

Guidance Document: 150-27

Effective: May 12, 2021

## VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

### Recognized Veterinary Technology Degrees

In order to obtain licensure as a veterinary technician in the Commonwealth of Virginia, an applicant must have received a degree in veterinary technology from a college or school accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA).

The AVMA has stated that it will recognize a veterinary nurse as equivalent to a veterinary technician in its [AVMA policy on veterinary technology](#). Because of this, the Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine interprets the requirement for a degree in veterinary technology in 18 VAC 150-20-115(A)(1) and 18 VAC 150-20-121(3) to include a degree in veterinary nursing from an AVMA accredited program.

Excerpt from the [AVMA policy on veterinary technology](#):

#### ***Nomenclature***

*Veterinary technology is the science and art of providing professional support to veterinarians. The AVMA CVTEA<sup>®</sup> accredits programs in veterinary technology that graduate veterinary technicians and/or veterinary technologists.*

*A veterinary technician is a graduate of a two- or three-year AVMA CVTEA-accredited program in veterinary technology. In most cases the graduate is granted an associate degree or certificate.*

*A veterinary technologist is a graduate of a four-year baccalaureate AVMA CVTEA-accredited program in veterinary technology.*

*The AVMA recognizes efforts by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America and others to use the term "veterinary nurse" in place of veterinary technician within the profession and in criteria for credentialing purposes. The AVMA further recognizes ongoing efforts to promote adoption of the term "nurse" in state practice acts. The AVMA will continue to use the term veterinary technician in its policies and communications, but will recognize credentialed veterinary nurses as being equivalent to credentialed veterinary technicians.*

List of AVMA accredited veterinary technology programs:

AVMA: <https://www.avma.org/education/accreditation/programs/veterinary-technology-programs-accredited-avma-cvtea>

Excerpt from the [Regulations Governing the Practice of Veterinary Medicine](#)

***18VAC150-20-115. Requirements for licensure by examination as a veterinary technician.***

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*A. The applicant, in order to be licensed by the board as a veterinary technician, shall:*

- 1. Have received a degree in veterinary technology from a college or school accredited by the AVMA or the CVMA.*
- 2. Have filed with the board the following documents:*
  - a. A complete application on a form obtained from the board;*
  - b. An official copy, indicating a veterinary technology degree, of the applicant's college or school transcript; and*
  - c. Verification that the applicant is in good standing by each board in another state or United States jurisdiction from which the applicant holds a license, certification, or registration to practice veterinary technology.*
- 3. Have passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination approved by the AAVSB or any other board-approved, national board examination for veterinary technology with a score acceptable to the board.*

***18VAC150-20-121. Requirements for licensure by endorsement for veterinary technicians.***

*In its discretion, the board may grant a license by endorsement to an applicant who is licensed, certified or registered to practice as a veterinary technician in another jurisdiction of the United States, provided that the applicant:*

- 1. Holds at least one current and unrestricted license, certification, or registration issued by the regulatory entity in another jurisdiction of the United States and that he is not a respondent in any pending or unresolved board action in any jurisdiction;*
- 2. Provides documentation of having been regularly engaged in clinical practice as a licensed, certified, or registered veterinary technician for at least two of the past four years immediately preceding application;*
- 3. Has received a degree in veterinary technology from a college or school accredited by the AVMA or the CVMA or has passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination approved by the AAVSB or any other board-approved national board examination for veterinary technology with a score acceptable to the board;*
- 4. Provides documentation of completion of at least 16 hours of continuing education requirements during the preceding four years;*