



# Accreditation System for Veterinary Schools in Korea

Heungshik S. Lee, DVM, Ph.D,

Accreditation Board for Veterinary Education in Korea, zip code 13590, South Korea

E-mail: leehss@snu.ac.kr, Home page: www.abovek.or.kr/eng

## Abstract

Accreditation for veterinary education programs is a key to improve the quality of veterinary education. The Accreditation Board for Veterinary Education in Korea (ABOVE-K) was established in 2010.

The ABOVE-K is the first accreditation body for veterinary education in Asia as non-profit and non-government organization.

This organization was recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in 2011. At present, three colleges have been accredited with full accreditation.

## Introduction

An official discussion of accreditation system in Korea began firstly at the public hearings on 6 year system of veterinary education in 1995. Also, it was accelerated by Joint Communique of Asian Association of Veterinary Schools in 2001, and Mutual Recognition Agreement on Free Trade Negotiation in 2004.

Moreover, the Korean Government has designated accreditation as a national policy in 2005. In accordance with these conditions, the Korean Veterinary Medical Association, Dean's Meeting and the Korean Association of Veterinary Schools agreed with to establish ABOVE-K.

## Activities

The accreditation standards of ABOVE-K consist of 5 areas that has 3 to 6 specific criteria, respectively. The total number of specific criteria is 50 (Fig. 1). ABOVE-K is currently working to develop the evaluation tools for the implementation of OIE Day 1 Competencies which will be adopted in the second round of accreditation cycle.

Evaluation Areas	Evaluation Elements	No. of Total Factors
Organization & Finances	Administration, Strategy & Planning, Implementation & Budget, etc.	9
Curriculum	Educational Goals, Curriculum Design, Pre-clinical, Para-clinical & Clinical Curriculum, Professional Ethics, Clinical Practice, etc.	14
Students	Admission Policy, Guidance & Welfare System, Outcome, Facilities, etc.	10
Faculty & Staff	Basic & Clinical Full-time Faculty, Education, Research & Community Activities, Support for Self-development, etc.	10
Facilities & Resources	Educational Facilities & Resources, Research Facilities & Equipment, Management of Facilities & Equipment, Library, etc.	7
Total		50

Fig. 1. Accreditation Standard of Veterinary Education

The accreditation process begins with submitting an application of a veterinary education establishment (VEE) to ABOVE-K. The VEE next submits the self-evaluation report (SER) to ABOVE-K. VEE is then evaluated based on the SER and site-visit by an evaluation team. The final decision of accreditation is made by the Accreditation Committee (Fig. 2).

For the settlement of accreditation system in Korea, ABOVE-K has seminars, forums, symposiums and workshops on the evaluation of veterinary program every year.

Based on the degree of compliance with the accreditation standards, the type of accreditation is determined. There are 5 types of accreditation status: full accreditation (5 years), limited accreditation (2 years), provisional accreditation (within 2 years), unsatisfactory accreditation (no-pass) and revocation of accreditation (withdraw or rescission). Full accreditation is granted when the candidate school fully meets the criteria in each of accreditation standards. In the first round, three colleges have received full accreditation.

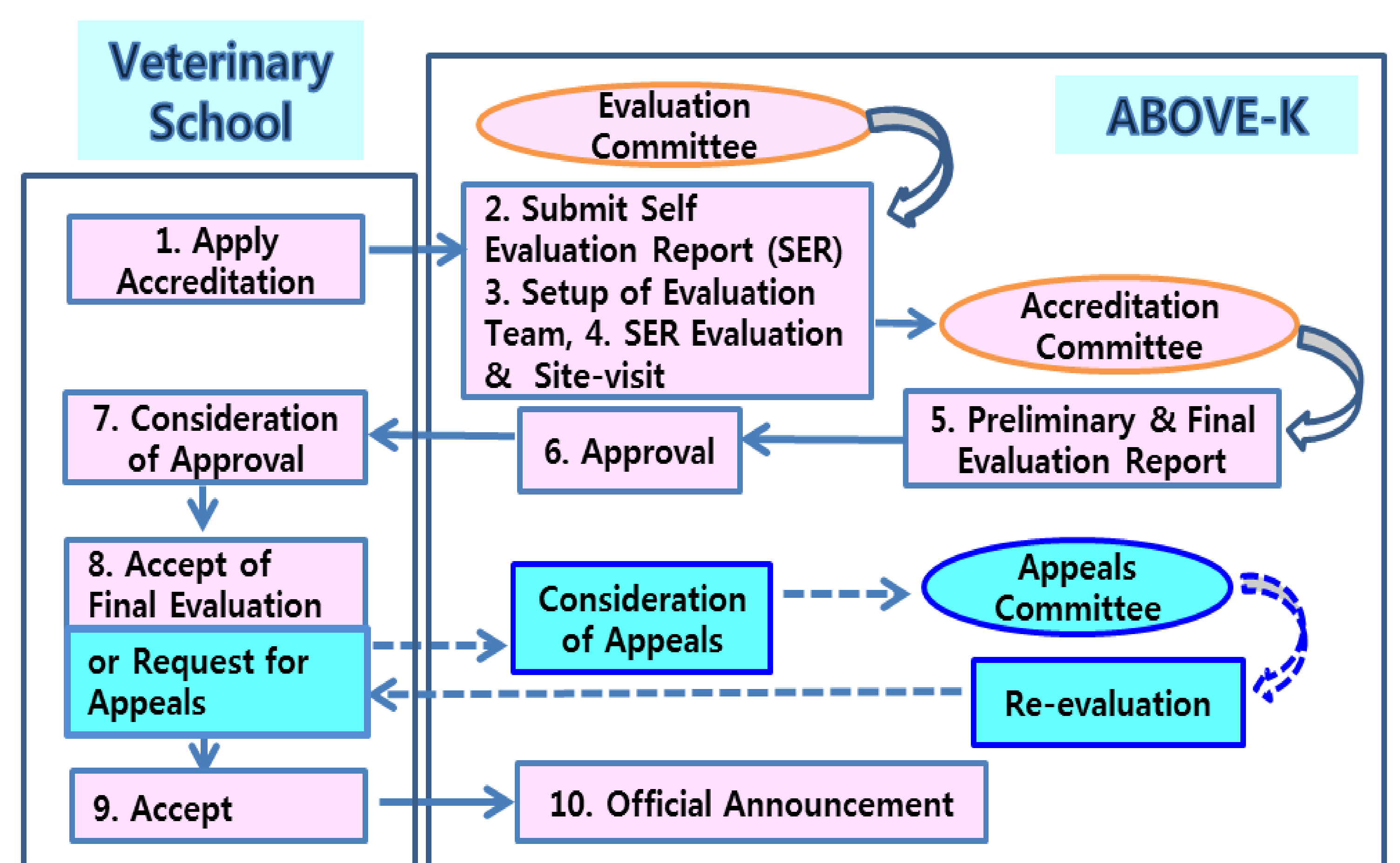


Fig. 2. Flowchart of Accreditation Procedure

## Conclusion

The success of accreditation depends on the implementation of the veterinary program outcomes set by the Korean experts in the field of veterinary accreditation as well as global organization such as OIE and/or World Veterinary Association because the veterinary services are considered as global public goods for the optimal health of animal, human and environment. Therefore, it is necessary that the accreditation bodies of different countries cooperate together for the harmonization of accreditation of VEE.