

RVT Licensing Requirements

There are currently three eligibility categories for the RVT examination in California. To be eligible for the RVT examination, **a candidate must meet the requirements of only one of these categories.**

1. Graduate from, at minimum, a two-year curriculum in veterinary technology in a college or other post-secondary institution approved by the California Veterinary Medical Board (VMB). (Generally an [AVMA approved school](#)) or complete a program or curriculum that has been deemed equivalent to a two-year approved program by the VMB (California approved school). *
2. Licensed, certified or registered as an RVT in another state (or in Canada) and have taken an examination determined by the VMB to be equivalent to the California RVT examination and have at least 4416 hours of directed clinical practice in no less than 24 months under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. **
3. Complete a combination of at least 4416 hours of directed clinical practice in no less than 24 months under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian and 300 hours (or 20 semester or 30 quarter units) of specific education. (This is the Alternate Route). **

* Categories 2 & 3, graduation from an unapproved RVT program and possession of a 4-year degree in an animal related science, were eliminated as of July, 2009.

** **As of July 2009**, the term *practical experience* was replaced with a *directed clinical practice* and the number of hours were changed to reflect the State of California's definition of full-time work.

Other Requirements for Licensure

In addition to meeting the requirements of one of the above eligibility categories, candidates must be:

1. At least 18 years of age
2. Fingerprinted (live scan) prior to licensure
3. Free of convictions for crimes substantially related to the practice and duties of an RVT.

(Anyone who has any convictions should contact the VMB to be sure they will be eligible.)