



Career map: Internationally Educated Veterinarians

Learn how to get certified as a veterinarian in Ontario if you obtained your credentials and work experience outside of Canada.



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Overview

To work as a veterinarian in Ontario, you must be licensed by the [College of Veterinarians of Ontario \(CVO\)](#).

You do not need to hold a licence or be registered to practice as a veterinary assistant or technician. Registration as a veterinary technician with the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians is optional for individuals who have completed a formal veterinary technician education.

Education and experience requirements

You must have completed a degree in veterinary medicine from a college accredited by the [American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education](#) or completed a degree in veterinary medicine from an [acceptable unaccredited school](#).

How to apply

To get your CVO licence, you:

1. apply to the [National Examining Board \(NEB\)](#) of the [Canadian Veterinary Medical Association \(CVMA\)](#) to begin one of the approved national veterinary medicine examination [pathways](#).
2. apply to the CVO for a licence to practice veterinary medicine in Ontario (see [Licensure Process Information](#)). Information about the College's recognized examination and assessment pathways can be found on the [website](#).

Read [frequently asked questions](#).

Find out if you are eligible to take the National Board Examinations

You must fill out the [NEB application form](#) online to apply to the National Examining Board, and send in [all required documents](#).

The National Examining Board decision

The NEB will evaluate your documents. You will get a notice telling you:

- your application **has not** been approved
- your application **has been** approved—you will get the information you need to register and take the National Board Examinations

Write the National Board Examinations

If you graduated from an AVMA-COE [accredited veterinary school](#), you have to write and pass the [North American Veterinary Licensing Exam \(NAVLE\)](#). This exam is on general knowledge of the scientific and clinical knowledge you need to practice veterinary medicine in North America.

If you did not graduate from an accredited veterinary school, you have to write and pass the [NAVLE](#) as well as complete the other steps in the approved national veterinary medicine examination pathway that you have chosen. The list of [acceptable unaccredited veterinary schools](#) can be found here.

These [pathways](#) include completing:

- [the Basic and Clinical Sciences Exam \(BCSE\)](#)

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- [the Preliminary Surgical Assessment \(PSA\)](#)
- [the Clinical Proficiency Exam \(CPE\)](#)

Or, completing:

- the [Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence](#).

Get information on the [National Board Examinations](#) and [National Board Exams, policies and procedures](#).

Exam preparation assistance

The following resources are available to assist in exam preparation:

- [tips](#) on preparing for all the exams
- [a list of books](#) to read
- [practice versions, tutorials and sample examination questions](#) to prepare for the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam

Take the examinations

You must register for each exam separately and pass each one before you can take the next.

- How to register for the [BCSE](#)
- How to register for the [NAVLE](#)
- How to register for the [PSA](#)
- How to register for the [CPE](#)

Language requirements

Translation

If any of your documents are not in English or French, you need to provide the originals plus certified, word-for-word translations accompanied by a cover letter from the translator. This letter should include:

- the exact name of the document(s) which have been translated
- the method by which the translator received the document(s)
- any comments about the accuracy of your documents
- the date of the translation
- the translator's identification number and/ or seal

You can find accredited translators through the [Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario \(ATIO\)](#) or [COSTI Immigrant Services](#).

Language proficiency

Veterinarians must be able to communicate in English or French, with animal owners and co-workers in animal clinics, laboratories, zoos, conservation areas and reserves, colleges and universities, government and industry.

You need to prove you are fluent in either French or English if:

- you did not get your primary and secondary education in English or French and
- you did not get your undergraduate veterinary education in English or French

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How to prove you're fluent

You must pass one of the tests approved by the College and your results must be less than two years old. If you have taken one of the tests approved by the College but the results have expired, you need to provide other evidence that you can communicate well enough to practice veterinary medicine in English or French.

English tests

The CVO accepts these English language tests:

- [Test of English as a Foreign Language \(TOEFL\)](#)
- [Canadian Academic English Language \(CAEL\)](#)
- [International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#)

French tests

The CVO accepts the [Office québécois de la langue française \(OLF\)](#) French language proficiency test.

Get information on [language tests and minimum results required by CVO](#).

The College also accepts the language tests used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. If you have results from one of these tests, please contact licensure staff.

Find out your skill level and improve your skills

You can learn your language skill level at a [Coordinated Language Assessment and Referral System \(CLARS\)](#) centre in Ontario. And, [English and French language training](#) classes are offered across Ontario for those wishing to improve their skills.

