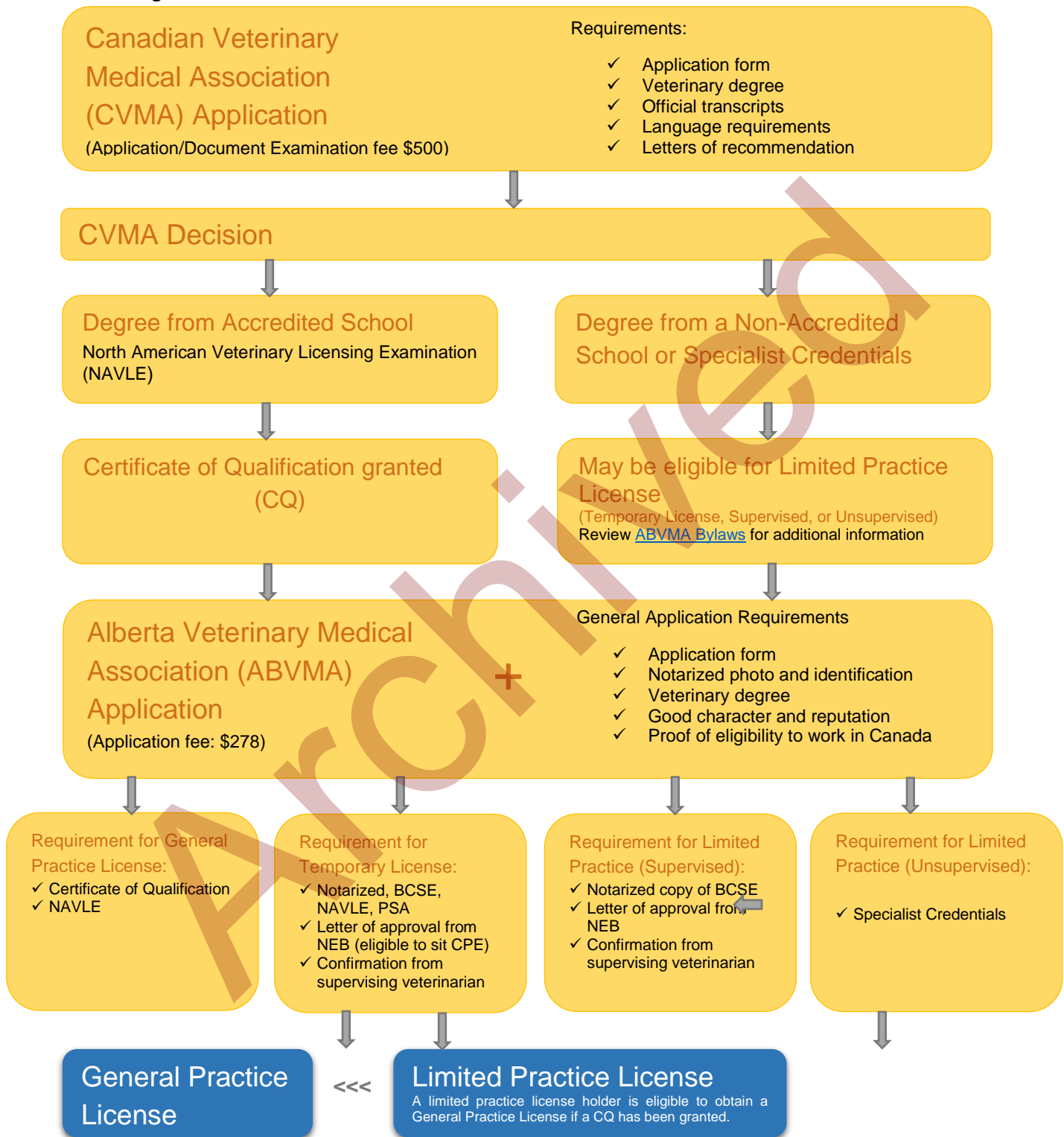


Veterinarian

Licensing Process



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Description of Occupation

Veterinarians provide animal health services, such as treating disease and injury, performing surgery and offering advice on preventative health care. They may also be involved in food safety, public health and environmental management.

Veterinarians may have their own private practice or work as an associate or partner at an established practice. They can also work for the government, other agencies or industries.

Working in Alberta

To work in Alberta as a veterinarian, you must be registered with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA).

