

**GENERAL EXAMINATION INFORMATION
SAVC REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - 2026
VETERINARY NURSES**

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) was established in terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, Act No 19 of 1982 and only persons who are registered with the Council may practice as veterinary nurses in South Africa.

The position with regards to registration is as follows:

1. SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS

Persons holding the qualifications prescribed in the Act and Regulations are entitled to automatic registration with the Council on receipt of the requisite application form and fee. At present these qualifications are: the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (DVN) from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, the Diploma Cur Anim from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria and the Degree in Veterinary Nursing (BVetNurs) from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria.

2. PERSONS WITH FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS

Persons with qualifications from any other institution throughout the world are required to pass an examination prior to being registered in South Africa. This requirement must not be construed in any way as a comment on the standard or quality of other educational training, but is purely related to the fact that no agreement of reciprocity exists between this Council and the registering authorities of these countries.

Such persons shall submit an application to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) for permission to enrol for the examination. Applications for permission to write must be received by the SAVC Administration on or before 30 June. If permission is granted the applicant is required to sit the examination in October or at a date as advised by Council of the same year in Pretoria or a venue to be advised. Please note that an examination will be required unless the Council expressly decides otherwise.

The South African Veterinary Council is the regulatory authority governing the registration of qualified persons and the conduct of the profession.

The Council is not in a position to render assistance with regard to the obtaining of employment in South Africa.

3. EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION AS A VETERINARY NURSE

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Application to sit for the examination of the South African Veterinary Council must be made in writing and on the prescribed application form to:

E-mail: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za

2. Examinations are held at:

The Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP), Onderstepoort OR

The SAVC offices: 26 Victoria Link Street, Route 21 Corporate Park, Nellmapius Drive, Irene OR

At a venue/s to be advised.

3. The closing date for enrolment is 30 June.

4. Late entries will NOT be considered.

5. If a candidate fails the examination twice, they are only permitted to apply to sit an additional examination if they provide the following:

- Additional proof that shows that the chances of passing an additional examination are increased based on past performance;
- Proof of further studies (continuing veterinary education courses) in the relevant areas wherein the person was previously deficient;
- Other factors relevant to the candidate's personal circumstances;
- any follow up examinations in which the candidate prepared him/herself with further studies.

6. The examination consists of at least two parts:

6.1 A Computer Based Examination (CBE) consisting of two sessions which is of a general nature and which will test the candidate's basic knowledge and understanding of specific and important South African conditions. Candidates will be given an opportunity before the actual examination to complete an unrelated computer-based questionnaire (dummy run) to enable candidates to familiarise themselves with the CBE format.

6.2 A Practical Examination conducted by panels of examiners appointed by the Council.

6.2.1 During the Practical Examination the candidate's proficiency in English and the applicant's professional attitude will figure prominently.

6.2.2 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.

6.3 A sub-minimum mark of 50% per paper for the CBE sessions, a sub-minimum of 50% in the Practical Examination with a sub-minimum of 45% per panel as well as an overall final combined mark of 50% is required to pass the examination and allow registration.

The final combined mark will be computed as follows:

CBE component	50%
Practical component	50%

7. Candidates must have a sound knowledge of the main laws pertaining to veterinary science and the para-veterinary profession in South Africa and their application regulations, viz:
 - 7.1 Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No 36 of 1947)
 - 7.2 Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984) as amended
 - 7.3 Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, (Act No 101 of 1965) as amended
 - 7.4 Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, (Act No 19 of 1982), as amended
 - 7.4.1 Rules and Regulations
 - 7.5 Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act 40 of 2000)
 - 7.6 Animal Improvement Act, 1977 (Act No 25 of 1977) as amended [Animal Improvement Act, (Act No 62 of 1998)]

INCLUDING all relevant gazetted regulations promulgated in terms of the above Acts.
These Acts are published in Government Gazettes, which are obtainable at libraries and specifically at:

The National Library of South Africa
75 Thabo Sehume (Andries) Street
Pretoria
South Africa

Tel: 0027 (012) 401 9700

Private Bag X990
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

Website: www.nlsa.ac.za

8. In addition, candidates must have a sound knowledge, *inter alia*, of:
 - 8.1 Anatomy and Histology
 - 8.2 Physiology and Physiological Chemistry
 - 8.3 Veterinary Ethology
 - 8.4 Laboratory Technique
 - 8.5 Microbiology, Epidemiology, Immunology
 - 8.6 Parasitology
 - 8.7 Pharmacology

NOTE: All subjects must cover the following species: Companion Animals, Production Animals and Equines.

