

Veterinary Medical Board

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MEMORANDUM

DATE February 26, 2013

TO RVT Task Force – March 12, 2013
Kim Williams, RVT; Cheryl Waterhouse, DVM; Dave Johnson, RVT; and
Oscar Chavez, DVM.

FROM Sue Geranen Executive Officer
Veterinary Medical Board

SUBJECT **RVT Alternate Route Program Approval and Educational Programs
as per CCR 2068.5 Proposed Regulations**

Background:

The eligibility criteria outlined in CCR 2068.5 is commonly referred to as the “Alternate Route” because it is a pathway that is an alternative to completing a two-year curriculum at an AVMA accredited RVT program. It was originally designed for individuals who were already working in the profession and for whom it was difficult or impossible to stop working in order to go to a full time two year program. A portion of the education requirements can be completed at a local community college and the RVT specific experience can be obtained by attending “approved” continuing education (CE) courses.

In the last five or six years, programs have come into existence that are teaching curriculum as a whole, but the Board does not have specific language in current law that outlines the approval criteria for programs offering “alternate route” RVT curriculum under the provisions of CCR 2068.5.

Issue:

Currently, the law requires 300 hours of education in six general education categories and 5 RVT specific categories, but there are no minimum requirements for hours in each of those categories. For instance, even one hour in any one subject meets the current for individual subjects. One mitigating factor is that the education is combined with three years of directed clinical experience in a veterinary practice and when combined, the experience and education – no matter how many hours in one subject – are deemed equivalent.

The discussion is whether to establish a minimum number of hours required in each of the education categories. Another issue is that there are two ways to establish eligibility, 1) through an approved program, or 2) on your own as an individual. So if a minimum is established for the hours of education in each category, it would apply for both pathways.

One option could be to consider language similar to Section 2085.3 whereby for purposes of continuing education, academic quarter and semester units are defined as 10 and 15 hours respectively. The Committee could consider a minimum of 15 hours in each of the specific education areas, general education (6) and RVT (5) specific areas for a total minimum of between 110 and 165 hours thereby establishing minimum levels while allowing some flexibility in the overall 300 hour requirement for education.

Action Requested:

Consideration of establishing for approving programs that offer the curriculum listed in 2068.5 as a whole and consideration of setting minimum levels of educational categories in CCR Section 2068.5.

RVT Alternate Route Programs – Proposed Concept Language

10/2012

§ 2065.6. School Approval Process.

The following procedures shall be applicable to an institution applying to the board for initial approval of its registered veterinary technician curriculum in accordance with section 2065 of these rules:

(a) The board shall conduct a qualitative review and assessment of the institution's registered veterinary technician curriculum through a comprehensive review process, performed by an inspection team impaneled by the board for that purpose.

(b) After reviewing the inspection team's evaluation report and recommendations, the board shall take one of the following actions:

(1) Grant provisional approval for a period not to exceed two years. An additional two-year provisional approval may be granted by the board for good cause.

(2) Disapprove the application.

(c) Full approval of an institution offering a registered veterinary technician curriculum in accordance with section 2065 shall not be granted until the curriculum has been in operation under provisional approval for at least two years and the board has determined that the curriculum is in full compliance with the provisions of section 2065.

(d) Programs offering the educational criteria outlined in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 2068.5 in its entirety for the purposes of qualifying students for the State Board Exam for registered veterinary technicians must be approved by the Board. In the case of a private postsecondary institution, the institution shall also be approved by the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education.

(1) Board approval shall be based on the following:

a. Programs shall verify that students entering program have either completed all 4,416 hours of directed clinical experience within the five (5) years immediately preceding entrance into the program or are within 500 hours of completing such experience.

b. Program shall offer a minimum of 300 hours of instruction that shall include a minimum of (5-10 in each or 15 to 30 overall?) hours in each of the following: chemistry, mathematics, biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology and medical terminology and a minimum of (5-10 in each or 10-15 hours overall?) in RVT specific courses:

- i. Dental prophylaxis and extraction,
- ii. Anesthesia induction and monitoring,
- iii. Surgical nursing and assisting, including suturing techniques, intravascular catheter placement and application of casts and splints,
- iv. Radiography and radiation safety and
- v. Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care,
- vi. Clinical pathology.

- c. Approved instructors shall meet at least two of the following criteria:
 - i. A license, registration, or certificate in an area related to the subject matter of the course. The license, registration or certificate shall be current, valid and free from restrictions due to disciplinary action by this board or any other health care regulatory agency;
 - ii. A master's or higher degree from an educational institution in an area related to the subject matter of the course;
 - iii. Training, certification or experience in teaching the subject matter of the course; or
 - iv. At least two years experience in an area related to the subject matter of the course.
- d. When seeking Board approval, programs must submit the following:
 - i. Syllabi or course outlines for all courses;
 - ii. The time and location of all courses;
 - iii. Sample of each form used in program:
 - 1. registration forms
 - 2. certificate of course completion
 - 3. evaluation forms for students to evaluate program
 - 4. Record of attendance
 - iv. Names of program director, instructors and other persons involved in education of students and verification of their qualifications.
- e. Full approval of a program offering a registered veterinary technician curriculum in accordance with section 2068.5 shall not be granted until the curriculum has been in operation under provisional approval for at least two years and the board has determined that the curriculum is in full compliance with the provisions of section 2065.6.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4841.5 and 4843, Business and Professions Code.

2068.5. Practical Experience and Education As Equivalent Curriculum.

In lieu of a two year curriculum in animal health technology, completion of a combination of practical experience and education in compliance with the following criteria is deemed to be "the equivalent thereof as determined by the board" pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code:

(a) The education shall consist of a total of 15 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction. The education shall be provided by a postsecondary academic institution or a qualified instructor as defined by Section 2068.5(e). ~~The education shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of all of the following subjects:~~

(b) The RVT specific education shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of all of the following subjects and shall consist of a minimum of (5-10 in each or 10-15 hours overall?) in each subject:

(1) Dental prophylaxis and extraction.

(2) Anesthetic instrumentation, induction and monitoring.

(3) Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, intravascular catheter placement and application of casts and splints.

(4) Radiography and radiation safety.

(5) Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.

(6) Clinical pathology

(b) The general education shall include a minimum of (5-10 in each or 15 to 30 overall?) hours of instruction in chemistry, mathematics, biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology, or these subjects may be obtained as separate courses.

(c) All educational requirements in subsection (a) shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.

(d) Interactive distance-learning shall be accepted if the course meets all the criteria listed in this section and the candidate achieves a documented passing score on the course final examination.

(e) The candidate shall provide the board with a syllabus or an outline for each course. The candidate shall provide documentation of attendance for each course in the form of one of the following:

(1) a certificate of attendance,

(2) an official transcript, or

(3) a letter on official stationery signed by the course instructor documenting that the candidate attended a particular course.

(f)(1) In order for education to be approved for qualification under Section 2068.5, the instructor must meet at least two of the following minimum requirements:

(A) A license, registration, or certificate in an area related to the subject matter of the course. The license, registration, or certificate shall be current, valid, and free from restrictions due to disciplinary action by this board or any other health care regulatory agency;

(B) A master's or higher degree from an educational institution in an area related to the subject matter of the course;

(C) Training, certification, or experience in teaching the subject matter of the course; or

(D) At least two years' experience in an area related to the subject matter of the course.

(2) The instructor shall provide each participant with a course syllabus or detailed outline which includes a description of the material covered.

(g) The directed clinical practice shall consist of at least 4416 hours, completed in no less than 24 months, of directed clinical practice under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian who shall attest to the completion of that experience at the time the application is made to the board for the registered veterinary technician examination. This experience shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.

(h) The directed clinical practice required in subsection (g) shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills, and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior, and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.5, Business and Professions Code.