Get your licence

Apply to the College

After you have passed all of the NEB exams and received your exam scores you can apply to the CVO for a General licence.

[Restricted licence under supervision](#): The College provides graduates of acceptable unaccredited veterinary schools with the opportunity to acquire practical experience working under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian before they have passed the Clinical Proficiency Exam (CPE). Eligible applicants may be granted Restricted licences under supervision by the College's Registration Committee. Contact the [College staff](#) for details.

- Submit an online [application form](#) and all [required documents](#).
- Get information on the [licensure process](#).
- Decisions of the College can be appealed.
- Get information on the [appeal process](#).

Take the CVO Jurisprudence Examination

This is an exam on Ontario legislation and regulations, as well as CVO standards and guidelines. Get information on the [CVO Jurisprudence Exam](#).



Fees and costs

To get your licence and work as a veterinarian, you will pay fees, including:

- fees to take the National Board exams,
- fee to submit a licence application to the CVO,
- fee to take the Jurisprudence Examination,
- annual licensing fees to allow you to practice.

You may also have to pay for other costs, such as:

- credential evaluation costs,
- the cost of educational transcripts,
- the cost of translating documents,
- language proficiency testing costs.

Get information on [fees](#).

Financial assistance

You might be eligible for a loan or a grant:

- [Windmill Microlending](#) provides loans to cover professional fees and expenses
- The [Ontario Student Assistance Program](#) provides grants or loans to help pay for college or university
- The [ACCESS Community Capital Fund](#) provides Toronto and Hamilton residents facing financial barriers with low-interest loans for professional development to help them improve their employment situation or employability
- The [Government of Canada](#) website has information on federal loans, grants and bursaries. Financial planning tools and links to financial assistance offices are also on the site.

Legislation

The College of Veterinarians of Ontario regulates veterinarians under the [Veterinarians Act, 1990](#) and [Ontario Regulation 1093](#).

Additional training information

Ontario has programs and services to help internationally-educated professionals work in their field, such as: [language training programs](#).

For more information, contact:

[Global Experience Ontario](#)

Telephone: 416-327-9694

Toll free number: 1-866-670-4094

TTY: 416-327-9710 or toll free: 1-866-388-2262

Fax: 416-327-9711

Email: GEO@ontario.ca

Helpful contacts

Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)

Office of the Dean
University of Guelph
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1
CANADA
Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext.54401
Fax: 519-837-3230
Email: ovcdean@uoguelph.ca

College of Veterinarians of Ontario licensure team

2-71 Hanlon Creek Blvd
Guelph, Ontario N1C 0B1
CANADA
Telephone: 519-824-5600
Toll free telephone in Ontario: 1-800-424-2856
Toll free fax in Ontario: 1-888-662-9479
Fax: 519-824-6497
Email: licensure@cvo.org

Ontario Veterinary Medical Association

420 Bronte Street South, Suite 205
Milton, Ontario L9T 0H9
CANADA
Telephone: 905-875-0756
Toll free number in Ontario: 1-800-670-1702 ext 210
Fax: 905-875-0958
Toll free fax number in Ontario: 1-877-482-5941
Email: info@ovma.org

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

The Registrar, National Examining Board
339 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7K1
CANADA
Telephone: 613-236-1162
Toll-free in Canada: 1-800-567-2862
Fax: 613-236-9681
Email: admin@cvma-acmv.org

University of Guelph main library

50 Stone Road East
Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1
CANADA
Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext. 53617
Email: library@uoguelph.ca

International Council for Veterinary Assessment

P.O. Box 1356
Bismarck, North Dakota, 58502
USA
Telephone: 701-224-0332
Fax: 701-224-0435
Email: www.icva.net/contact

Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario

1 Nicholas Street, Suite 1202
Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7
Telephone: 613-241-2846
Toll-free: 1-800-234-5030
Fax: 613-241-4098
Email: info@atio.on.ca

COSTI Immigrant Services

1710 Dufferin Street
Toronto, ON M6E 3P2
Telephone: 416-658-1600
Fax: 416-658-8537
Email: info@costi.org

JVS Toronto Newcomer Services

74 Tycos Drive
Toronto, ON M6B 1V9
CANADA
Telephone: 416-787-1151
Email: services@jvstoronto.org

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The [Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials](#) website provides information on getting credentials to work in Canada, and a list of Canada's universities, colleges and other recognized postsecondary institutions.