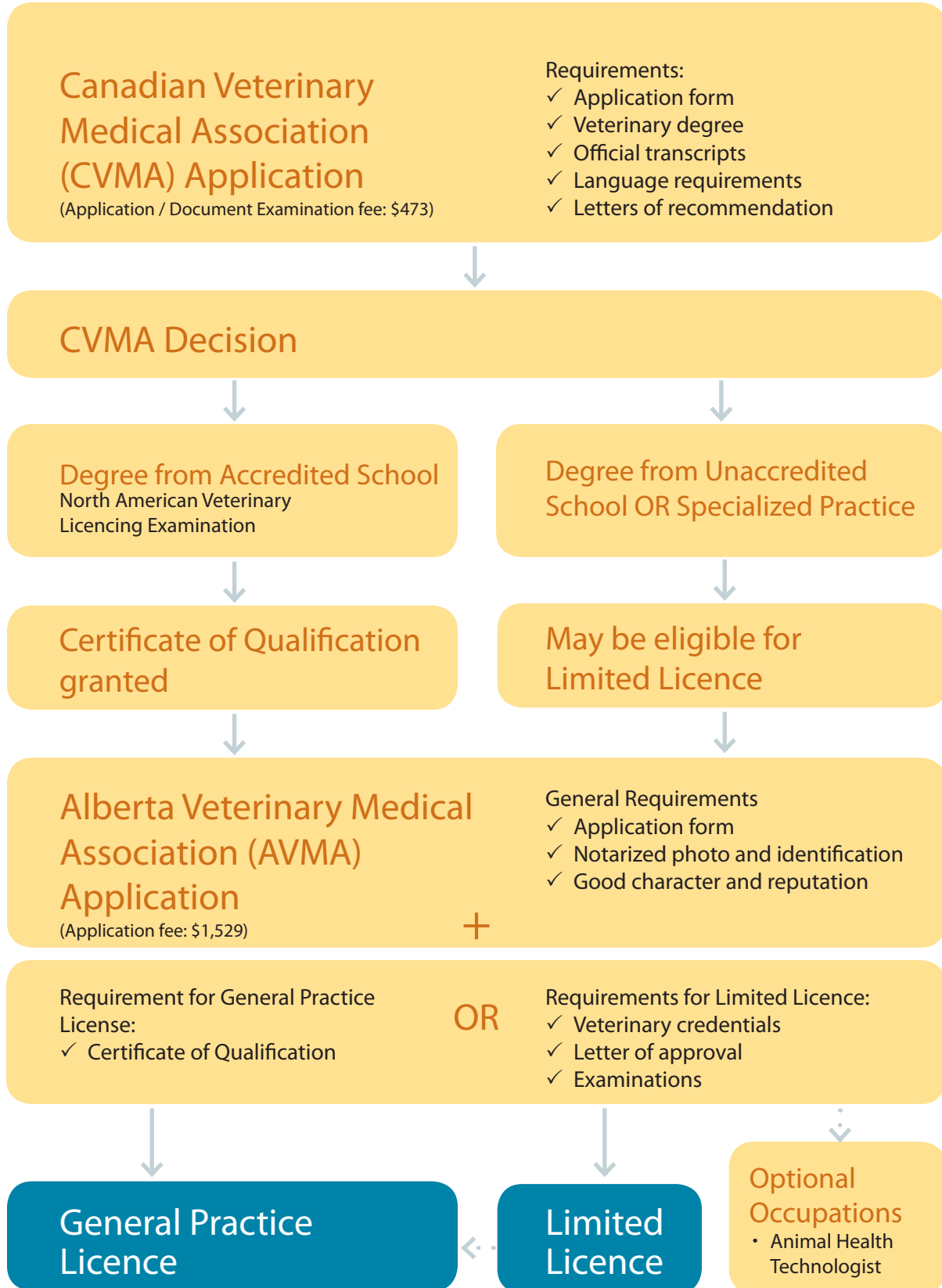


Veterinarian

Licensing Process



Veterinarian Licensing Process

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 or other agencies.

Working in Alberta

To work in Alberta, you must be a member of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AB.VMA) and be allowed to practice veterinary medicine in the province.

