GENERAL PAVE FOR VETERINARY TECHNICIANS INFORMATION

The Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) for Veterinary Technicians is operated by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), a not-for-profit organization whose mission furthers public protection by providing services to its Member Boards, veterinary licensing authorities in the United States and Canada. The purpose of PAVE for Veterinary Technicians is to assess the education equivalence of international veterinary technician/nurse graduates on behalf of participating AAVSB Member Boards.

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians defines an "international veterinary technician/nurse graduate" as a veterinary technician/nurse whose degree was conferred outside of the United States and Canada by a recognized post-secondary, professional school of veterinary technology/nursing or equivalent program. A "recognized" school is one that is officially approved, and meets the educational requirements, for credentialing by the government of its country.

Graduates from a recognized post-secondary, professional school of veterinary technology/nursing or equivalent program outside the United States or Canada in non-American Veterinary Medical Association-Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA-CVTEA) or non-Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) accredited programs are considered to be "international veterinary technician/nurse graduates." Graduates from AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited programs within the United States or Canada will not be considered to be "international veterinary technician/nurse graduates" as defined by the AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program.

The AAVSB provides the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians certificate as a means of documenting the equivalency of a candidate's veterinary technology/nursing education. In jurisdictions that accept the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians certificate, the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Certificate is recognized as substantiating the educational requirements as one criterion toward credentialing eligibility. **The PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Certificate is not a credential to practice as a veterinary technician.** In order to be credentialed to practice, candidates who receive the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Certificate must also meet additional statutory criteria, including successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). Because the requirements vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, candidates should directly contact the specific veterinary board(s) in which they desire credentialing.

CREDENTIALS REGISTRATION

Application information to PAVE for Veterinary Technicians is also used to populate the AAVSB's Veterinary Information Verifying Agency (VIVA) database which provides a centralized, uniform process for jurisdictional licensing authorities to obtain a primary source record of a veterinary technician/nurse's credentials. The service maintains information about veterinary technicians/nurses in the areas listed below:

- Identifying Documents
- Education & Training Background
- English Language Proficiency
- Professional Examination History
- Employment History
- Credential History

ENROLLMENT

Photocopies and faxed applications will not be processed. Program applications are accepted only online via the AAVSB website. All applications must be complete and include full payment of the initial fee before they are processed. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express or any other approved payment are accepted. Additional fees will be incurred at specific steps of the program including, but not limited to, transcript and credential evaluation requirements.

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidates must substantiate English language proficiency when submitting a PAVE for Veterinary Technicians application. English language proficiency may be established through one of the two options listed below.

Option #1: Accepted English proficiency examinations:
- Completion of the **Test of English as a Foreign Language Internet (TOEFL iBT)** with minimum section scores as follows: listening 26; speaking 26; writing 20; and reading 18; or
- Completion of the **International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** with a minimum score of 6.5 overall and minimum section scores of Speaking: 7; Listening: 6.5; Reading and Writing: 6. PAVE Candidates must take the Academic Module.

NOTE: *TOEFL and IELTS scores are considered valid for two years after the test date. English proficiency scores must be valid at the time a PAVE for Veterinary Technicians submits the application. Candidates must meet all section requirements on a single English proficiency examination.*

Option #2. **Substantiation that the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidate has attended at least three (3) years at a secondary high school or graduated from a post-secondary, professional**

veterinary technology/nursing school or equivalent program within that country under which the complete language of instruction was English. Accepted documentation includes:

- ☐ A letter received by PAVE for Veterinary Technicians directly from school officials stating the dates of attendance and verifying that the complete language of instruction was English.
- ☐ A certified or notarized copy of the final high school or post-secondary diploma or transcript received directly from the institution.

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidates who were homeschooled for all or part of their high school education (grades 9—12) may submit a letter from a school district official who had oversight of their home school curriculum to substantiate that the primary language of instruction was English.

Documentation that the candidate has met the English Proficiency criteria is due at the time of application.

COURSE BY COURSE EVALUATION

To meet the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians education equivalence requirement, candidates must submit to the AAVSB a completed application and relevant fees.

All supporting documentation, including official syllabi/outlines of courses completed at their recognized post-secondary, professional school of veterinary technology/nursing or equivalent program and official transcripts, must be received directly from the institution to the AAVSB or designee.

The AAVSB or its designee will review the official transcripts and content of the course syllabi/outlines of courses from the teaching institution. These documents must be submitted directly to the AAVSB by the teaching institution which provided the program and will be used to substantiate education equivalence and identify gaps in the international non-accredited curriculum completed by the candidate. Gaps will be determined by comparing completed coursework to that of the AVMA-CVTEA and CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing curriculum, essential skills requirements.

 Any identified gaps in course curriculum and a recommendation of gap content completion will be reviewed by the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee. The PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee will communicate directly with the candidate on next steps in the program.

GAP CONTENT COMPLETION

Upon receiving the official evaluation and to meet the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians gap content completion requirement, candidates must apply to an AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing distance learning or on-campus program to complete and successfully pass the course(s) that contain the identified gap content.

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians candidates must provide to the AAVSB the following information before beginning the gap content completion step:

1. Copy of the acceptance letter from the AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing college or university program.
2. Acknowledgement form provided by the AAVSB, signed by the academic dean (or designated representative) of the AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing college or university program.

After successful completion of the gap content requirement, documentation of completion (including starting and ending dates) and official transcripts must be sent directly from the academic dean (or designated representative) of the host AVMA- CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary college or university program to the AAVSB.

Course(s) completed at an AVMA-CVTEA or CVMA accredited veterinary technology/nursing college or university program prior to applying to the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program will be reviewed and considered to determine if the gap course content requirement has been met.

COMMITTEE REVIEW PROCESS

Upon receiving all documentation, the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Committee will complete its review. If approved, PAVE for Veterinary Technicians certificates are issued. Issued certificates are subject to ratification by the AAVSB Board of Directors. Upon request from the candidate, official copies of the certificate may be sent directly to the designated jurisdiction credentialing board(s).

VTNE EXAM ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Certificate holders are eligible to submit an AAVSB VTNE online application per exam eligibility requirements. Exam eligibility requirements are determined by the jurisdiction credentialing board.

TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Any required document (including all seals and/or stamps) not in English must include an English translation prepared and certified by an approved professional translation service. Candidates are required to request and submit original documents in addition to the certified translations. All costs associated with the translation of submitted documents are the responsibility of the candidate.

APPLICATION STATUS

A PAVE for Veterinary Technicians application fee is valid for four years while completing the program. If not completed in four years and to remain active in the PAVE for Veterinary Technicians program, candidates must notify the AAVSB in writing, pay all relevant fees, and meet current PAVE for Veterinary Technicians requirements.

PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Program established on 12.16.20. The AAVSB PAVE for Veterinary Technicians Standards and Policies as approved by the Board of Directors on 12.16.20.