ThePROToolKit

PRINTABLE TPTK CHECKLIST

The Vet School Tech Setup Checklist

Everything to set up before first year — so tech never costs you an exam. **Print it. Bring it to orientation. Ask before you buy.**

1 BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING

Buy for your school's secure exam software first.

- [ ] Ask your school in writing which OS and versions are approved for its secure exam software (ExamSoft Examplify is common in vet programs).
- [ ] Buy for exams first: a supported Windows or Mac laptop. Don't rely on a Chromebook, iPad, Android tablet, or Linux machine as your only device.
- [ ] Don't plan on virtual machines, remote desktops, or touchscreen-only input for secure exams.
- [ ] Minimums: current Windows/macOS, current processor, 8 GB RAM (16 GB better), SSD, webcam + mic, admin access, strong battery.
- [ ] Check YOUR school's published requirements — some (e.g., UF) also require a privacy screen, webcam, and microphone.
- [ ] ARM/Snapdragon Windows: verify current exam-software support before buying.

RULE OF THUMB: The laptop you buy in year one has to survive four years — including clinical rotations.

SCAN BEFORE YOU BUY
Vet school laptop picks

BOARDS NOTE: The NAVLE is taken at approved test centers on their computers. Your laptop is for school and prep — not licensing day.

2 FIRST-WEEK SETUP

Lock in access before the course load hits.

- [ ] School email, calendar, and student portal
- [ ] LMS: Canvas, Blackboard, or your school's equivalent
- [ ] Vet library, journal, and database access
- [ ] MFA on school, email, clinical, and cloud accounts
- [ ] Password manager for school, clinical, and board-prep logins
- [ ] Cloud backup ON for notes, PDFs, and case logs

3 DAILY STUDY TOOLKIT

Core apps for notes, cases, flashcards, and boards.

- [ ] Notes: OneNote, GoodNotes, Notability, or your workflow
- [ ] PDF annotation for lectures, papers, and case material
- [ ] Flashcards (Anki is the vet-school staple) synced across devices
- [ ] Board-prep question banks reachable on laptop and phone
- [ ] Calendar blocks for lectures, labs, clinics, and study
- [ ] Focused study setup: browser, word processor, distraction control

✓ MAKE IT SURVIVE VET SCHOOL

Protect it: a padded sleeve and a hard-shell case — your bag will live in labs, clinics, and cars.

Warranty it: 3–4-year coverage with accidental damage beats replacing a laptop mid-rotations.

Second screen it: a portable monitor makes anatomy + notes side-by-side actually workable.

DO THIS FIRST Bring this to orientation and test every device early — the cheapest fix is the one you make before classes start.

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Exam Day, Clinics, and Backup

Finish setup before stress makes every small tech problem bigger.

4 BEFORE YOUR FIRST EXAM

Test everything now, not during the test.

- [ ] Install your school's exam software early and run the practice/mock exam in the real tool.
- [ ] Test webcam, mic, keyboard, power adapter, Wi-Fi, and a hotspot backup before exam week.
- [ ] Close extra apps, confirm storage space, and check whether admin access is required.
- [ ] Pick a quiet, well-lit, interruption-free space if remote/recorded exams are allowed.
- [ ] Licensing reminder: the NAVLE is taken at approved test centers on their computers — your laptop is for school and prep.

5 CLINICAL YEAR & DATA CARE

Durability, sync, and patient-data hygiene.

- [ ] Clinical year is hard on hardware: prioritize battery life, durability, and weight you can carry all day.
- [ ] Sync notes and case logs to the cloud — nothing lives only on the device you drop in a barn.
- [ ] Protect patient and client data: lock screen, encryption on, no shared logins.
- [ ] A tablet is a great supplement for anatomy and references — not your exam machine unless your school approves it.
- [ ] Keep class notes separate from board-prep material so NAVLE study isn't a file hunt.

6 BACKUP RULES & BUDGET TIERS

Spend where it protects grades, exams, and rotations.

- [ ] Auto-save and cloud backup ON for every note, assignment, and case log.
- [ ] Clear file names (Course_Topic_Date); keep final versions in one folder.
- [ ] Email yourself major assignments before deadlines.
- [ ] Keep OS, browser, exam software, and board-prep logins updated before exam blocks.

BUDGET TIERS

- [ ] **Tight:** a current Windows or Mac laptop that passes your school's exam-software rules, before any tablet.
- [ ] **Better value:** 16 GB RAM, SSD, battery life, keyboard comfort, webcam, warranty.
- [ ] **Add later:** tablet + stylus for anatomy and reading after the exam-safe laptop is covered.
- [ ] **Skip:** Chromebook-only, iPad-only, old refurbished bargains, Linux-only, or VM workarounds.

GO DEEPER

Scan for vet-school laptop picks, the Examplify device rules, and the exam-software map for every program.

EXAM HUB
Examplify device rules

EXAM SOFTWARE MAP
What each program uses

Bring this to orientation. Test early. · Full guide: **theprotoolkit.com/best-laptops-for-vet-school**