

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

The Alternate Route Eligibility Category

- 1. I have been working at a veterinary hospital for 3 years and would like to become an RVT. I can't take the time off to go to RVT school. Is there any other way for me to qualify to sit for the RVT exam?**

Yes. The California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act includes a variety of eligibility categories (Sections 2067-2068.6) for the RVT exam. All of the categories can be viewed on web site www.vmb.ca.gov. In your situation, it appears that the Alternate Route (Sec. 2068.5) might be the best choice. The Alternate Route requires a combination of 300 hours of specific education and at least 4416 hours of practical experience (directed clinical practice), completed in no less than 24 months. The specific requirements of the Alternate Route can be viewed on the VMB's web site.

- 2. How do I obtain the education required by the Alternate Route?**

The required education can be obtained in a variety of venues such as formal academic institutions like community colleges or universities, private programs specifically designed for the Alternate Route, CE venues like the Wild West Veterinary Conference or the Back-to-School Conference or even at your workplace, since any veterinarian or RVT with at least 2 years experience in the subject matter can teach a qualifying class.

- 3. I have taken a few college classes in math and science. How do I calculate the number of hours these classes provide since they are recorded in units, not hours.**

Quarter units are equivalent to 10 hours and semester units are equivalent to 15 hours. If you have a 3-semester unit biology class, you would have completed 45 hours of qualified course work. If you have a 4-quarter unit chemistry class, you would have completed 40 hours of qualified course work.

- 4. Does the Alternate Route require a specific number of hours in particular subjects?**

No. The Alternate Route requires a total of 300 hours of courses, but not a specific number of hours for each specific subject. This route is intended to be flexible to accommodate the variety of backgrounds of the candidates. Every candidate must complete at least one class in each of the required subjects, but just how many hours each candidate devotes to a particular subject depends on their own needs.

5. Can I use the same course to satisfy more than one requirement?

Yes. As long as the course description, outline or syllabus clearly states that required material is included, you can use the same course to meet different requirements. For example, a course in dentistry can be used to satisfy the requirement for education in dental prophylaxis, dental extraction, medical terminology and anatomy if it included material on those subjects. However, you must still meet the overall total of 300 hours for all of the education.

6. Is there a time limit on the required course work?

Yes. All of the job-related courses must be obtained within 5 years of the application date. However, general education requirements like math and science may have been obtained at any time.

7. How do I fulfill the practical experience required by the Alternate Route?

The Alternate Route requires at least 4416 hours of practical experience, completed in no less than 24 months as a complement to the class work. During the training, the candidate must become competent in a variety of skills. Candidates may obtain a copy of the Task List from the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) by going to <http://www.vmb.ca.gov/applicants/forms.shtml>. The Task List, which is also included in the RVT Exam Application, must be signed by a supervising veterinarian who attests to the skills achieved and the number of hours worked. If you have worked for more than one veterinarian, you may submit multiple copies of the Task List signed by the various supervising veterinarians.

8. I have completed all of the required education for the Alternate Route except for one subject. I can't find a class for that subject anywhere. What can I do?

Any veterinarian or RVT with at least 2 years experience in that subject may teach you. You should ask a veterinarian or RVT with whom you work if they will create a course for you. The course must be at least one hour in length and contain the required subject matter. The instructor must produce a course outline or syllabus that describes the course content and provide you with a Certificate of Attendance. Sample Certificates of Attendance are included with the application.

9. Who decides if my courses qualify for the Alternate Route?

The staff at the VMB review every Alternate Route application. They compare your documentation with the requirements of Section 2068.5. They look for the key words describing the course content. Be sure that the documentation you provide includes at least one course that specifically includes each of the required

subjects. If your documentation is not clear, the VMB may require additional proof, delaying your application processing time.

10. I am considering attending an Alternate Route program that claims to contain all of the required course work. How can I be sure that I will be eligible to sit for the exam if I complete this program?

The Veterinary Medical Board does not review or approve Alternate Route programs. Each candidate is responsible for demonstrating to the VMB that the courses they attended qualify. You should treat a “complete” Alternate Route program just as you would any other courses you attend. Be sure that the courses offered contain the material required by Sec. 2068.5 and that the instructors meet the qualifications before signing up for any Alternate Route program.

11. I would like to take some classes on-line. Would they qualify for the Alternate Route?

Inter-active distance learning classes are acceptable as long as they contain the required material and are taught by qualified instructors. Just like any other type of course, you must also be provided with a detailed course description and a Certificate of Attendance.

12. I still find the requirements of the Alternate Route to be somewhat confusing. Is there some sort of resource that can help me?

Yes. CaRVTA has produced the *Alternate Route Handbook*, which is a complete guide for using the Alternate Route. It contains detailed information & strategies for using the Alternate Route as well as copies of the required documents and the complete examination plan. The *Handbook* also helps candidates organize the documents required for the application. You can obtain a copy for \$18.75 at the CaRVTA online store ([click here](#)).