availability is ensured, the name/s is submitted to the SAVC Education Committee for recommendation and approval annually.

**Duties and responsibilities of the examination officer**

The examination officer will:

- take overall responsibility for the examination, with the support of the SAVC examination administrators, to ensure that Council rules are strictly adhered to;
- ensure that the written / CBE is produced one month prior to the scheduled examination date;
- ensure that the written / CBE is deemed fair before the examination is due to commence, with the assistance of the moderators;
- monitor the moderators and the arrangements for the written / CBE in liaison with the SAVC examination administrators;
- arrange, in liaison with the SAVC examination administrators, a pre-arranged appointment session to ensure that moderators have a clear understanding of what is required;
- ensure that the correct written / CBE of the day is available to the candidates and assist the candidates and give reasonable direction as needed;
- be present during the first 30 minutes of each session of the written / CBE and be available thereafter should the need arise;
- in consultation with the SAVC examination administrators liaise with the relevant institution’s Information Technology or education staff for implementation of the written / CBE and for access to results and reports;
- chair the moderators’ meetings and draft the collated reports for submission to the SAVC Education Committee within one month of the completion of the entire examination;
- ensure that problem questions are discussed, corrected and prepared for re-entry into the question bank;
be available for a question and answer session should this be deemed necessary by the SAVC Education Committee and Council; and
in the event of a written / CBE problem of any nature, and in conjunction with the SAVC examination administration, convene a meeting as soon as possible between the moderator, registrar and/or chair of the SAVC Education Committee to address the problem.

6. **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PRACTICAL EXAMINERS**

1. **General**
   - Keep communication to the absolute minimum.
   - Do not ask the candidate for any personal information / country of origin, etc.
   - Keep facial expressions neutral. Try to avoid gestures such as smiling, nodding, shaking of the head or any action that may influence the candidate.
   - No hand gestures / signals before, during or after the examination.

2. **At the start of the examination**
   - Greet the candidate in a cordial manner.
   - Confirm the candidate’s identity.
   - The questions are usually self-explanatory. Confirm that the candidate understands the question.

3. **During the examination**
   - Do not make any suggestions on how to place an animal or perform the procedure.
   - Do not interfere with a procedure unless the candidate is endangering the safety of the animal, the handler or him/herself.
   - No prompting or help to be offered.
   - Be consistent with time-keeping. If the candidate is required to perform more than one procedure, manage the time to allow for completion of the required tasks.
   - Do not use your cell phone during the examination.

4. **At the end of the examination**
   - Alert the candidate that their time is up, thank the candidate and move them onto the next station.
   - Complete the mark sheet according to the memorandum.

7. **RENUMERATION**

All examination officials that are not employed by the SAVC are eligible to claim from the SAVC for a fee as per arrangement or a meeting fee or a rate per CBE question that has been approved and included into the databank. All fees are based on current SAVC guidelines. The SAVC Administration will supply all examination officials with the necessary claim forms.
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