To do this, you must get the appropriate license. There are three (3) kinds of licenses you can apply for:

- General Practice License: allows you to practice general veterinary medicine.
- Limited Practice License: allows you to practice veterinary medicine with conditions.
- Restricted License: allows you to practice veterinary medicine with restrictions.

Before Applying for Licensing

Before you can apply for licensing, you must apply to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) National Examining Board (NEB). The NEB will look at your academic credentials to determine which exams you must take (if any) in order to apply for your license.

You must submit the following to the NEB:

- Original or notarized copy of your veterinary degree (not necessary for final year students from accredited veterinary schools).
- Proof of linguistic proficiency in English or French (please see [Language Proficiency Requirement](#)).
- Two (2) recent identical passport size (70mm x 50mm) photographs of the applicant, signed by the applicant (only if you were not able to upload a digital photograph using the online registration form).
- Original or notarized copy of the official transcript of your academic record from your school of graduation (not necessary for final year students from accredited veterinary schools).
- If you already have a WES (World Evaluation Report) or ICAS (International Credential Assessment Services of Canada) or a similar report please include it with your application.
- Letter of recommendation from a licensing organization within the veterinary profession in the country of origin or, if not yet licensed, from an individual in the veterinary profession (in addition to the letter in the point below).
- Letter of recommendation from someone in the veterinary profession or a responsible citizen.
- Notarized copy of birth certificate, passport or other piece of official, government-issued identification.
- [Surgical Experience Documentation](#) – this is for candidates who registered with the NEB after January 1st, 2015 only (not necessary for final year students from accredited veterinary schools). This document is needed once you are ready to register for the Clinical

Proficiency Examination.

- Cheque or money order (if applicable).
- A statement from the Dean of the college that the student is a bona fide member of the final year class (for final year students only).
- For graduates of American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or CVMA accredited schools, if you have already passed your NAVLE please transfer the results using <https://www.aavsb.org/licensure-assistance/score-transfer-services>.

The NEB will examine these documents and if they determine that you have graduated from an accredited school, you will only need to take the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) in order to get your Certificate of Qualification (CQ), which is needed to apply for a General Practice License with the ABVMA.

If the NEB determines that the school you graduated from is not accredited, you may be able to apply for a Limited Practice License - Supervised. This will allow you to gain supervised employment while preparing for a series of exams you will have to take in order to get your General Practice License. These exams include the Basic and Clinical Sciences Exam (BCSE), the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE), the Preliminary Surgical Assessment (PSA), and the Clinical Proficiency Exam (CPE). Once you have received a passing grade on these exams, you will receive your CQ and can then apply for a General Practice License.

If your credentials indicate that you specialize in a certain area, you may qualify for a Limited Practice License – Unsupervised that is specific to that area. You would not have to proceed through any other exams unless you wish to practice general veterinary medicine.

Getting Licensed in Alberta

To apply for licensing, you must submit the following to the ABVMA:

- Application Form
- Notarized photo and identification
- Proof of eligibility to work in Canada
- Good character and reputation
- Veterinary degree

If you are accepted as a General Practice License or Limited Practice License applicant, you must attend the next ABVMA Registration Day within the next 12 months.

Links to all Application Forms and other resources are at the end of this document.

Residency Requirement

You must provide proof that you are a Canadian citizen or are entitled to work in Canada in order to get licensed. You can do this by submitting a photocopy of one (1) or more of the following:

- A social insurance number
- A passport
- A work visa
- Any other documentation regarding your status in Canada

Requirements

Internationally educated Veterinarians must meet the following licensing requirements:

1. **Academic Credentials**

The method of proving your credentials varies depending on the kind of licensing you are applying for. Find the category which you are applying in, and submit the requirements to the ABVMA with your Application Form and the other required documents as listed in this fact sheet.

General Practice License:

- Certificate of Qualification from the CVMA/NEB
- NAVLE

Limited Practice License - Supervised:

- A letter of approval from the NEB that says you are eligible to start the examination process (this will be provided after the NEB has examined your credentials).
- Notarized copy of your successful BCSE result.
- Proof of your veterinary credentials, which could include a copy of your board certification or a degree. If your credentials are not in English, they must be accompanied by a notarized translation into English.
- Confirmation from supervising veterinarian.

Limited Practice License - Unsupervised

- Proof of your veterinary credentials. If your credentials are not in English, they must be accompanied by a notarized translation into English.
- Specialist credentials such as [American or European Board Certification](#).

