

Preparing to Apply for Technician Licensure: What Veterinary Technicians and Team Members Need to Know

Technician **licensure** through the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine will be **taking the place of certification** through the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) beginning July 1, 2026.



**Certification Program
Ends June 30, 2026**



**State Licensure
Begins July 1, 2026**

Please read the **MVMA/MAVT FAQ**, available at mvma.org/veterinary-technician-licensure, for information about what veterinary technician licensure means from a legal and practical standpoint.

What we currently know about the **application process and requirements** for CVTs and non-credentialed veterinary team members is outlined below:

If you are a:

CVT IN GOOD STANDING

(your certification is current and expires 6/30/26):

- You will apply for licensure with the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine—through a process expected to open in March 2026—for a license that takes effect July 1, 2026.
- **The total cost to get licensed in 2026 will be \$282**, which includes:
 - a one-time application fee of \$75,
 - the initial 2-year license fee of \$100 (equivalent to current MVMA certification renewal),
 - a one-time fee of \$75 for the required jurisprudence exam,
 - and a one-time fee of \$32 for the required criminal background check.
 - (Note that to renew your license in 2028 and beyond, only the license fee will be required, and license fees are subject to change in future years.)
- You will need **10 CE credits** if you last (re)certified in 2024, and **5 CE credits** if you last (re)certified in 2025 for the initial licensure application in 2026.
 - (Note that to renew your license in 2028 and beyond, you will need 16 CE credits.)
- You will need to pass an online, open-resource **jurisprudence exam**.
- You will need to submit to a **criminal background check**.
- You will need to submit **5 notarized affidavits** from at least 2 veterinarians and 3 other adults not related to you. A provided template for these affidavits will ask for information about how long, when, and under what circumstances they have known you, and any other facts as may be proper to determine qualification for licensure.
- When you apply for licensure as a current CVT, your certification records will be transferred from MVMA to the MN Board of Veterinary Medicine.
- If you decide **NOT** to apply for licensure, you will no longer be able to use the title Certified Veterinary Technician or similar (veterinary technician, veterinary technologist, vet tech, LVT, CVT). In Minnesota, “nurse” is a protected title in human medicine, which means CVTs/LVTs and veterinary assistants are not allowed to use the title “veterinary nurse.”

If you are a:

FORMER CVT
(your certification is lapsed):

- **The most straightforward path to licensure is to get your certification up to date through MVMA** as soon as possible. There is a **final deadline of 10/31/25** to submit your recertification application if you are lapsed. Learn how to get your certification up to date: mvma.org/lapsed-certification
- **If you do not recertify** through MVMA, you **MAY** be eligible to apply for licensure with the MN Board of Veterinary Medicine through a **temporary alternative process known as the grandfather clause** *if you have worked in the veterinary field for a minimum of 4,160 hours over the past five years.*
- **The total cost to get licensed**—either after getting your certification up to date or through the grandfather clause—**in 2026 will be \$282**, which includes:
 - a one-time **application fee** of \$75,
 - the initial **2-year license fee** of \$100,
 - a one-time fee of \$75 for the required jurisprudence exam,
 - and a one-time fee of \$32 for the required criminal background check.
 - (Note that to **renew** your license in 2028 and beyond, you will only pay the license fee, and license fees are subject to change in future years. You will also need to have earned 16 CE credits between getting licensed and applying to renew your license.)
- **Important to know about applying via the grandfather clause:**
 - The temporary alternative process will be open July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2031, and application materials are expected to be available in March 2026.
 - In addition to the requirements for all applicants (passing a **jurisprudence exam**, submitting to a **criminal background check**, and submitting **5 notarized affidavits**),
 - The **affidavits** from veterinarians, for which there will be templates, will ask for **additional detailed statements of competency and contain checklists of skills** for those applying this way. The affidavits are legal documents and will take time for the veterinarians to complete. Those filling out the affidavits could potentially be liable for the actions of those they are completing affidavits for. If you are not well known to two veterinarians, you may have trouble getting those affidavits.
 - If using this temporary alternative process, **you will NOT be licensed right away on July 1, 2026**, and you will **NOT be able to use the title Veterinary Technician or similar** (veterinary technologist, vet tech, LVT, or veterinary nurse). The title you will need to use—in the interim or if you are not successful in getting licensed—is **Veterinary Assistant**. The MN Board of Veterinary Medicine will review applications submitted via the grandfather clause carefully and individually, in a process that may take **up to 6 months**.
 - Applying for licensure via the grandfather clause is **not a guarantee**, and if you are unable to get your license via this pathway, you will not be able to go back and become certified in good standing with MVMA at a later date.
 - As a lapsed CVT applying through the grandfather clause, your certification records will **NOT** be transferred from MVMA to the MN Board of Veterinary Medicine, meaning you would need to pay to transfer your VTNE score if you ever move to another state and wish to work as a veterinary technician.
- If you decide **NOT** to apply for licensure, you will no longer be able to use the title Veterinary Technician or similar (veterinary technologist, vet tech, LVT, CVT). In Minnesota, “nurse” is a protected title in human medicine, which means veterinary technicians and assistants are not allowed to use the title “veterinary nurse.” The title you will need to use is **Veterinary Assistant**.

If you are a:

NEVER-CREDENTIALLED VETERINARY TEAM MEMBER:

- If you have worked in the veterinary field for a minimum of 4,160 hours over the past five years, you **MAY** be eligible to apply for licensure with the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine through a **temporary alternative process known as the grandfather clause**. This option is open from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2031.
- **The total cost to get licensed in 2026 will be \$282**, which includes:
 - a one-time **application fee** of \$75,
 - the initial **2-year license fee** of \$100,
 - a one-time fee of \$75 for the required jurisprudence exam,
 - and a one-time fee of \$32 for the required criminal background check.
 - (Note that to **renew** your license in 2028 and beyond, you will only pay the license fee, and license fees are subject to change in future years.)
- To apply, you will need to pass an online, open-resource **jurisprudence exam**.
- To apply, you will need to submit to a **criminal background check**.
- To apply, you will need to submit **5 notarized affidavits** from at least 2 veterinarians and 3 other adults not related to you. A template for these affidavits will ask for information about how long, when, and under what circumstances they have known you, and any other facts as may be proper to determine qualification for licensure. The affidavits from veterinarians will include additional **detailed statements of competency and checklists of skills** for those applying this way. The affidavits are legal documents and will take time for the veterinarians to complete. Those filling out the affidavits could potentially be liable for the actions of those they are completing affidavits for. If you are not well known to two veterinarians, you may have trouble getting those affidavits.
- The MN Board of Veterinary Medicine will review applications submitted via the grandfather clause carefully and individually, which may take up to **6 months**. Those applying through this temporary alternate process are not guaranteed to be approved for licensure.
- If a license is granted, you will need to **renew** your license every two years to keep it active. To renew, you will need 16 Continuing Education (CE) credits every two years.
- To work as a veterinary technician, most states require graduation from an AVMA accredited program of veterinary technology and passage of the VTNE. Those applying via this alternative pathway who have not done either of these things will likely not be able to gain a credential in another state even if licensed in Minnesota.

MORE INFORMATION

Review the **MVMA/MAVT FAQ document**:



Scan with your smartphone camera to visit MVMA's licensure resource page and access our FAQ document.

Questions?

Email info@mvma.org or call 651-645-7533.

