# Rules of
Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration

Division 2270—Missouri Veterinary Medical Board
Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements for Veterinarians

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Chapter 2—Licensure Requirements for Veterinarians

20 CSR 2270-2.011 Educational Requirements

PURPOSE: This rule defines the educational requirements for an individual to be licensed as a veterinarian in Missouri.

(1) To meet the educational requirements for licensure to practice veterinary medicine in Missouri, an applicant must have received a doctor of veterinary medicine degree or its equivalent from a university or school that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

(2) In the alternative, an applicant must have graduated from an AVMA-listed, nonaccredited university or school of veterinary medicine located inside or outside the United States, its territories or Canada. This degree must be accompanied by proof satisfactory to the board that s/he has earned and currently holds an Educational Commission of Foreign Veterinary Graduate (ECFVG) certificate provided by the AVMA or its successor.


20 CSR 2270-2.021 Internship or Veterinary Candidacy Program

PURPOSE: This rule describes the postgraduate internship program required for licensure as a veterinarian.

(1) All applicants for licensure by examination shall complete a three hundred twenty (320) hour postgraduate internship or veterinary candidacy program under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing or demonstrate the practice of veterinary medicine without encumbrance in another state or jurisdiction at least twelve (12) months prior to application for licensure in Missouri. To be in good standing the veterinarian’s license(s) must be current and unencumbered. The postgraduate internship or veterinary candidacy program may be completed in any state, territory or district of the United States or Canada. The postgraduate internship or veterinary candidacy program located outside the United States must be approved by the board. The applicant must submit a request for approval in writing and provide the credentials of the supervising veterinarian.

(2) The supervising veterinarian shall submit an evaluation form stating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed the internship or veterinary candidacy program. The form is available upon request from the executive director, Missouri Veterinary Medical Board, PO Box 633, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

(3) The purpose of the internship or veterinary candidacy program is to provide the applicant with at least three hundred twenty (320) hours of work experience in veterinary medicine under supervision prior to licensure.

(A) This experience shall include, at a minimum, diagnosis, treatment, surgery and practice management.

(B) No more than twelve (12) hours in any single day shall be counted as part of the three hundred twenty (320) hours.

(4) An applicant may complete the internship or veterinary candidacy program under a provision license at any time after graduation. He/she may take the examinations for licensure prior to the internship or veterinary candidacy program.

(5) Completion of a student preceptor program which is recognized and approved by the board prior to graduation may be substituted for the internship or veterinary candidacy program. The board shall have the sole discretion as to whether or not the preceptor program will qualify in lieu of the internship or veterinary candidacy program. This program shall be defined by the curriculum of the veterinary school or university and must include a minimum of three hundred twenty (320) hours of work experience in the following areas: diagnosis, treatment, surgery, and practice management. The student preceptor program may not begin before the start of the student’s third year and must be completed prior to the date of graduation or demonstration that the applicant has practiced in another state or jurisdiction for the preceding twelve (12) months prior to application for licensure in Missouri and that the applicant’s license(s) in another state or jurisdiction has never been the subject of any disciplinary action. A student preceptor program located outside the United States must be pre-approved by the board. The applicant must submit a request for approval in writing and provide the credentials of the supervising veterinarian.

(6) Any school or university that wishes to submit a student preceptorship program for board approval shall send a photocopy of the description of the program from the veterinary school’s curriculum to the board office.

(7) For a student preceptorship to qualify in lieu of an internship or a veterinary candidacy program, an evaluation form must be submitted to the board office. The form is available upon request from the executive director, Missouri Veterinary Medical Board, PO Box 633, Jefferson City, MO 65102.


20 CSR 2270-2.031 Examinations

PURPOSE: This rule describes the examination and passing scores required for licensure as a veterinarian.

(1) All applicants for licensure as veterinarians in Missouri shall take both—

(A) The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).

1. The deadline for applying to take the NAVLE shall be August 1 and January 3 prior to each test window; and

(B) The Missouri State Board Examination.

1. The deadline for applying to take the Missouri State Board Examination shall be sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled date of examination.

(2) Applicants shall submit—
(A) The application for licensure and the registration fee to the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board;

(B) The NA VLE application and fee directly to the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME); and

(C) The fee for the Missouri State Board Examination to the board’s designated testing agency.

(3) The passing score on the NA VLE shall be the minimum criterion referenced score as provided by the testing agency. The passing score on the Missouri State Board Examination shall be seventy percent (70%).

(4) The requirements for transfer of the NA VLE scores are described under section 340.234, RSMo.

(5) The NA VLE and the Missouri State Board Examinations will be administered at least once each year. Veterinary students within six (6) months of graduation may apply to take all of the required exams. However, no license will be issued until an official certified transcript verifying receipt of the degree in veterinary medicine is received by the board office sent by the degree-granting institution. It shall be the student’s responsibility to arrange with the school or university for the transmitting of the official transcript to the board office.

