
SOUTH AFRICAN VETERINARY COUNCIL

EDUCATION SECTION: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

[25 JUN 2018]

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 (Diploma in Veterinary Nursing). The Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (DVN) is being phased out and will be replaced from 2019 with the Bachelor in Veterinary Nursing degree (BVetNurs).

Website: 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; www.nwu.ac.za; www.tardi.ac.za

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

A4: The Tshwane University of Technology trains veterinary technologists (National Diploma: Veterinary Technology).

Website: www.tut.ac.za

Registration Examination

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

Q1: What can I do if a Council Registration Examination is not offered in a particular year and I wish to, in the interim, 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 email 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. The fees payable will be available after the first meeting of Council.

Q3: When is the deadline for the examination applications?

A3: 30 April annually. **[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE]**

Q4: When is the deadline for the payment of the application and examination fees?

A4: 30 April annually. **[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATE]**

Q5: Is it possible to make down payments of the examination fees?

A5: Yes, but down payments will only be accepted until 30 April when final payment must be received. **[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATES]**

Q6: When will the examination be held in 2018?

A6: The Computer Based Examination (CBE) will be held on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 October 2018.

[PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATES]

The Practical Examination will be held on:

Tuesday 9 October 2018 for **veterinary technologists**

Wednesday 10 October 2018 for **veterinary nurses** and **animal health technicians**

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 October 2018 for **veterinarians.**

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 veterinary qualifications are allowed entry into the examination without curriculum evaluation?

A9: All veterinary qualifications listed on the AVMA list and the SAVC list (see savc.org.za) will not be required to submit detailed curricula.

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 qualifications for evaluation?

A11: The deadline for submission of 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) 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 training was in English and proof is furnished e.g. proof of English being the language of teaching at the tertiary institution of training.
- Q14: What format does the examination take?**
- A14: The examination consists of two compulsory 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.
- 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 does not supply study material. Candidates may contact the training institutions to obtain study notes.
- Q20: Will a supplementary examination be offered?**
- A20: No supplementary examination will be offered.
- Q21: When will the candidate be informed of his/her final results?**
- A21: Final results will be made available, in writing, after the next full Council meeting. No results will be made available before the Council meeting.
- Q22: Are previous examination questions papers available?**
- A22: There are no previous examination papers available as the examination is computer based. Candidates may contact the training institution to obtain course notes.
- Q23: Will the applicant get the administration fee back when there is a request for a refund of the examination fee?**
- A23: No, the administration fee is non-refundable.
- Q24: Will the applicant get the examination fee back when there is a request for a refund of the examination fee?**

A24: 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.

Q25: Will the examination fees for 2018 be the same as for 2017?

A25: Council determines the examination fees annually and updated information will be provided on the SAVC website after the Council meeting in March.

Q26: Will veterinary candidates who pass the Registration Examination be expected to do Compulsory Community Service (CCS)?

A26: 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.”*

Accreditation of CPD activities

Q1: Can a CPD applicant assume that an activity is accredited when he/she has received an accreditation (AC) number?

A1: No, the activity is not accredited until such time that the applicant received a formal letter to confirm accreditation of the activity. The number provided serves both as a reference number and an accreditation number.

Q2: How long does it take to process a CPD application for accreditation?

A2: The duration to process a CPD application depends mainly on the completeness of the application. The application will only be forwarded to the CPD Accreditation Committee once all supplementary documents (requirements) were received. Please ensure that all required documents are submitted; if not, the application will be delayed.