

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
SAVC FULL REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - 2026
VETERINARY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS**

Definitions: In these Rules

"Examination Officer"	means the registered veterinary or para-veterinary professional with relevant experience appointed by Council and referred to as the EO.
"Registration Examination/Examination"	means an examination held under the auspices of the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) for persons without approved qualifications or as determined by Council for purposes of registration to practice a Veterinary or Veterinary Para-Profession in South Africa.
"SAVC Administration"	means the officers of the Council at the registered address of the Council.

1. Examination date and venue

- 1.1 The Registration Examination is conducted annually at a venue as advised by the Council.
- 1.2 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% for this panel.
- 1.3 Candidates who fail the practical examination, as per the stipulated rules, may re-take only the full practical examination at its following offering, on condition that the prescribed examination fee is paid and other entrance requirements are met.
- 1.4 Dates for the examination/s are usually determined within the first two months of each year. The SAVC, however, reserves the right to determine the date at a later stage and/or change the date of the examination. The date will be published on the SAVC website (www.savc.org.za). While all efforts are made to facilitate the examinations in September / October, these matters are not always within the control of the Council.

2. Requirements to sit the Registration Examination

[NOTE: Requirements 2.1 – 2.12 below correlate with the examination checklist form.]

- 2.1 Application on the prescribed form completed and signed before a Commissioner of Oaths in South Africa (or at the SA embassy abroad) on or before 30 June. Late or incomplete applications are not accepted.

****If an application is transferred to the next year then a new completed and signed application form must be submitted.***

- 2.2 Payment of the prescribed non-refundable and non-transferable administration fee. The amount will be available from the SAVC Administration annually after February. Payment to:

Bank: ABSA Bank Limited
Account Number: 020 166 762
Branch: Hatfield
Branch Code: 632 005
Swift Code: ABSA-ZA-JJ
IBAN NO: 020 166 762 632 005

by no later than 30 June.

NB: Indicate a clear reference using surname, initials and year of examination (e.g. Modiba TA 2026).

Submit proof of payment to the SAVC Administration at edu.coordinator@savc.org.za
Attach a copy to the application.

- 2.3 Payment of the prescribed non-refundable examination fee. 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 justified reason). If the examination fee is transferred, this can only occur once and only to the subsequent examination offering. Payment to:

Bank: ABSA Bank Limited
Account Number: 020 166 762
Branch: Hatfield
Branch Code: 632 005
Swift Code: ABSA-ZA-JJ
IBAN NO: 020 166 762 632 005

by no later than 30 June.

NB: Indicate a clear reference using surname, initials and year of examination (e.g. Modiba TA 2026).

Submit proof of payment to the SAVC Administration at edu.coordinator@savc.org.za
Payments must be made in full by 30 June.

- 2.4 A clear original passport/ID photograph. The applicant should write his/her name on the back of the photograph and staple it to the front of the application form.
- 2.5 Certified true copies of para-veterinary qualification certificates must be submitted with the application form. To confirm authenticity, original certificates must be produced prior to sitting the examination.
- 2.6 A candidate who is the first person to apply to sit the SAVC registration examination with that qualification, must submit the full curriculum and course content to the SAVC Administration for evaluation and approval to allow entry into the examination. Contact Ms Lenora Erasmus (edu.coordinator@savc.org.za) should there be any queries. Council, at any time, reserves the right to request curriculum detail from a candidate regardless of

whether the qualification/institution appears on the stated list. Council further reserves the right to request further supporting documentation as deemed necessary. The submission must be received before the end of December in the year prior to the year in which the candidate intends to apply to sit the examination. Submission of your curricula does not automatically guarantee a place in the examination.

- 2.7 A certificate of good standing issued within the last three (3) months by: the veterinary authorities in the country in which the applicant has been registered as a para-veterinarian OR from the present employer OR in the absence of a professional Council/Board or registering authority, then a certified reference from the faculty where the applicant qualified. This reference should be submitted within three (3) years of qualifying from the faculty.

This requirement does not apply to persons already authorised with the SAVC, as it would have already been produced.

****If an application is transferred to the next year, then a new updated certificate of good standing must be submitted.***

- 2.8 A police clearance certificate (not older than three (3) months) from the authorities in the country where the applicant resides.