Temporary Licensure

- Notarized copy of your successful BCSE result, NAVLE result, and PSA result.
- A letter of approval from the NEB confirming that you are eligible to sit the CPE.
- Proof of your veterinary credentials. If your credentials are not in English, they must be accompanied by a notarized translation into English.
- Confirmation from supervising veterinarian.

2. **Work Experience**

- Previous work experience is not necessary to apply for licensing.

Good Character and Reputation

You must provide proof that you are of good character and reputation. This could include:

- Letters from professional organizations that you have belonged to that show you maintained a good standing.
- Three (3) character references. Two (2) of the references must be from Veterinarians, one of which is a recent supervisor or employer.

You will also have to consent to having the committee solicit information that you have not submitted, which may include a criminal record search.

Examinations

The four (4) examinations involved in licensing are:

- NAVLE
- BCSE
- PSA
- CPE

Your participation in these exams is determined by the license you are applying for and is described in the sections above.

Language Requirements (CVMA/NEB):

If your first language is not English or French, you will need to take one (1) of the following language tests and provide proof of your passing grade:

- Internet-based TOEFL (iB-TOEFL), with a minimum of 23 in Reading, 25 in Listening, 22 in Speaking, 22 in Writing and no minimum overall score is required. Candidates MUST achieve at least the minimum passing scores for each of the four sections of the internet-based TOEFL. TOEFL scores can be sent to the NEB using our institution code number B665.
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS), Academic version with an overall score of no less than 6.5, with at least 6.5 in the Listening band, 6.0 in the Writing band and 7.0 in the Speaking band. Candidates MUST achieve the minimum passing scores for each of the three sections.
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL & CAEL-CE) Assessment with an overall score of no less than 60, with a least 60 in the Listening band, 50 in the Writing band and 60 in the Speaking band; OR
- Exam of French of the Office de la langue française (OLF) of the Government of Quebec. The examination comprises four parts: oral comprehension, writing, writing comprehension and oral communication. The score for each part is 60%.

Payment

The following fees may apply for internationally trained applicants. All fees are in Canadian dollars. GST and other taxes may be added.

2018 ABVMA Fees https://www.abvma.ca/site/mainapplicant/veterinarian?nav=applicant	
General Practice Licensee Fees and Limited Practice Licensee Fees	
Application Fee	\$277.88
ABMVA Dues	\$1,271.84
CVMA Dues	\$307
2018 NEB Fees – http://wiki.cvma-acmv.org:8090/display/NEBP/Schedule+of+Fees	
Application Fee	\$500
BSCE	\$465
NAVLE	\$1025
PSA	\$1000
CPE	\$7,500
*Fees are subject to change. See websites for most up-to-date fees.	

Average Earnings

The overall median earnings for full-time associate Veterinarians, according to the 2017 Alberta Report on Compensation and Benefits for Associate Veterinarians:

Median hours worked per year	1,920
Median salary per year	\$90,000

Employment Options

You can also consider working as an unregistered auxiliary. An unregistered auxiliary is any person working within a veterinary practice who is not a registered veterinary technologist (RVT) or registered veterinarian. Unregistered personnel includes receptionists, assistants and other lay personnel. No veterinary medical tasks would be delegated.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Veterinarian](#).

Contact Information

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
 Building #3, Elm Business Park
 Suite 104, 9452 - 51 Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5A6
 Telephone: 780-489-5007
 Toll-Free: 1-800-404-2862
 Fax: 780-484-8311
 Email: margaret.massey@abvma.ca
 Website: www.abvma.ca

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
 National Examining Board
 339 Booth Street Ottawa, ON K1R 7K1
 Telephone: 613-236-1162
 Toll-Free: 1-800-567-2862
 Fax: 613-236-9681
 Email: admin@cvma-acmv.org
 Website: www.canadianveterinarians.net

Resources

This information is an overview of the licensing process. For the most current information on Veterinary licensing, visit the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association website at www.abvma.ca.

ABVMA Application Forms and Information:

- [Applying to practice Veterinary Medicine in Alberta Information](#)
- [Apply as a Veterinarian](#)
- [Licensure Flowchart](#)
- [Alberta Veterinary Medical Association Bylaws](#)

CVMA application and information:

- [National Examining Board examination summary](#)
- [The National Examining Board Examination Process](#)
- [Registration Forms](#)