



MEMORANDUM

DATE	July 5, 2023
TO	Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
FROM	Jessica Sieferman, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	Agenda Item 5D. AAVSB's Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) Policy Regarding Eligibility Requirements

In May 2023, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) from [Pima Medical Institute](#) (PMI) requested the Veterinary Medical Board (Board) consider approving RVT students to sit for the VTNE prior to graduating from their accredited program. After explaining the Board has no statutory requirements for RVT applicants to sit for the VTNE, the Board's Executive Officer (EO) contacted AAVSB to see if there was a way for students to sit for the VTNE prior to graduation. In response, AAVSB provided the Board's EO a copy of their 2008 policy, which became effective on January 1, 2010, and stated that, "The AAVSB is NOT able to review any VTNE eligibility prior to graduation."

After relaying AAVSB's policy to PMI, the COO responded that their Washington state students were able to sit for the VTNE six months prior to graduation. It was subsequently confirmed that the Washington State Veterinary Board "reviews and approves all VTNE eligibility for candidates who select WA as their jurisdiction."

On May 18, 2023, the Board's EO raised this issue during AAVSB's Executive Director's Roundtable. During the discussion, it was discovered that multiple jurisdictions deviate from the policy, and if other jurisdictions desired to also deviate, they would need to update their individual agreements with AAVSB. This has the potential for 62 different deviations from the 2008 VTNE Policy. In lieu of this option, attendees were informed they could submit a formal request for AAVSB to reconsider the 2008 VTNE Policy.

On June 27, 2023, the Board's EO submitted the attached formal request to AAVSB's Board President on behalf of seven state Executive Officers/Directors.

The AAVSB's Board of Directors is scheduled to discuss the request during their July 19, 2023 meeting.

June 27, 2023

Leslie Knachel, MPH, President
American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)
12101 W. 110th St., Suite 300
Overland Park, KS 66210

Re: AAVSB's 2008 VTNE Policy (Effective January 1, 2011)

Dear President Knachel:

Please consider this a formal request of each of the state board signatories hereto for AAVSB to rescind the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) 2010 Eligibility Requirements, issued in the attached April 25, 2008, policy update memorandum (2008 VTNE Policy), which became effective in 2011 and stated as follows:

After December 31, 2010, a VTNE candidate must be a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the AVMA or the CVMA or a program approved by the regulatory board of the jurisdiction where the examination is given.

During the May 18, 2023, AAVSB's Quarterly Executive Directors' Roundtable, attendees discussed this policy. During the discussion, it was discovered that multiple jurisdictions deviate from the policy, and if other jurisdictions desired to also deviate, they would need to update their individual agreements with AAVSB.¹ This has the potential for 62 different deviations from the 2008 VTNE Policy. In lieu of this option, attendees were informed they could submit a formal request for AAVSB to reconsider the 2008 VTNE Policy.

The state board signatories to this letter have no statutory authority to require proof of veterinary technician program graduation prior to a license² applicant taking the VTNE. Rather, all requirements are tied to the state license application and do not dictate which requirement must be completed first. It is the responsibility of the individual member boards to ensure all requirements, including education, are met prior to issuing the license. Requiring candidates to provide proof of graduation prior to taking the examination is an unnecessary and redundant step in the process, as the review for education eligibility otherwise is completed by the individual member boards prior to licensure.

The 2008 VTNE Policy is also significantly more strict than what is required for veterinarian students, who are able to take their national examination prior to graduating. This allows veterinarian students time to take the examination more than

¹ It still remains unclear as to where the deviation would need to occur in the individual agreements, as they all seem to contain the same generic language.

² The term "license" is a catch all term to capture license, registration, certificate, etc.

once, if needed, prior to graduating without delaying their license application. Because of this, veterinarian students are licensed and able to enter the workforce shortly after graduating.

