EDUCATION SECTION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[11 MAR 2020]

**General: Training**

Q1:  Where can I find out more about the veterinary and para-veterinary professions?

A1:  You can refer to the SAVC website / PROFESSIONS to read more about the various professions.

Q2:  Where can I study to become a veterinarian or veterinary nurse?

A2:  The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (Onderstepoort campus) is currently the only institution in South Africa offering training for veterinarians (BVSc) and veterinary nurses. The Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (DVN) is being phased out and has been replaced from 2019 with the Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing degree (BVetNurs).

Website:  [www.up.ac.za](http://www.up.ac.za)

Q3:  Where can I study to become an animal health technician?

A3:  UNISA (Diploma in Animal Health), North-West University (Mafikeng campus) (Diploma in Animal Health; BSc Agric (Animal Health) and Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (TARDI) (Diploma: Animal Health) offer training for animal health technicians.

Websites:  [www.unisa.ac.za](http://www.unisa.ac.za); [www.nwu.ac.za](http://www.nwu.ac.za); [www.tardi.ac.za](http://www.tardi.ac.za)

Q4:  Where can I study to become a veterinary technologist?

A4:  The Tshwane University of Technology trains veterinary technologists. The Diploma in Veterinary Technology is being phased out and replaced with the Bachelor in Health Science (BHSc in Veterinary Technology) from 2020.

Website:  [www.tut.ac.za](http://www.tut.ac.za)

Q5:  Are there any other veterinary qualifications accepted for automatic registration?

A5:  The following veterinary qualifications are currently accredited for automatic registration (i.e. no Council registration examination is needed):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AUSTRALASIAN VETERINARY BOARDS COUNCIL (AVBC)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), University of Queensland, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), University of Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), University of Melbourne, Australia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), University of Sydney, Australia
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), University of Sydney, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS), Murdoch University, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Bioscience (BVSc), University of Adelaide, Australia
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), University of Adelaide, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), James Cook University, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Biology (BV Biol), Charles Sturt University, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), Charles Sturt University, Australia
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), Massey University, New Zealand

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS (RCVS)
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), University of Bristol, UK
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (VetMB), University of Cambridge, UK
Bachelor of Veterinary Science (BVSc), University of Liverpool, UK
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVetMed), Royal Veterinary College, London, UK

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM), University of Nottingham, UK
Bachelor of Veterinary Surgery (BVS), University of Nottingham, UK
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVM&S), University of Edinburgh, Scotland
Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (BVMS), University of Glasgow, Scotland

* Please note that this list will change due to ongoing evaluation of qualifications. Contact the SAVC Registration Section at registration@savc.org.za for the latest information.

Registration Examination

[Prospective candidates are encouraged to read ALL the questions and answers.]

Q1: What can I do if I wish to, whilst preparing for the SAVC registration examination, perform the services of a veterinarian or para-veterinarian in South Africa?
A1: No person may render veterinary or para-veterinary services in South Africa unless registered or authorised by the SAVC. In the event that a firm job offer has been made, the prospective employer should apply for authorisation and in this regard, contact the Registration Section of the SAVC at e-mail address: authorise@savc.org.za for full details regarding the procedure to follow to apply for authorisation.

Q2: When will the updated examination documents, including fees payable, be available on the SAVC website?
A2: The documents will be available annually at the end of February.

Q3: When is the deadline for the examination applications?
A3: 30 April annually.

Q4: When is the deadline for the payment of the application and examination fees?
A4: 30 April annually.
Q5: Is it possible to make down payments of the examination fees?
A5: No down payments will be accepted.

Q6: When will the examination be held in 2020?
A6: The Computer Based Examination (CBE) will be held on **Monday 31 August** and **Tuesday 1 October 2020**.

The Practical Examination will be held on:
- **Tuesday 8 September 2020** for **veterinary technologists**
- **Wednesday 9 September 2020** for **veterinary nurses** and **animal health technicians**
- **Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September 2020** for **veterinarians**.

In addition, the opportunity to perform an ovariohysterectomy will be offered to **veterinarians** two weeks after successful completion of the initial Practical Examination. Date to be confirmed.

Q7: Is it compulsory to have application documents signed before a Commissioner of Oaths?
A7: Yes. Application documents will not be accepted unless signed before a Commissioner of Oaths in SA or at the SA embassy abroad.

Q8: Is submission of copies of the original documents acceptable?
A8: Copies of the original documents will be accepted for application purposes. Original documents must be presented on the first day of the Computer Based Examination (CBE) before entry will be allowed into the examination room.

Q9: Which holders of veterinary qualifications are allowed entry into the registration examination without curriculum evaluation?
A9: All holders of veterinary qualifications listed on the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) list will not be required to submit detailed curricula.

From 2021 all curricula will be assessed unless a person holding the same qualification as the applicant has previously successfully completed the examination.

Q10: Why should the curriculum of foreign veterinary or para-veterinary qualifications be supplied when the applicant is requested to do so?
A10: If the applicant, the holder of a foreign veterinary or para-veterinary qualification, is applying to enroll for the SAVC’s registration examination for the first time and no other applicant with the same qualification enrolled previously to sit the SAVC’s registration examination, then the SAVC will, based on the curriculum content of the foreign qualification, assess whether the particular foreign qualification qualifies the applicant to sit the SAVC’s veterinary or para-veterinary registration examination.

