

# **AMERICAN BOARD OF VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS SWINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Diplomate of ABVP certified in Swine Health Management! The following steps are required for successful certification by ABVP in Swine Health Management.

## **APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS**

- (1) To be eligible for ABVP certification, veterinarians must hold one (1) of the following:
  - a) Valid diploma (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent) from an AVMA-accredited or AVMA-listed college of veterinary medicine, or
  - b) Certificate from the ECFVG, or
  - c) License to practice in the United States or any other country
- (2) Applicants should be of high moral and professional character.
- (3) The applicant must have a solid background in swine medicine and production gained in one of the following ways:
  - a. At least five (5) years of documentable experience in swine practice prior to first credentials submission
  - b. Residency/Completion of an MS degree, plus at least one (1) year of swine practice

## **ENTRY APPLICATION PROCESS**

The applicant must pass an entry examination given in conjunction with the American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) annual meeting held in early spring (usually March). This examination will measure basic skills and problem-solving abilities related to swine health management. The test will consist of multiple choice questions designed to ensure that the applicant is familiar with all areas of swine health, including reproduction, growth, mortality, economics, epidemiology, disease diagnosis/treatment/prevention, environment, country specific regulatory issues and animal welfare.

To apply for the entry examination, submit an entry exam application and payment to ABVP by January 15. Application forms are obtained from and submitted to:

American Board of Veterinary Practitioners  
618 Church Street, Suite 220  
Nashville, TN 37219  
p (800) 697-3583 f (615) 254-7047  
[www.abvp.com](http://www.abvp.com) [abvp@xmi-amc.com](mailto:abvp@xmi-amc.com)

Applicants who fail the entry examination may retake it in succeeding years by notifying ABVP of his/her intention and paying the required examination fee.

## **CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

Following passage of the entry examination, an advisor must be approved by the Swine Health Management Credentials Committee. Each applicant must complete a plan of study developed in collaboration with the advisor.

1. Applicants are asked to submit a list of three (3) potential advisors ranked in order of preference. Advisors must have expertise in Swine Health Management. The committee will try to assign advisors according to candidate preference whenever possible, but may suggest names not included on the list provided by the applicant. Final selection of the advisor will be made by the Swine Health Management Credentials Committee.
2. The relationship between advisor and applicant will be advisory only. Applicants are not required to work for or with the advisor, although he/she may choose to do so without prejudice. The Swine Health Management Credentials Committee will serve as an approval and oversight body.
3. The advisory period will normally be three (3) years, but may be reduced upon recommendation of the advisor and subsequent approval by the Swine Health Management Credentials Committee and the Council of Regents. If the applicant cannot meet the requirements for the certification examination in four (4) years, the individual must re-enter the application process at the level of the entry examination.
4. The plan of study may vary between applicants, depending upon experience, demonstrated abilities and goals of the applicant. The plan of study will be prepared by the applicant and advisor and submitted to the Swine Health Management Credentials Committee for approval within three (3) months after the applicant is notified of successful passage of the entry examination. This curriculum may include, but is not limited to: formal courses, intensive short courses, home study, clinical trials with reports, literature reviews, presentations at meetings, special seminars, and manuscript preparation.
5. Advisors will be asked to submit an annual report to the Swine Health Management Credentials Committee, which serves to evaluate the work of the applicant.
6. Three (3) publications are required for credentials. Two (2) case reports must be written in the style outlined by ABVP in the Applicant Handbook. The third publication must be accepted for publication in a refereed journal.
7. Upon completion of the course of study, the applicant will submit an application and application fee by September 1. The credentials packet consisting of the following materials is due to the ABVP office by the following January 15:
  - Five (5) copies of the two (2) case reports
  - Two (2) copies of the one (1) publication in a peer reviewed journal
  - Three (3) applicant evaluation forms
  - Two (2) copies of the curriculum vitae
  - Two (2) copies of the veterinary diploma
  - Two (2) copies of the continuing education documentation
  - Two (2) copies of the synopsis of veterinary practice
  - Two (2) copies of the self-report practice experience
  - One (1) copy of the letter from the advisor verifying satisfactory completion of the curriculum

Detailed descriptions of all documentation can be found in the ABVP Applicant Handbook.

8. After review by the Credentials Committee, the applicant's credentials may be accepted thereby allowing him/her to take the certification examination. Credentials results are sent by mail no later than June 1 following the January 15 they were submitted. All applicants whose credentials are accepted are known as candidates. Applicant status can last for three (3) years. If one (1) or more sections of the application and/or credentials packet is not accepted by the Credentials Committee, the applicant has two (2) more years to revise the failed documents, so long as they are revisable, and re-apply (by January 15 of each year).
9. After credentials have been accepted, a candidate has three (3) years in which to pass all parts of the certification examination. The certifying exam is approximately eighteen (18) months after the application deadline and fourteen (14) months after the credentials packet deadline. The certifying exam is also administered at the annual AASV meeting in the early spring. The exam is designed to test problem solving skills as well as written and verbal communication skills. The exam will include oral questions and essay questions, and will cover: pre-clinical sciences; medical, surgical, diagnostic and management techniques; and the practical application of these areas in swine health management using a problem solving format. Exam scores are made available approximately 45 days following examination.
10. Recertification is required every ten (10) years to maintain Diplomate status. Details are available at [www.abvp.com](http://www.abvp.com).
11. Annual Diplomate renewal fees must be submitted to ABVP.

#### **FEE SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES**

The following fees were adopted in 2008 and may be revised as needed:

- Entry Examination Fee: \$110 due by January 15
- Application and Application Fee: \$330 due September 1
- Credentials Packet: due January 15 *immediately following September 1*
- Re-Application Fee: \$220 due January 15
- Examination Fee: \$440 due September 1
- Re-Examination Fee: \$440 due September 1
- Diplomate Renewal Fee: \$220 due July 1
- Diplomate Recertification Fee: \$275 due January 15

*Revised May 2011*