Just like veterinarian students, veterinary technician students often have career opportunities lined up immediately following graduation. However, if they do not pass the VTNE on the first attempt, they have to wait until the next testing window before they can attempt the exam again. Unfortunately, that means roughly 30%³ of candidates may lose their offer of employment.

As such, this policy delays veterinary technician students from entering the workforce, contributing to the [chronic shortage in veterinary professionals](#). Rescinding the 2008 VTNE Policy would remove this significant and unnecessary barrier and align with the AAVSB's Strategic Plan objective to, "Support access to veterinary services for public protection."

For these reasons, we urge the AAVSB Board of Directors to rescind the 2008 VTNE Policy.

Sincerely,

Victoria Whitmore
Executive Director
Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

Jessica Siefertman
Executive Officer
California Veterinary Medical Board

Mark R. Olson DVM
Mark Olson, DVM
Executive Director
Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners

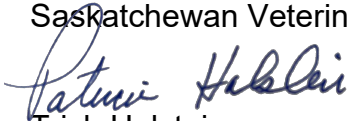
Michelle M. Shane
Michelle M. Shane
Executive Director
Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

³ "The mean three-year national pass rate for the VTNE has been 70.31 percent for first-time takers, according to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, which proctors the examination." (<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2018-05-01/assessing-veterinary-technician-education>)

Jared Granier
Executive Director
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Board



Greg Parks, DVM
Executive Director
Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association



Trish Holstein
Executive Director
West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine

Encl.

April 25, 2008

TO: AAVSB Member Boards
FROM: Robyn Kendrick, Executive Director, on behalf of the AAVSB Board of Directors
CC: Cate Daniels, TIVA/VTNE Program Administrator for further distribution

POLICY UPDATE: Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) 2010 Eligibility Requirements

The AAVSB Board of Directors has worked closely with the Veterinary Technician Testing Committee (VTTC), the Professional Examination Service (PES), the technician associations, the AAVSB member boards, and other key stakeholders to continue to elevate and support the veterinary technician profession. The Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), owned by AAVSB since June 2005, is a key component in this effort. To ensure continuous quality improvement to our programs, and in keeping with the AAVSB's strategic priorities, the Board has approved the following policy regarding eligibility to sit for the VTNE:

After December 31, 2010, a VTNE candidate must be a graduate of a veterinary technology program accredited by the AVMA or the CVMA or a program approved by the regulatory board of the jurisdiction where the examination is given.

This recommendation was initially set forth by the VTTC in 2001, and it has been socialized and discussed by the AAVSB since the purchase of the exam. Based on ongoing conversations with the membership, it is evident that many of the affected regulatory boards have been preparing for the change, and we will gladly continue to assist you in any way possible. Also, staff appreciates all of the input that you have provided regarding the potential impact from this policy change.

In the jurisdictions which do not regulate or license veterinary technicians AAVSB will continue to offer the VTNE on the same schedule as it has been to date and will enforce the education requirements which have already been in place since the first AAVSB administration.

The AAVSB's first administration of this important licensing examination was held in January 2007, in partnership with our testing vendor, PES. At this time, AAVSB handles applications for 20 states and administers the examination in partnership with PES in 17 of them. In the past year the number of candidates who sat for the VTNE has increased 22% (from January 2007 to January 2008). Our preliminary data indicates that there will be a significant increase in the number of candidates from June 2007 to June 2008 as well. Clearly more and more individuals seek to become credentialed, and the AAVSB is proud to partner with all of you to provide the resources necessary to enhance the VTNE.

Finally, the Board of Directors has committed significant resources – including database enhancements, staff support and testing development – to continuous quality improvement efforts for the exam. The AAVSB staff welcomes the opportunity to be of service and appreciates your questions, suggestions and input. Information about the VTNE can be found on our website: www.aavsb.org, or you may contact Ms. Cate Daniels, VTNE Administrator, at cdaniels@aavsb.org or 877-698-8482, ext. 226.