****If an application is transferred to the next year, then a new updated police clearance certificate must be submitted.***

- 2.9 Certified proof of identity e.g. passport/ID must be provided. The original proof of identity must be provided on the first day of the examination.
- 2.10 Certified copy of applicant's legal permit e.g. work, study or other legal entry visa. If the applicant is working in South Africa, then the work/residence permit must accompany the application if the applicant is not a South African citizen. If the applicant is employed in South Africa to render the services of a veterinarian, veterinary nurse, veterinary technologist, animal health technician or a laboratory animal technologist, then proof of employment and proof of authorisation by the SAVC to render those services must also be submitted with the application. Full and contactable details of the employer must be provided. The certified copy of applicant's legal permit i.e. work, study or other legal entry visa must be provided on the first day of the examination.
- 2.11 Applicants must submit proof of proficiency in English as a requirement to sit both the Computer Based Examination (CBE) and to undertake the Practical Examination by means of the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) (83/120) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System)(6). The requirement is waived for persons who can prove that their medium of instruction for their para-veterinary training was in English.
- 2.12 A foreign qualification verification certificate from the SA Qualifications Authority should be submitted.
- 2.13 In view of the fact that arrangements for the examination commence immediately after registration of candidates for the examination and are based on the number of candidates, no applicant, who after having been registered for the examination and issued with an examination number and who subsequently withdraws from the

examination, will be permitted to re-enter the candidate list for the examination for which the applicant was registered.

3. Examination rules

[NOTE: The examination will be subject to the rules valid for the year in which the examination is held. Council reviews the examination rules with every new term of Council i.e. every three (3) years, but reserves the right to update the rules on an annual basis, where required.]

- 3.1 An attendance register with the names of candidates will be available at the examination room. Candidates will sign the attendance register on leaving the Computer Based Examination (CBE) room and on leaving the Practical Examination.
- 3.2 Candidates must present themselves at the examination venue at least 30 minutes prior to commencement of the CBE and the Practical Examination. A candidate whose name is on the attendance register may be allowed to enter the examination room for a period of 30 minutes after commencement of the examination at the discretion of the Examination Officer. No-one may leave the examination room during the first 30 minutes of the examination.
- 3.3 No candidate will be allowed entry into the examination should he/she arrive at the examination premises under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance.
- 3.4 Candidates must ensure that their names and candidate numbers are correctly logged in on the computer.
- 3.5 Candidates must carefully read and apply the directions given during the briefing session and on the computer.
 - 3.5.1 A candidate may not be in possession of books, electronic devices (cell phones smart devices), memoranda, note(s), sketches, maps, films or any other documents (including unused paper) or any other resources that may be relevant to the examination, other than what is provided to the candidate by the Examination Officer or the SAVC's Administration on his/her instruction and his/her behalf. The SAVC will, on request, make calculators available to candidates.

[NOTE: Candidates involved in examination irregularities will immediately be notified of this. While the candidate will be allowed to complete the examination, his/her conduct will be submitted to the examination officer and moderators for consideration and a recommendation will be made to full council. Candidates who are deemed to have sufficient evidence to support a finding of misconduct, will be denied registration. Furthermore, the candidate will be barred from participating in another council examination for a period not exceeding five years. Any authorisation granted to the candidate will also be immediately terminated. Council also reserves the right to inform the candidates home registration body of the misconduct and also reserves the right to pursue other legal actions.]
 - 3.5.2 A candidate who aids or attempts to aid another candidate, or obtains or attempts to obtain assistance from another candidate, or communicates or attempts to communicate in any way with another candidate or unauthorised person during the examination, will be subjected to an enquiry process by the Council.

- 3.5.3 All rough work must be handed in before the candidate leaves the examination room.
- 3.6 Smoking, eating and drinking are prohibited in the examination room.
- 3.7 The Examination Officer will be present at the commencement of the examination for at least 30 minutes to answer any questions that the candidates may have and to give direction with regard to time available.
- 3.8 The Examination Officer will be contactable during the examination by the invigilator/s should the need arise.
- 3.9 The candidates will leave the examination room/venue as soon as the time allocated for the CBE and the Practical Examination has expired. No extra time will be allocated for the completion of the examinations. An exception may be made by the Examination Officer for candidates with physical disabilities on application for an extension..
- 3.10 Candidates must note that the Practical Examination may be conducted at a different venue from that of the CBE. A marked road map will be made available from the SAVC Administration on request.
- 3.11 Council may set a time limit for each Computer-Based Examination, as well as for any practical part of any examination. Any such time limits will be communicated to the candidates in writing prior to the examination, as well as when sitting the examination and partaking in any practicals forming part of the examination.
- 3.12 Pass requirements are as follows:

In order to be registered with the SAVC, a candidate must pass both the Computer Based Examination and the Practical Examination.

