



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General Applicant Information - Sequencing, fees, and application requirements

What are the steps of PAVE and do they need to be completed in order?

Steps of PAVE must be completed in order – see the [PAVE Checklist \(pdf\)](#) for a detailed description of the certification process.

Is there a waiting list for the PAVE Program, the Qualifying Examination, or the VCSA?

There are no waiting lists for the PAVE Program, the Qualifying Examination, or the VCSA examination.

Can I pay the application fee and the Qualifying Examination fee separately?

No. All fees must be paid up-front, and submitted with the application. All fees are non-refundable.

How can I apply for PAVE online?

The PAVE application is online. Please note the additional documents that must be sent by mail, which are listed on [the PAVE homepage](#). All PAVE candidates must use our online form to apply.

Where can I take the QE?

When you complete the online application, you will be asked to indicate a location preference. Based on the information you provide, the NBVME will arrange a regional test center within a reasonable distance of your preference. You will be notified of your assigned location approximately 5 weeks prior to the test date.

If I drop out of the PAVE Program, will I get my money back?

ALL FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

If I fail the Qualifying Examination and want to retake it, do I have to pay again?

You must pay the \$800 exam fee if you choose to retake the Qualifying Examination. You do not have to pay the \$375 application fee.

Veterinary Credentials Information and Requirements

Do I need to have all of my documents, i.e. English scores, transcripts, and identity documents ready to send in with my application?

The application itself, accompanied by payment, must be received by the deadline. All other documents MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE.

Can I find my own translator for my foreign documents?

Yes. Documents in a foreign language may be translated by the veterinary school or another official translation service. AAVSB may ask for additional translations if deemed necessary.

English Proficiency Information and Requirements

If my English scores are over 2 years old by the time I complete the PAVE Program, will I have to retake them?

No. Scores must be valid at the time you are applying for the PAVE Program.

Can I send you copies of my English score reports if I didn't request an original to be sent to AAVSB?

In order for you to be considered eligible for the Qualifying Exam, we must have original, authentic score reports mailed directly from TOEFL or IELTS.

Can I use more than one score report to meet the PAVE requirements?

No. We will not accept section scores from multiple score reports. Candidates must achieve all section requirements on the same score report.

Qualifying Examination Information and Eligibility Requirements

I've applied to PAVE, now how do I find out where to take the QE?

You will receive an e-mail from the NBVME approximately 5 weeks prior to your test date, indicating your test location. The NBVME will email you an Authorization Letter approximately 30 days prior to your test date. You must present the Authorization Letter to the testing center or you will not be permitted to sit for the examination.

What should I bring to my QE test center?

The NBVME will email you an Authorization Letter approximately 30 days prior to your test date. You must present the Authorization Letter and a photo ID to the testing center or you will not be permitted to sit for the examination.

What if I lose my authorization letter?

If you misplace your authorization letter before your test date, [contact the NBVME](#) immediately to have a new one sent.

Will I be allowed to take the QE if I forget my authorization letter or photo ID?

No. Contact NBVME immediately if you are not allowed to sit for the QE because you do not have your authorization letter.

How long will it take to get my results from the QE?

QE Results are available 4 to 6 weeks after the examination. You will be notified first by email, and you will receive an official score report in the mail.

Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) Information

How much is the VCSA and where can I take it?

The examination fee is \$13,500 per attempt. It will be administered at Cedar Valley College in Dallas, TX. ALL candidates must pass the Qualifying Examination and graduate from a recognized veterinary college outside of the U.S. before taking the VCSA.

PAVE Recognition

Are more states working towards accepting the PAVE Certification for their educational requirement for foreign graduates?

There are states are working towards PAVE acceptance in the near future. It is our hope that the AAVSB Member Boards will embrace the PAVE Program fully because it was created at their request. AAVSB is accountable and responsive to the needs of the AAVSB Member Boards.

How do I get my state to recognize PAVE?

If you are pursuing licensure in a state that does not accept PAVE, we encourage you to be proactive in contacting your [state veterinary board](#) to inquire on the current PAVE status. There is a one-page information sheet on our website which highlights the most important aspects of the PAVE Program. You may use this sheet to accompany a letter to the board members, or as talking points if you choose to attend a board meeting.

PAVE Certification and Licensing Information

Can AAVSB send my certificate to the State Board from which I'm applying for licensure? Do I have to pay for it?

When you request it (by phone or email), AAVSB will send a copy of your PAVE Certificate to the state in which you are applying for licensure. There is no charge for this.

Is there another way to fulfill the clinical requirement for PAVE if I don't want to take an evaluated clinical experience at an accredited university or if I have already started my clinics?

You may take the Veterinary Clinical Skills Assessment (VCSA) examination. This hands-on examination is given over two days, in 4 sections.

What is the Purpose and Mission of AAVSB?

The American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is a not-for-profit organization whose members consist of regulatory boards of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada. AAVSB provides services for its Member Boards and is dedicated to promote public protection and excellence in professional regulation.

What is PAVE?

PAVE is a program to accurately and appropriately determine education equivalence of international veterinary graduates seeking licensure. In order to qualify for licensure, PAVE certificate holders must satisfy all additional statutory criteria required by a jurisdiction, including successful completion of the NAVLE. An "international veterinary graduate" is one whose veterinary degree is conferred by a recognized school of veterinary medicine outside the United States or Canada that is not accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary

Why did AAVSB undertake this project?

AAVSB developed PAVE in response to concerns raised by AAVSB Member Boards regarding the existing ECFVG certification of foreign veterinary graduates administered by the American Veterinary Medical Association. In July 2000 at the Delegate Assembly in Salt Lake City, over 75% of Boards represented gave a clear directive to proceed with PAVE. The decision of the AAVSB Member Boards was based upon extensive discussions that started at the 1998 Delegate Assembly in Baltimore.

Governance of the PAVE Program

Who are the members of the PAVE Committee?

Members of the 2009-10 PAVE Committee are as follows:

Representing an AAVSB Member Board:

Dr. Mark McConnell, member, Oregon Veterinary Licensing and Disciplinary Board

Representing an AAVSB Member Board:

Dr. Skip Nelson, former member, Washington Veterinary Board of Governors

Representing an AAVSB Member Board:

Dr. Michael Gotchey, member Colorado Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Representing an AAVSB Member Board:

Ms. Jenna Jones, Administrator, AZ Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

Representing the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges:

Dr. John Pascoe, Executive Associate Dean, University of California - Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Chair of the PAVE Committee

Representing the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners:

Dr. James Dalley, Independent Veterinary Professional

Representing the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians:

Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Assoc Dean, Professor of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine

Liasion from the AAVSB Board of Directors:

Dr. John Lawrence, member, Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine