



# MEMORANDUM

<b>Date</b>	April 5, 2023
<b>To</b>	Veterinary Medical Board (Board)
<b>From</b>	Jeffrey Olguin, Lead Administrative & Policy Analyst
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Agenda Item 9.B. Rulemaking Proposal to Amend California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Section 2068.5 Regarding RVT Practical Experience and Education as Equivalent Curriculum</b>

## Background

On July 23, 2020, the Board adopted amendments to strike language that expired the educational and clinical experience and prohibited the education experience from being completed in less than 24 months and removing the requirement that RVT applicants must complete the clinical experience requirement within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination. The modifications also included a sunset date of July 1, 2024, after this time, it was proposed that newly adopted CCR section 2065.1 would replace 2068.5 to establish the new minimum requirements for practical experience and education equivalent programs for RVTs.

On July 19, 2022 the Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee (MDC) revisited the RVT Education package and determined that it would recommend to the Board that it move forward with proposed section 2036.1 and amended section 2068.5. On October 19, 2022, the Board approved only moving forward with amendments to section 2068.5.

On February 9, 2023, the package was approved by DCA Budgets, and on March 7, 2023, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Director approved the language.

## Concerns Regarding Sunset Date and Instructional Time

In February, the Board’s Regulatory Counsel noted that the sunset date of July 1, 2024 at the beginning of the section 2068.5 should have been stricken since proposed section 2065.1 had not been adopted.

Board counsel also recommended changes to subsection (a) to replace “total” within “minimum” to allow veterinary technician programs with the ability to provide more than 20 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction. This will allow the schools to further develop veterinary technician programs as it deems appropriate. Changes to the proposed text since the last meeting are shown in yellow highlight and

italics on Attachment No. 1. If the Board agrees to these further changes, the Board is asked to consider approving the “clean” copy of this proposal in Attachment No. 2.

If the Board approves the proposed language, Board staff are prepared to immediately submit a request for approval to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for filing with the Office of Administrative Law, which would begin the 45-day public comment period process.

### **Action Requested**

The Board is asked to consider the language in Attachment No. 2 and entertain the following motion:

Rescind the Board’s prior October 19, 2022 motion approving proposed amendments to Section 2068.5 and approve the proposed regulatory text for Section 2068.5 as set forth in Attachment No. 2. Direct staff to submit the text to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency for review and if no adverse comments are received, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to initiate the rulemaking process, make any non-substantive changes to the text and the package, and set the matter for a hearing if requested. If after the 45-day public comment period, no adverse comments are received, and no public hearing is requested, authorize the Executive Officer to take all steps necessary to complete the rulemaking, and adopt the proposed regulations as described in the text notice for 16 CCR section 2068.5.

### **Attachments**

1. Attachment No. 1: Proposed Language Showing Changes from the October 2022 Board Meeting
2. Attachment No. 2: Proposed Regulatory Language to Amend CCR, Title 16, Section 2068.5 (Regarding RVT Equivalent Experience and Education)

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS  
TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS  
**DIVISION 20. VETERINARY MEDICAL BOARD**

**PROPOSED REGULATORY LANGUAGE**

RVT Equivalent Experience and Education

Proposed amendments to the regulatory language are shown in single underline for added text and ~~single strikethrough~~ for deleted text.

Modifications to the regulatory language previously adopted by the Board are italicized and yellow-highlighted.

Amend section 2068.5 of article 6 of division 20 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 6**

**§ 2068.5. Practical Experience and Education as Equivalent Curriculum.**

Until July 1, 2024, In lieu of a two year curriculum in animal health technology, completion of a combination of practical experience and education in compliance with the following criteria is deemed to be “the equivalent thereof as determined by the board” pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code:

- (a) The education shall consist of a total minimum of 20 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction. The education shall be provided by a postsecondary academic institution or a qualified instructor, who satisfies the qualification requirements of subsection (e)(1) ~~as defined by Section 2068.5(e)~~. The education shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of all of the following subjects:
- (1) Dental prophylaxis and extraction.
  - (2) Anesthetic instrumentation, induction, and monitoring.
  - (3) Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, intravascular catheter placement and application of casts and splints.
  - (4) Radiography and radiation safety.
  - (5) Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.

- (b) The education shall include instruction in chemistry, mathematics, biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology, or these subjects may be obtained as separate courses.
- ~~(c) All educational requirements in subsection (a) shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.~~
- (dc) Interactive distance-learning shall be accepted if the course meets all the criteria listed in this section and the candidate achieves a documented passing score on the course final examination.
- (ed) The candidate shall provide the board with a syllabus or an outline for each course. The candidate shall provide documentation of attendance for each course in the form of one of the following:
- (1) a certificate of attendance,
  - (2) an official transcript, or
  - (3) a letter on official stationery signed by the course instructor documenting that the candidate attended a particular course.
- (fe) (1) In order for education an instructor to be approved for qualification ~~under Section 2068.5~~, the instructor must meet at least two of the following minimum requirements:
- (A) A license, registration, or certificate in an area related to the subject matter of the course. The license, registration, or certificate shall be current, valid, and free from restrictions due to disciplinary action by this board or any other health care regulatory agency;
  - (B) A master's or higher degree from an educational institution in an area related to the subject matter of the course;
  - (C) Training, certification, or experience in teaching the subject matter of the course; or
  - (D) At least two years' experience in an area related to the subject matter of the course.
- (2) The instructor shall provide each participant with a course syllabus or detailed outline which includes a description of the material covered.
- (gf) The directed clinical practice shall consist of at least 4,416 hours, ~~completed in no less than 24 months~~, of directed clinical practice under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian who shall attest to the completion of that experience at the time the application is made to the board for the registered veterinary

~~technician examination. This experience shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.~~

(hg) The directed clinical practice required in subsection (gf) shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills, and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior, and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4808, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Section 4841.5, Business and Professions Code.

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TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS  
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RVT Equivalent Experience and Education

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Amend section 2068.5 of article 6 of division 20 of title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 6**

**§ 2068.5. Practical Experience and Education as Equivalent Curriculum.**

In lieu of a two year curriculum in animal health technology, completion of a combination of practical experience and education in compliance with the following criteria is deemed to be “the equivalent thereof as determined by the board” pursuant to Section 4841.5 of the code:

- (a) The education shall consist of a ~~total~~minimum of 20 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction. The education shall be provided by a postsecondary academic institution or a qualified instructor, who satisfies the qualification requirements of subsection (e)(1) ~~as defined by Section 2068.5(e)~~. The education shall be accumulated in the fundamentals and principles of all of the following subjects:
- (1) Dental prophylaxis and extraction.
  - (2) Anesthetic instrumentation, induction, and monitoring.
  - (3) Surgical nursing and assisting, including instrumentation, suturing techniques, intravascular catheter placement and application of casts and splints.
  - (4) Radiography and radiation safety.
  - (5) Diseases and nursing of animals, including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.
- (b) The education shall include instruction in chemistry, mathematics, biology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and medical terminology, or these subjects may be obtained as separate courses.

- ~~(c) All educational requirements in subsection (a) shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.~~
- (d) Interactive distance-learning shall be accepted if the course meets all the criteria listed in this section and the candidate achieves a documented passing score on the course final examination.
- (e) The candidate shall provide the board with a syllabus or an outline for each course. The candidate shall provide documentation of attendance for each course in the form of one of the following:
- (1) a certificate of attendance,
  - (2) an official transcript, or
  - (3) a letter on official stationery signed by the course instructor documenting that the candidate attended a particular course.
- (f) (1) In order for ~~education~~ an instructor to be approved for qualification ~~under Section 2068.5~~, the instructor must meet at least two of the following minimum requirements:
- (A) A license, registration, or certificate in an area related to the subject matter of the course. The license, registration, or certificate shall be current, valid, and free from restrictions due to disciplinary action by this board or any other health care regulatory agency;
  - (B) A master's or higher degree from an educational institution in an area related to the subject matter of the course;
  - (C) Training, certification, or experience in teaching the subject matter of the course; or
  - (D) At least two years' experience in an area related to the subject matter of the course.
- (2) The instructor shall provide each participant with a course syllabus or detailed outline which includes a description of the material covered.
- (g) The directed clinical practice shall consist of at least 4,416 hours, ~~completed in no less than 24 months~~, of directed clinical practice under the direct supervision of a California-licensed veterinarian who shall attest to the completion of that experience at the time the application is made to the board for the registered veterinary technician examination. ~~This experience shall have been completed by the applicant within five (5) years prior to the date of the examination for registration as a registered veterinary technician.~~

(hg)The directed clinical practice required in subsection (gf) shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills, and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, anesthesia, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior, and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific skill areas within the preceding categories.

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