



PREPARATION FOR THE SAVC REGISTRATION EXAMINATION REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - 2026 VETERINARY NURSES

Introduction

The South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) registration examination for foreign veterinary nursing candidates has been offered on a yearly basis. Experience has shown that it is a difficult examination to pass and preparation should be extensive, thorough and in detail. The Examination Officer of the SAVC examinations suggests that prospective candidates give themselves eighteen (18) months to prepare for the examination. The following document is a guide to potential candidates on how to prepare themselves for the examination to optimise their chances of passing.

Structure of the examination

The examination consists of a Computer-Based Examination (CBE) including multiple choice questions, while the practical examination is a structured oral and practical in the major disciplines namely Theatre Practice, Surgical Nursing, Medical Nursing, Anaesthesia, Radiology, Reproductive Nursing and General Nursing. Both companion and production animals may be used during the practical examination.

To do well in the CBE, the following information may help:

- Do not look at the answers before you have read the question carefully;
- Formulate your own answer to the question before looking at the answers supplied. This will prevent the answers from throwing you off guard;
- Eliminate all answers that according to your knowledge are incorrect;
- Read all the options before you answer;
- There is no guessing penalty in the examination, however, consider all options prior to responding;
- Do not alter your answer unless you have misread the question.

Experience has shown that most candidates who pass the theoretical component (CBE) pass the practical examination. Thorough theoretical preparation is still very important for the practical examination. Many veterinary nurses attempting to pass the SAVC registration examination have limited practical experience with certain species like horses and production animals. If this is the case, it is recommended that you spend a couple of days in practice observing clinical practice and a community veterinary clinic (primary health care).

Study material and contact details

- The SAVC is a regulatory body and not a training institution, therefore study material is not provided.
- Contact the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria (UP) on (012) 529 8000 to purchase study material at a cost. Speak to the office of the Deputy Dean: Learning and Teaching.
- The Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, other veterinary related legislation and rules and regulations pertaining to the para-veterinary profession of veterinary nursing can be accessed at: www.savc.org.za
- The Veterinary Nurses Association of South Africa can be reached on www.vnasa.org

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