

## **Preparation for the NAVLE**

(North American Veterinary Licensing Examination)

1. Plan to take the exam during the fall window. This will require registering for the exam around June/July. (Deadlines for most states are Aug 1 but some are earlier.) Check the website for information and deadlines [<https://www.icva.net/navle/>].
  - If you need special accommodations for the test (a private room; extra time, etc.), please make sure you begin looking at what paperwork you will need for these accommodations to be approved around April/May--prior to the fall window. Accommodations at LSU do not automatically mean you will get accommodations for the NAVLE; it is a separate evaluation process requiring its own application, documentation, assessment, and approval.
  - In case you do not make the score you need after taking the NAVLE during the fall, there is a spring testing window that usually falls sometime in April.
  
2. Do not go in with the attitude that you will be just "taking a look" at it.

**Take responsibility for your own success in the test. Prepare.**
  
3. Develop a plan of study at the beginning of Phase II and stick with it. Do not wait until the week before the exam to look over any material. Consider that if you are the kind of person who will need the two weeks prior to the exam to study that you request that time off (7A or 7C) when initially scheduling; this is not something you will be able to change in the future as a result of not thinking ahead. Also, there are a limited number of vacation slots available at that time.
  
4. Identify your own weak areas and address them head on.
  - Those at highest risk of not passing include those who fail to develop a study plan early (and don't stick to it), those who fail to take a practice exam to get timing down, those in the bottom quartile of the class, and those who did poorly on the GRE. Those in the latter categories should seek help in developing an appropriate study plan early.
  
5. Study guides:
  - VetPrep [<https://www.vetprep.com/> ]
  - Zuku Review [<https://zukureview.com/>]
  - VIN NAVLE Review prep courses are offered each year; this option is free to veterinary students.
  
6. Put the review software and computer questions in perspective.
  - They are only a guide.
  - Knowing the answers to them will not necessarily indicate how you will perform on the NAVLE.
  - Study a section, then take the test for that section; use these test questions to locate weak areas and then work on those areas.
  
7. Pay for the practice tests [<https://www.icva.net/navle/practice-versions/>]. Take one early and then again closer to the exam. This will help you with time. Many who fail have problems finishing on time.
  
8. The "busy" rotations are difficult for extra studying, so take advantage of the quiet ones.

*\*Realizing you are not as prepared as you wanted to be prior to the NAVLE is not a valid reason to request a schedule change. If you want time reserved for studying, you should request it when initially scheduling.*

  - If you are unsure of what the "busy" rotations are, please ask the current students in the clinics.
  
9. Choose the material you study wisely.
  - Class notes may be the best for most because they are familiar to you.

- The Merck Manual is thought to be useful, but not as a sole source of information.
- Attendance at the board review sessions is also thought to be helpful.
- Online study guides are good, but the question formats are not the same as those on the NAVLE.

10. This test is different in that:

- It is computerized. Go to the NAVLE website and practice taking the online test(s).
- It is extremely long. It requires a good deal of stamina and time management to finish in enough time.
- If you have a tendency to hypoglycemia, bring food and/or drinks for the breaks.
- Questions often require quite a few thought processes and clinical reasoning.
- Students can become discouraged after a rough section--Do not give up! Do not panic!
- You will do fine if you go in with a positive attitude and you prepare.

**Absence related to time off to take the NAVLE:** Students are given an excused absence from their clinical rotation in order to complete the NAVLE. That being said, you must let the clinician of the rotation you will be on when you take the NAVLE know at the beginning of the rotation what date/time you will be out; this gives them a heads up, so that if necessary, they do not schedule as many appointments for that day. Also, you will need to complete an [excused absence form](#) prior to the date you take the test that requires the signature of the course coordinator for the rotation from which you will miss time. Note that each rotation will be different in what the clinician expects of you for the day you take the NAVLE. Some will require that after completing the exam, you return for the rest of the day. Others will not. Additionally, if you have a patient in the hospital that requires treatments the date/time you are missing, it is your responsibility to make sure another student and/or clinician gives the patient his/her treatment and/or medication if you are unable to because of the exam.