Q11: When is the deadline for submission of veterinary or para-veterinary qualifications for evaluation?
A11: The deadline for submission of veterinary or para-veterinary qualifications for evaluation is in December of the year **before** the candidate plans to sit the examination in order to allow for evaluation of the curriculum.
Q12: What proof of proficiency in English is accepted by the SAVC?
A12: Proof of proficiency in English must be demonstrated by providing proof of the successful completion of TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) (83/120) to sit both the Computer Based Examination (CBE) and to undertake the Practical Examination.

Q13: Will the requirement of successful completion of TOEFL be waived in any instances?
A13: The requirement is waived for persons whose medium of instruction for their veterinary or para-veterinary training was in English and proof is furnished e.g. proof of English being the language of teaching at the institution of training.

Q14: What format does the examination take?
A14: The examination consists of at least two parts: a) a Computer Based Examination (CBE) with multiple choice questions that takes place over two (2) days and b) a Practical Examination consisting of different examination panels.

   In addition, the opportunity to perform an ovariohysterectomy will be offered to veterinarians two weeks after successful completion of the initial Practical Examination.

Q15: Will all candidates be allowed entry into the Practical Examination?
A15: No, only candidates who passed the Computer Based Examination with the required mark will be allowed entry into the Practical Examination.

Q16: Will the results of the CBE be made available after the completion of the CBE?
A16: Yes, candidates will be informed in writing after the CBE as only candidates who passed the Computer Based Examination with the required mark will be allowed entry into the Practical Examination. Final results will, however, only be made available, in writing, after Council has ratified all the examination results at the next Council meeting. Only Council can ratify the results, which has the effect that the Council can either agree or disagree with the results and can direct otherwise as per the examination rules.

Q17: When will the schedule for the Practical Examination be available?
A17: The schedule for the Practical Examination will only be supplied by the SAVC Administration in the week following the completion of the CBE.

Q18: Will protective gear for the Practical Examination be supplied?
A18: No, each candidate is responsible to bring his/her own protective gear.

Q19: Does the Council supply study material for the examination?
A19: Council is not a training institution and therefore does not supply study material. Candidates may contact the relevant local training institutions to obtain study notes.

Q20: Will an ancillary examination be offered?
A20: Ancillary examinations are offered in the Practical Examination ONLY, to candidates who achieve an overall average of 50% for the Practical Examination, but failed ONE practical panel with marks between 40% - 44,9%
An ancillary examination is, however, not offered for the ovariohysterectomy to be conducted after successful completion of the initial Practical Examination in the examination for veterinarians.

Q21: Does a candidate have to repeat the full examination if they fail one component of the examination?
A21: Candidates who fail the practical examination, as per the stipulated rules, may re-take only the practical examination at its following offering, on condition that the prescribed examination fee is paid and other entrance requirements are met.

Q22: When will the candidate be informed of his/her final results?
A22: Final results will be made available, in writing, after the next full Council meeting. No results will be made available before the Council meeting.

Q23: Are previous examination questions papers available?
A23: There are no previous examination papers available as the examination is computer based. Candidates may contact the training institutions to obtain study notes.

Q24: Will the applicant get the administration fee back when there is a request for a refund of the examination fee?
A24: No, the administration fee is non-refundable.

Q25: Will the applicant get the examination fee back when there is a request for a refund of the examination fee?
A25: No, the examination fee is non-refundable. Please note that failure of a candidate to sit the examination without proper reason will result in forfeiture of the examination fee (proper reasons include sickness via a valid medical certificate or another properly motivated reason). If the examination fee is transferred, this can only occur once and only to the subsequent examination offering.

Q26: Will the examination fees for 2020 be the same as for 2019?
A26: Council determines the examination fees annually and updated information will be provided on the SAVC website after the Council meeting in March 2020.

Q27: What is the examination fee for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions for 2020?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examinations fees 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration fee</td>
<td>R470,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinarians (including administration fee)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> This fee does not include the cost of the</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ovariohysterectomy. TBC</td>
<td>R31 126,00</td>
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Council determines the examination fees annually and updated information will be provided on the SAVC website after the Council meeting in March 2020.
Q28: **Will veterinary candidates who pass the Registration Examination be expected to complete Compulsory Community Service (CCS)?**

A28: In terms of regulation 2.1 of the Regulations relating to the performance of compulsory community service (CCS), Persons Who Shall Perform Compulsory Community Service, published in Government Gazette No. 39380, Notice NO. R. 1082, on 9 November 2015 compulsory community service shall be performed by every person registering for the first time as a veterinarian in terms of the Act and shall include a person who obtained his or her qualifications outside the Republic of South Africa, unless exempted in terms of these regulations.

Regulation 7 provides for the circumstances under which certain persons may be exempted from the performance of compulsory community service and reads as follows:

“The Minister may, after consultation with the Council, exempt persons who fall within the following categories from compulsory community service:

a) Persons who obtained veterinary related post graduate qualifications outside the Republic of South Africa; or

b) Persons who belong to para-veterinary professions.”