

AAVMC and Veterinary Medical School Accreditation

Veterinary Schools join the AAVMC as institutional or affiliate members. A key difference between these two membership categories is whether a college/school of veterinary medicine is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education (AVMA/COE). Only AVMA/COE accredited colleges of veterinary medicine may join AAVMC as an institutional (voting) member. Colleges of veterinary medicine that are not AVMA-accredited may join AAVMC as an affiliate member (non-voting) only. Several of AAVMC's affiliate members (Non-AVMA/COE accredited institutions) have entered into agreements with AAVMC institutional members for clinical training. It is important for prospective veterinary students to know the different implications of attending and/or graduating from AVMA/COE accredited vs. non-AVMA/COE accredited colleges of veterinary medicine as it pertains to educational options and eventually seeking and obtaining a license to practice veterinary medicine. AAVMC encourages its affiliate members to become AVMA/COE accredited.

Accreditation

The AVMA/COE accredits DVM or equivalent educational programs. Accreditation through the AVMA/COE assures that minimum standards in veterinary medical education are met by accredited colleges of veterinary medicine and that students enrolled in these colleges receive an education that will prepare them for entry-level positions in the profession. In the United States, graduation from an AVMA/COE accredited college of veterinary medicine is an important pre-requisite for application for licensure. Internationally, some veterinary schools have chosen to seek AVMA/COE accreditation in addition to accreditation by the competent authority in their own regions. AVMA/COE accreditation of international veterinary schools provides assurance that those programs of education meet the same standards as other similarly accredited schools.

Additionally, AVMA/COE accreditation assures:

- Prospective students that they will meet a competency threshold for entry into practice, including eligibility for professional credentialing and/or licensure;
- Employers that graduates have achieved specified learning goals and are prepared to begin professional practice;
- Faculty, deans, and administrators that their programs measure satisfactorily against national standards and their own stated missions and goals;
- The public that public health and safety concerns are being addressed; and
- The veterinary profession that the science and art of veterinary medicine are being advanced through contemporary curricula.

*Source: The source for this information and a site recommended for obtaining additional information is the following website: http://www.avma.org/education/cvea/about_accred.asp

Licensure

Licensure in the United States

In the United States, requirements for licensure are set by individual state regulatory boards. The North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) and any additional state exams must be taken by a graduate to become eligible for state licensure. The NAVLE, which is administered by the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME), fulfills a core requirement for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in all jurisdictions in the United States and Canada. Mexico does not require NAVLE. In addition to the NAVLE, state regulatory boards will have other licensure requirements, which may include state-specific examinations.

To be eligible to take the NAVLE, applicants must have graduated from either an AVMA/COE-accredited college of veterinary medicine or a non-AVMA/COE accredited college (see following details).

Applicants who graduated from a non-AVME/COE accredited college must also have a certification of eligibility, which can come from one of two sources: the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) Certification Program (<http://www.avma.org/education/ecfvg/default.asp>) or the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) (<http://www.aavsb.org/PAVE/PAVE Home.aspx>).

All state regulatory boards accept the ECFVG certification, administered through the AVMA, as meeting in full or in part the educational prerequisite for licensure eligibility. At this time, 28 state regulatory boards also accept PAVE certification, which is administered through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

It is important to note that prerequisites for licensure eligibility and requirements for licensure vary amongst state regulatory boards and are subject to periodic modification.

Licensure Outside the United States

Mutual recognition arrangements apply to jurisdictions where there are AVMA/COE accredited schools. These specify that graduates of AVMA/COE accredited schools in the United States and Canada are permitted to obtain licensure to practice under terms no less favorable than graduates of schools accredited by the competent authority in that jurisdiction.

Factors to Consider in Deciding Where to Apply

There are several factors that an applicant must consider in identifying school(s) to submit an application for admissions. In addition to licensure issues, there may be economic, educational options, or other differences that students should consider in making decisions on where to apply. This book is intended to provide important information about AAVMC members to assist in informed decision-making for students considering applying to one or more veterinary colleges.

Alphabetical Listing of AAVMC Institutional (AVMA/COE Accredited) Members, by Country

United States

Auburn University	Auburn, AL
Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO
Cornell University	Ithaca, NY
Iowa State University	Ames, IA
Kansas State University	Manhattan, KS
Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA
Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI
Mississippi State University	Mississippi State, MS
North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC
Ohio State University	Columbus, OH
Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK
Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR
Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN
Texas A & M University	College Station, TX
Tufts University	North Grafton, MA
Tuskegee University	Tuskegee, AL
University of California, Davis	Davis, CA
University of Florida	Gainesville, FL
University of Georgia	Athens, GA
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Urbana, IL
University of Minnesota	St. Paul, MN
University of Missouri	Columbia, MO
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Madison, WI
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine	Blacksburg, VA
Washington State University	Pullman, WA
Western University of Health Sciences	Pomona, CA

Australia

Murdoch University	Murdoch, WA
University of Melbourne	Parkville, VIC
University of Sydney	Sydney, NSW

Canada

Université de Montréal	St. Hyacinthe, QC
University of Calgary	Calgary, AB
University of Guelph	Guelph, ON
University of Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown, PEI
University of Saskatchewan	Saskatoon, SK

Ireland

University College Dublin

Belfield, Dublin

New Zealand

Massey University

Palmerston North

United Kingdom

University of Edinburgh

University of Glasgow

Royal Veterinary College

Midlothian, Scotland

Glasgow, Scotland

London/Hertfordshire, England

Alphabetical Listing of AAVMC Affiliate Members (Non-AVMA/COE Accredited Institutions)

Ross University

St. George's University

St. Matthew's University

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

St. Kitts, West Indies

Grenada, West Indies

Grand Cayman Island, B.W.I.

Mexico City, Mexico