9. In addition, candidates must have a sound theoretical and practical knowledge of the following clinical nursing subjects:

9.1 GENERAL NURSING

Ethical aspects, clinical relations, responsibilities towards the employer, patient and clients. General precaution and safety aspects during hospitalisation, nursing and treatment of patients. Hygiene of the hospital, apparatus and patient. Safe storage of medicines, safe medication and the recording thereof. Observation of the patient and accounting to the veterinarian with the use of correct veterinary terminology. Rules pertaining to transport of animals and basic bandaging.

9.2 MEDICAL NURSING

Theoretical aspects of intensive care nursing, including fluid therapy, blood transfusion, blood bank, cardiovascular- and pulmonary resuscitation, diet therapy, recognition and treatment of shock. Practical monitoring of patients. General nursing aspects of all body systems. Nursing patients with contagious and infectious diseases. Geriatric nursing. Medical nursing of animals.

9.3 SURGICAL NURSING

The classification and treatment of inflammation, wounds, haemorrhage, fractures and dislocations. Wound healing. Healing of different types of tissue. Surgical terminology. Examination of a traumatised patient. Ocular emergencies. General surgical conditions and procedures of the thorax, abdomen, head and neck, skin spinal column and the locomotory system. Nutrition of surgical patients. Surgical nursing of animals. Bandaging of large and small animals. Dental hygiene. Physiotherapy. Pre-and postoperative nursing.

9.4 REPRODUCTIVE NURSING

Elementary reproductive physiology and endocrinology of male and female domestic animals. The oestrus cycle. Fertilisation. Artificial insemination of the cow and bitch. Thy physiology of pregnancy and care of the pregnant animal. Methods of pregnancy diagnosis. Normal parturition and care of the animal during parturition. Elementary gynaecology. The puerperium. Care of neonates. Elementary principles of semen collection, examination and storage. The principles of oestrus control. Infertility in male and female animals. Reproductive emergencies (including the administration of epidural anaesthesia and correction of a simple, abnormal presentation of the foetus.) The principles of herd health programmes. Laboratory technique in relation of the diagnosis of reproductive abnormalities.

9.5 THEATRE PRACTICE

Operating theatre management. Basic principles of aseptic and atraumatic surgery. Preoperative preparation of the surgical patient. Assisting the surgeon. Knowledge and care of surgical instruments, equipment and apparatus. Suture materials, needles, placement and removal of skin sutures. Disinfection and sterilisation. Medico-legal risks and theatre ethics.

9.6 RADIOGRAPHY

The generation and properties of X-rays. Precautionary measures. Manipulation of exposure factors. Positioning. Indications for additional apparatus and management thereof. Films,

contrast media, processing and evaluation of the quality of radiographs. Basic principles of diagnostic ultrasonography.

9.7 ANAESTHESIA

The physiology and signs of anaesthesia. Anaesthetic drugs, methods and apparatus. Administration and monitoring of anaesthesia. Preparation and post-anaesthetic care. Anaesthetic emergencies.

PLEASE NOTE

If candidates should require any additional information regarding examination policy, the administration and organisation of the examination, they may direct their enquiries to:

E-mail: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za

Tel: 0027 (012) 345 6360

[VC6/2/EXAMS/Doc F – VET NURSES: MAR 2026]

Payments to the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC)

Persons in foreign countries should please note that payments to the South African Veterinary Council should be remitted to:

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

and payees are to ensure that the amount transferred is the correct amount in South African Rand. When transfers are made, ABSA must be advised of the details pertaining to payment, as follows:

Payment for application to sit registration with the South African Veterinary Council

Person's name: _____

Copy of Identity Document: _____

Date of payment: _____

Please advise the South African Veterinary Council of transfer of payment, as follows:

Person's name: _____

Name of bank of origin: _____

Payee's account number: _____

Amount of payment: _____

Date of payment: _____

E-mail the information to: edu.coordinator@savc.org.za