(6) All applicants for veterinary licensure in Missouri shall take the Missouri State Board Examination and may be requested to meet with the board. In order to qualify for licensure, a passing score on the Missouri State Board Examination must have been received within two (2) years of issuance of the license.

**PURPOSE:** This rule outlines the requirements and procedures for retaking the licensure examination for veterinarians.

(1) Any applicant who fails an examination for licensure as a veterinarian may be reexamined by making application to the board office and paying the appropriate nonrefundable examination fee and registration fee and provide two (2) additional photographs. The deadline for applying to retake the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NA VLE) shall be August 1 and January 3 prior to each test window and the Missouri State Board Examination shall be thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled examinations.

(2) Applicants shall submit—

(A) The application for licensure and the registration fee to the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board;

(B) The NA VLE application and fee directly to the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME); and

(C) The fee for the Missouri State Board Examination to the board’s designated testing agency.

(3) Effective August 28, 1999, no person may take any examination more than four (4) times either in or out of Missouri to qualify for licensure in Missouri. Prior to making application for the fourth attempt at passage of the examination, the applicant shall schedule an appearance with the board to outline a continuing education program which shall be board-approved and completed prior to filing an application for the subsequent examination.


20 CSR 2270-2.051 Licensure (Exception)

**PURPOSE:** This rule provides for an exception to the requirements of licensure for university veterinary school or college faculty members who are graduates of non-American Veterinary Medical Association accredited universities and who do not have an Educational Commission of Foreign Veterinary Graduate certificate but are American Veterinary Medical Association board-certified.

(1) Faculty members at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited college or university who are AVMA board-certified but did not graduate from an AVMA-accredited college of veterinary medicine may apply to the board for a veterinary license under the following conditions:

(A) Achieving a passing score as defined in 20 CSR 2270-2.051 on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NA VLE) and Missouri State Board examinations; and

(B) Submitting a letter from the AVMA certification board verifying the applicant’s certification and stating the specialty in which the applicant is certified and the date it was granted.

(2) A license issued under this rule shall restrict the licensee to practice only within the university setting where s/he is employed as a member of the faculty and only in the specialty area listed on his/her board certificate.


20 CSR 2270-2.052 Faculty Licensure

**PURPOSE:** This rule establishes a restricted veterinary license for faculty at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine.

(1) The board may issue a veterinary faculty license to any qualified applicant associated with the University of Missouri-Columbia, College of Veterinary Medicine, and involved in the instructional program of either undergraduate or graduate veterinary medical students. In order to qualify for a faculty license, the applicant must:

(A) Demonstrate ability to communicate in and understand written and spoken English; and

(B) Have been actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine for at least
five (5) consecutive years immediately prior to making application in Missouri. “Actively engaged,” shall mean that the applicant has regularly and consistently practiced veterinary medicine. The board may request the applicant produce records demonstrating the regular and consistent practice of veterinary medicine; or

(3) A faculty license does not meet the requirements of licensure for federal accreditation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or deanship with the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

(4) A license issued under this rule shall restrict the licensee to practice only within the university setting where s/he is employed as a member of the faculty. The setting shall include only the university buildings and the large animal ambulatory facility.

(5) A license issued under this rule shall expire upon termination of the licensee’s employment by the university. The licensee shall notify the board immediately upon termination of his/her employment.

(6) The applicant shall submit the registration fee, the state board examination fee and the restricted license fee.

(7) All licenses issued under this rule shall have the word “Faculty” on them.

(8) Faculty licenses shall be renewed annually by submitting the renewal application and fee.

(9) Unless otherwise specified, all provisions of Chapter 340, RSMo, and its rules, shall apply to individuals applying or licensed under this rule.

20 CSR 2270-2.060 Reciprocity

PURPOSE: This rule provides information to those desiring licensure by reciprocity.

(1) To be licensed by reciprocity, section 340.238, RSMo requires an applicant to have been actively engaged in the practice of the profession in another state, territory, district or province of the United States or Canada for at least five (5) consecutive years immediately prior to making application in Missouri.

(A) For the purposes of reciprocity, the term “actively engaged” shall mean that the applicant has regularly and consistently practiced veterinary medicine. Whether or not the board requires examinations, and what examinations may be required in a particular case, may be determined by the information provided on the application, or the board may request the applicant produce records demonstrating the regular and consistent practice of veterinary medicine.

(B) For the purposes of this rule, the term “immediately prior” shall mean that the five (5) consecutive years ended within the one (1) year before applying for licensure in Missouri.