COMPUTER BASED EXAMINATION (CBE)			
DAY 1		DAY 2	
PAPER 1 Veterinary Physiotherapy: Small Animals - Applied Veterinary Sciences (90 marks) (Sub-minimum: 50%)	PAPER 2 Veterinary Physiotherapy: Small Animals - Physiotherapy Science and Applied Therapy (90 marks) (Sub-minimum: 50%)	PAPER 3 Veterinary Physiotherapy: Equines - Applied Veterinary Sciences (90 marks) (Sub-minimum: 50%)	PAPER 4 Veterinary Physiotherapy: Equines - Physiotherapy Science and Applied Therapy (90 marks) (Sub-minimum: 50%)

Candidates who do not achieve the required pass-level in all 4 CBE papers fail the examination and do not progress to the Practical Examination.

PRACTICAL EXAMINATION STRUCTURE						
EQUINE PANEL	Station 1: Orthopaedic Assessment 20 min	Station 2: Neurologic assessment 20 min	Station 3: Electrotherapy 20 min	Station 4: Active exercise 20 min	Station 5: Kinesiotape 20 min	Full Clinical Examination 1:10 -1:30 hours
SMALL ANIMAL PANEL	Station 1: Orthopaedic Assessment 20 min	Station 2: Neurologic assessment 20 min	Station 3: Electrotherapy 20 min	Station 4: Active exercise 20 min	Station 5: Hydrotherapy 20 min	Full Clinical Examination 1:10 -1:30 hours

All stations have to be completed and passed before gaining access to the full clinical examination for the equine and small animal panels, respectively.

To pass the Practical Examination a candidate has to achieve an average of 50%, as well as a sub-minimum of 45% per panel. Any mark below 45% will be considered a fail.

Candidates who achieve an average of 50% for the Practical Examination, but failed ONE practical panel with marks between 40% - 44,9% for this panel, will be allowed an ancillary examination in this panel immediately after the completion of all the practical panels.

Final mark

A final combined mark of 50% is required to pass the Registration Examination and allow registration. The final combined mark will be calculated as follows:

Computer Based Examination	50%
Practical Examination	50%

- 3.13 Examination results will only be made known by the Council after the next meeting of the Council. *Council will at all times strictly comply with the sub-minima requirements of each section and/or sub-section of the examination. Council does not adjust marks and as such marks presented will be used as is.*
- 3.14 No practical roster will be issued prior to the finalisation of the CBE component.
- 3.15 For CBE there is no re-mark and no redress, and no provision of a memorandum, but should there be a query by a candidate, the specific query will only be addressed after the moderators' meeting and after the Council ratified the results.
- 3.16 A candidate who wishes to appeal, should do so in writing within 7 days of receiving his/her results. Proof of payment of the SAVC administrative fee should accompany the appeal. The outcome of the appeal will serve at the next Standards of Education Committee meeting before the candidate is informed of the final outcome.
- 3.17 The moderators will moderate the results at a meeting to be held after completion of the full examination [CBE and Practical Examination]. After the moderators' meeting, the Examination Officer will submit the results as a recommendation to Council for ratification.
- 3.18 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. The

Council will assess whether the moderators and Examination Officer maintained the required standards by following the examination rules throughout.

- 3.19 Council does not accept responsibility for incorrect information obtained from any person/s on examination arrangements or results other than the Registrar of Council. All enquiries must be made directly to the SAVC Administration.
- 3.20 No results will be made available by the Registrar until ratified by Council.
- 3.21 Council will not be held responsible for any costs incurred by candidates to enrol and attend the examinations including loss of income, and/or costs incurred by employers in any respect of failure of candidates and/or any other loss in any regard relating to the examinations.
- 3.22 Council reserves the right to deny entry into any components of the examination.
- 3.23 All candidates, Examination Officer, Moderators and Examiners must abide by the examination rules.
- 3.24 Council does not take responsibility for any injury and/or loss and/or damages for any reason at all relating to the examination and the candidate hereby irrevocably waives any claim he/she may have against Council.

[VC6/2/EXAMS/Doc C – VET PHYSIOS: MAR 2026]