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

- General Practice Licence: allows you to practice general veterinary medicine
- Limited Licence: allows you to practice veterinary medicine in a limited scope
- Restricted Licence: allows you to practice veterinary medicine for a short-term period under supervision.

This fact sheet will focus on the General Practice Licence and the Limited Licence. Restricted Licences are for short-term visits and not for those who are planning a permanent move to Alberta.

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 licence.

You must submit the following to the NEB:

- NEB Application Form
- Original or notarized copy of your veterinary degree
- Original or notarized copy of your transcripts
- Proof of your proficiency in English or French
- Application/document examining fee
- Three (3) recent passport-sized photographs of yourself, which you have signed on the back
- Notarized copy of your birth certificate or other document that shows your identity and status
- Letter of recommendation from a veterinary licensing organization in your country or region
- Letter of recommendation from someone in the veterinary profession.

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 Licence with the AB.VMA.

If the NEB determines that the school you graduated from is not accredited, you may be able to apply for a Limited Licence. 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 Licence. These exams include the NAVLE, the Basic and Clinical Sciences Exam (BCSE) 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 Licence.

If your credentials indicate that you specialize in a certain area, you may qualify for a Limited Licence 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 AB.VMA:

- An Application Form with other requirements that relate to the licence you are applying for (requirements are listed under “Requirements” below)
- A recent notarized photograph
- Application fees

If you are accepted as a General Practice Licence or Limited Licence applicant, you must attend the next AB.VMA Registration Day, which is held in June each year.

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 AB.VMA with your Application Form and the other required documents as listed in this fact sheet.

General Practice Licence:

- A Certificate of Qualification from the NEB

Limited Licence:

- 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)
- 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.

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
- Character references. If you choose this option you will need two (2) references from Veterinarians, one (1) who is a recent supervisor or employer and another who is not a Veterinarian or family member.

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 three (3) examinations involved in licensing are:

- NAVLE
- BCSE
- CPE.

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

Language Requirements

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 Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (Minimum scores required: 25 in listening, 22 in writing, 22 in speaking, 23 in reading.)
OR
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) Academic format (Minimum scores required: 6.5 overall, 6.5 in listening, 6.0 in writing and 7.0 in speaking.)
OR
- Canadian Academic English Language (CAEL) (Minimum scores required: 60 overall, with 60 in listening, 50 in writing and 60 in speaking.)
OR
- French Exam from the Office de la langue française through the Government of Quebec. (Minimum score required: 60 for each component.)

Payment

The following fees may apply for internationally trained applicants. All fees are in Canadian dollars.

AB.VMA Fees	
General Practice Licensee Fees and Limited Licensee Fees	
Application Fee	\$193
AB.VMA Dues	\$1,006
CVMA Dues	\$256
NEB Fees	
Application Package	\$15
Application/Document Examination Fee	\$473
NAVLE	\$893
BCSE	\$80
CPE	\$7,560
*Fees are subject to change. See associations for most up-to-date fees.	

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for Veterinarians, according to the Alberta 2009 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	37.8
Average wage per hour	\$42.16
Average salary per year	\$81,567

Employment Options

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Animal Health Technologist.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website: [Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Veterinarian \(www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo).

Contact Information

Alberta Veterinary Medical Association
#950 Weber Centre, 5555 Calgary Trail NW
Edmonton, AB T6H 5P9
Telephone: 780-489-5007
Toll-Free: 800-404-2862
Fax: 780-484-8311
Email: brenda@abvma.ca
Website: www.abvma.ca

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
National Examining Board
339 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7K1
Telephone: 613-236-1162
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.

Application Forms and Information:

[NEB Application Package Information and Order Form](#)
[AB.VMA General Licence Application](#)
[AB.VMA Limited Licence Application](#)

Academic Credentials:

[Overview of Licensing Credentials](#)

Payment:

[AB.VMA Fee Schedule](#)

Language Requirements:

[NEB Language Requirements](#)
[Internet-based TOEFL](#)
[International English Language Testing System \(IELTS\)](#)
[Canadian Academic English Language](#)
[French Examination Information](#)

Examinations:

[Examination Information](#)