(2) The standards for admission to practice veterinary medicine of the state, territory, district or province of the United States or Canada in which the applicant is currently licensed were equal to or more stringent than the requirements for initial registration in Missouri.

(3) The applicant shall—

(A) Take and pass the state board examination administered by the board.

(B) For the purposes of this rule, the term “actively engaged” shall mean that the applicant has regularly and consistently practiced veterinary medicine.

(C) Successfully complete the State Board Examination administered by the board.

(4) Following the review process, the applicant will be informed by letter that licensure by reciprocity has been approved or denied. The denial letter will identify the reason(s) for denial and the appeal process.

20 CSR 2270-2.070 Provisional Licenses

PURPOSE: This rule provides the procedures and requirements for obtaining a provisional license in Missouri.

(1) A provisional license may be issued pursuant to section 340.246, RSMo to a qualified applicant for licensure pending examination results and completion of the internship or veterinary candidacy program, if the applicant meets the requirements for licensure and provided that the applicant is working under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing. The applicant must submit the following:

(A) An application for both permanent and provisional licensure provided by the board;

(B) All nonrefundable license fees; and

(C) A statement signed by a licensed veterinarian in good standing that the applicant shall be working under the supervision of that veterinarian. To be in good standing the veterinarian's license(s) must be current and unencumbered. This supervision shall be consistent with the delegated animal health care task.

(2) A provisional license issued based on section (1) shall expire in one (1) year or sooner if the applicant becomes permanently licensed. A provisional license cannot be renewed.
(3) The provisional license will be sent to the supervisor.

(4) The supervisor identified on the provisional license application is responsible for the provisional license and shall notify the board within ten (10) days if the employment ceases at the place of employment designated on the provisional license.

(5) Only one (1) provisional license may be issued to any person at the same time.

(6) Provisional licensees are subject to the requirements of Chapter 340, RSMo and these rules.


20 CSR 2270-2.071 Temporary Licenses

**PURPOSE: This rule provides the procedures and requirements for obtaining a temporary license in Missouri. This rule also implements Senate Bill 424 of the 90th General Assembly, which made various changes to Chapter 340.**

(1) Pursuant to section 340.248, RSMo, a temporary license may be issued to a licensed veterinarian of another state who is not under discipline or investigation by that state, for the exclusive purpose of providing veterinary medical services for a specific animal owner in Missouri. The applicant shall submit the following:

   (A) An application provided by the board which must clearly identify the name of the specific animal owner; and

   (B) The nonrefundable temporary license fee.

(2) A temporary license issued based on section (1) shall expire in one hundred twenty (120) days. Upon request, it may be renewed one time for an additional ninety (90) days upon approval by the board and payment of the required fee.

(3) Only one (1) temporary license may be issued to any person at the same time.

(4) Temporary licensees are subject to the requirements of Chapter 340, RSMo and these rules.


20 CSR 2270-2.072 Temporary Courtesy License

**PURPOSE: This rule states the requirements and procedures for a nonresident spouse of an active duty member of the military who is transferred to this state in the course of the member's military duty to obtain a temporary courtesy license to practice veterinary medicine for one hundred eighty (180) days.**

(1) The board shall grant a temporary courtesy license to practice veterinary medicine without examination to a “nonresident military spouse” as defined in section 324.008.1., RSMo, who provides proof that such applicant’s qualifications meet or are at least equivalent to the requirements for initial licensure in this state and who provides the board the following:

   (A) A completed application form;

   (B) A non-refundable application fee, as established by the board pursuant to rule, made payable to the board;

   (C) Verification sent directly to the board from the state, district, or territory from where the applicant holds a current and active license verifying that the applicant holds a current and active license;

   (D) Proof that the applicant has been engaged in active practice in the state, district, or territory of the United States in which the applicant is currently licensed for at least two (2) years in the five (5) years immediately preceding this application;

   (E) Verification sent directly to the board from the state, district, or territory of the United States in which the applicant was initially licensed verifying that—

      1. The applicant is, or was at the time of licensure, in good standing;

      2. The applicant has not committed an act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for the refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license or certificate to practice at the time the act was committed; and

      3. The applicant has not been disciplined by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction and is not the subject of an unresolved complaint, review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding by a licensing or credentialing entity in another jurisdiction;

   (F) If the board is unable to determine if the licensing requirements of the state, district, or territory in which the applicant was initially licensed are equivalent to Missouri’s licensing requirements, the applicant shall submit documentation regarding the licensing requirements equivalence;

   (G) Any person applying for temporary licensure as a veterinarian, shall be required to take and pass the State Board Examination related to the practice of veterinary medicine; and

   (H) Such additional information as the board may request to determine eligibility for a temporary courtesy license.


*Original authority: 324.008, RSMo 2011.*