



NPTE Quarterly Faculty Newsletter

Volume 14; No. 1

1st Quarter 2017

The mission of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy is to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice.

The NPTE Quarterly Faculty Newsletter is published by the Federation (FSBPT) as one mechanism to communicate with educators in PT and PTA programs. This effort to provide ongoing communication includes current information and updates on the NPTE as well as information on other regulatory issues that might impact or be of interest to program educators.

Please share this newsletter with other PT or PTA educators.

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What Does the NPTE Registration and Payment Deadline Mean to You with the New Exam Registration Process?

As we've previously discussed, schools have two key roles with the new Exam Registration Processing System: (1) adding new cohorts by the end of the first year of the program; and (2) validating that the student is on track to graduate.

The "graduation validation" step must occur before your student can register for the NPTE. FSBPT sends an email 150 days before your program's graduation date letting you know you can complete the graduation validation step. When this step is completed is the choice of each program, however, once completed, your students will be able to register for any NPTE dates that are available at that time.

If your program does not want your students to test before graduation, you don't validate their graduation until the Registration and Payment Deadline for the test date that occurs before graduation passes. For example, the Registration and Payment Deadline for the July 6 NPTE-PTA is June 1. To ensure that your students cannot register for the July NPTE-PTA, you should wait until June 2 to validate graduation, which would allow your student to register for the October 3 exam, but not the July 6 exam.

You can review the dates and deadlines for all NPTE dates at:

[http://www.fsbpt.org/SecondaryPages/ExamCandidates/NationalExam\(NPTE\)/DatesandDeadlines.aspx](http://www.fsbpt.org/SecondaryPages/ExamCandidates/NationalExam(NPTE)/DatesandDeadlines.aspx).

This Quarter's Question: When will the new content outlines be used on the NPTE? What does all this mean for my curriculum?

The new content outlines will be effective for the NPTE as of January, 2018. In general, the changes aren't expected to have a great impact on your curriculum. However, you may notice that the new content outline includes the Lymphatic System as a distinct body system for both the NPTE-PT and the NPTE-PTA. Previously, questions about the lymphatic system were grouped within the overall category of Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Systems questions.

When questions from the Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Systems category were assigned to a given examination, there was no guarantee that lymphatic system questions would be included: the examination could have a few questions about the lymphatic system or none at all. In the new content outline, having the Lymphatic System as a distinct body system will ensure that each examination will contain some questions specifically about the lymphatic system. Specific to the NPTE-PT, an additional change is the addition of Physical Therapy Examination questions within the Gastrointestinal System starting in 2018. Throughout both the NPTE-PT and NPTE-PTA test content outlines, individual knowledge statements have been added, removed, or reworded for clarity.

The 2018 Test Content Outlines are posted on the FSBPT website:

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/NPTEDevelopment/NPTEContent.aspx>.

The full Practice Analysis documentation will be posted on the FSBPT website later this year.

What students need to know: What is the difference between a typical multiple-choice question and questions on the NPTE?

The purpose of the NPTE is to help protect the public by testing knowledge necessary to be a safe and effective practitioner. Items on the NPTE are 4-option multiple-choice questions. These items are intended to test a candidate's understanding of clinical reasoning and of knowledge in clinical practice. Therefore, item writers for the NPTE are challenged to develop questions that do not just ask for recall of a fact, but instead require a higher cognitive level, such as applying knowledge in a clinical scenario and combining several pieces of information to solve a problem. In developing the NPTE, the goal is not to examine the candidate's test-taking ability, but rather to ensure the candidate possesses the physical therapy knowledge necessary to be a safe and effective entry-level clinician.

Here are some ideas to make your classroom assessments more like NPTE questions.

Do this:

- Ask higher cognitive level questions that require applying important knowledge in clinical scenarios and that require synthesis of information presented in the question with concepts students have learned
- Capitalize and use bold face type for descriptors such as **MOST**, **BEST**, **FIRST**, and **GREATEST**
- Develop incorrect options that are plausible and attractive to students who are not familiar with the material
- Create options that are parallel in content and similar in length

Avoid this:

- Using options such as “All of the above” or “None of the above”
 - Using absolute terms in options such as “never” or “always”
 - Using negatively worded questions (e.g., ask what is **MOST** appropriate, not **LEAST** appropriate)
 - Having options that overlap in content
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Get Involved!

Learn how to become an NPTE item writer or a member of an exam committee.

Exam Committees

One of the best mechanisms for understanding and providing input into the NPTE development process is to volunteer on the exam committees. Over 50% of the participants on the NPTE development committees are educators and over 60% of the item writers are educators. While educator representation on the committees must be balanced with other practice settings, we welcome your participation.

To qualify to be on an NPTE committee, you generally need prior item writing experience. You also should be able to work as a team and understand and support the mission of FSBPT.

Volunteer opportunities

You'll find the opportunity to become an item writer for the National Physical Therapy Exam at www.fsbpt.org/Volunteer.

Useful Pages

Visit the [FSBPT website](http://www.fsbpt.org) for information on a range of topics.

- **Candidate Handbook:** www.fsbpt.org/NPTE/Handbook
- **Educator's page:** Look for the “Educators” link in the blue ribbon
- **Exam Candidates page:** Look for the “Exam Candidates” link in the blue ribbon
- **Licensing Authorities:** Scroll down to “Top Resources” and click “Licensing Authorities Contact Information”
- **Licensure Reference Guide:** Scroll down to “Top Resources” and click “Licensure Reference Guide”
- **NPTE Content Outline:** Click on “Free Resources” in the black ribbon at the top of the page, go to “NPTE Development” and look for “NPTE content”
- **Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT):** www.fsbpt.org/PEAT
- **Performance Feedback Report (PFR):** Click on “Our Services,” then “Candidate Services” and look for “NPTE Performance Feedback Report” in the left hand table of contents

- **Preparing Students for the NPTE:** Scroll down for the link on the right hand column
 - **School Interface:** Look for “Educators Login” in the top right corner
 - **Score reports (free):** Click “Our Services,” then “Candidate Services.” Go to “Status of My Request” and click “View now” to view a free exam score report (available for 30 days starting 10 days after the exam date).
 - **Top Services:** Scroll down to “Top Services” to find links for “Status of My Request,” “Practice Exam & Assessment Tool (PEAT),” “Score Transfer Service” and “Exam Withdrawal Request.”
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Board Liaisons to Jurisdictions

Members of the board of directors serve as liaisons to multiple jurisdictions. Current liaison relationships are listed here for your reference.

Jurisdictions	Board Liaison
Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	 Ron Barbato
Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah	 Charles Brown
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Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Wisconsin	 Natalie Harms
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Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Vermont	 Nancy Kirsch
Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming	 David Relling

Staff

If you have questions, challenges or ideas, we want to hear from you!		
FSBPT (703) 299-3100 FCCPT (703) 684-8406 (Call FSBPT unless otherwise noted after name)		
Contact Person	Title	Topics
William A. Hatherill	Chief Executive Officer	FSBPT Issues
Mark Lane Susan Layton	Vice President Chief Operating Officer	General questions and feedback; research questions
Lorin Mueller, PhD	Managing Director of Assessment	Psychometrics, test development and construction
Christine Sousa	Managing Director of Exam Services	Exam administration issues, ADA
Kathleen Luedtke-Hoffmann, PhD, FCCPT	Managing Director of the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT)	Foreign educated graduates
Rhonda Collins	Administrative Assistant	School reports: schoolreports@fsbpt.org Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT): peat@fsbpt.org

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