

Model Rules (Regulations) for Graduates of non-CAPTE Accredited Programs* (Examination & Endorsement)

These model rules apply to an applicant for a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant license who has been educated at a program that has not been accredited by an agency approved by the board.

Jurisdictions may choose to promulgate other rules (regulations) applicable to applicants educated by the United States Military.

Background

The Foreign Educated Standards Committee of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) previously developed model rules for jurisdictions to supplement the statutory language of the Model Practice Act (MPA). The Ethics and Legislation Committee reviewed and updated these rules in 2023. These rules help to improve the clarity of licensing requirements for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants by examination versus applicants by endorsement.

The rules reflect recommendations from FSBPT and follow the MPA; not all requirements are applicable for all boards, examples include jurisprudence examinations, supervised clinical practice, and criminal background checks.

Definitions

***Agency-** At this time, CAPTE is the only accrediting agency for physical therapy education programs

The terms Foreign educated physical therapist (FEPT) or Foreign educated physical therapist assistant (FEPTA) have been replaced with "graduate of a non-CAPTE accredited education program" (GNCAP) as the term of choice. Jurisdictions can specify PT or PTA education program.

EXAMINATION

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPT)

When necessary, all required documents to satisfy the requirements shall be translated into English by a professional translator at the applicant's expense and must be sent directly to the Board by the professional translator along with the original language copy and a notarized statement as to the translator's certification.

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the most recent version of the [FSBPT Coursework Tool](#) (CWT) for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.



English Language Proficiency Requirement

- (a) The approved English proficiency examination is the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- (b) The TOEFL minimum passing score is twenty-two (22) in writing; twenty-four (24) in speaking, twenty-two (22) in reading, and twenty-one (21) in listening. The minimum passing scores must be acquired in one test administration;
- (c) Applicants who graduated from an educational program accredited by an approved accrediting agency or a college, university, or professional training school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has:

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the required jurisprudence examination
- (c) Successfully passed the required (jurisdictions with other requirements should list them here)

Criminal Records Check. (may also be called Criminal Background Check or Criminal History Record Information) At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

Supervised Clinical Practice

- (a) The applicant must complete a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours to be completed in no fewer than six months and no longer than one year;
- (b) The applicant must work under onsite supervision for the entirety of the supervised clinical practice. "Onsite supervision" means supervision provided by a physical therapist who is continuously onsite and present in the department or facility where services are provided. The supervising therapist is immediately available to the person being supervised and maintains continued involvement in the necessary aspects of patient care;
- (c) The clinical supervisor, and one additional supervisor, shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice. The clinical supervisor must have the following qualifications:
 - i. A minimum of three years of clinical experience;
 - ii. An unrestricted license to practice as a physical therapist in the state where the supervised clinical practice is being completed; and
 - iii. A current role where direct patient care is provided;
- (d) The clinical facility shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice;
- (e) Applicants, supervisors, and facilities shall disclose to the Board any known potential for conflict of interest or appearance of conflict;
- (f) The applicant should be evaluated using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Performance Evaluation Tool. The applicant must be evaluated at the midterm and final point of the supervised clinical practice;
- (g) The applicant is limited to two supervised clinical practice attempts.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPTA)

When necessary, all required documents to satisfy the requirements shall be translated into English by a professional translator at the applicant's expense and must be sent directly to the Board by the professional translator along with the original language copy and a notarized statement as to the translator's certification.

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the most recent version of the [FSBPT Coursework Tool](#) (CWT) for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

- (a) The approved English proficiency examination is the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL);
- (b) The TOEFL minimum passing score is twenty-two (22) in writing; twenty-four (24) in speaking, twenty-two (22) in reading, and twenty-one (21) in listening. The minimum passing scores must be acquired in one test administration;
- (c) Applicants who graduated from an educational program accredited by an approved accrediting agency or a college, university, or professional training school located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States are exempt from the English proficiency requirement.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has:

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the required jurisprudence examination
- (c) Successfully passed the required (jurisdictions with other requirements should list them here)

Criminal Records Check. (may also be called Criminal Background Check or Criminal History Record Information) At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

Supervised Clinical Practice

- (a) The applicant must complete a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours to be completed in no fewer than six months and no longer than one year;
- (b) The applicant must work under onsite supervision for the entirety of the supervised clinical practice. "Onsite supervision" means supervision provided by a physical therapist who is continuously onsite and present in the department or facility where services are provided. The supervising therapist is immediately available to the person being supervised and maintains continued involvement in the necessary aspects of patient care;



- (c) The clinical supervisor, and one additional supervisor, shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice. The clinical supervisor must have the following qualifications:
 - i. A minimum of three years of clinical experience;
 - ii. An unrestricted license to practice as a physical therapist in the state where the supervised clinical practice is being completed; and
 - iii. A current role where direct patient care is provided;
- (d) The clinical facility shall be approved by the Board prior to the supervised clinical practice;
- (e) Applicants, supervisors, and facilities shall disclose to the Board any known potential for conflict of interest or appearance of conflict;
- (f) The applicant should be evaluated using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Performance Evaluation Tool. The applicant must be evaluated at the midterm and final point of the supervised clinical practice;
- (g)** The applicant is limited to two supervised clinical practice attempts.

ENDORSEMENT

The PT Compact and other legislative efforts such as universal recognition and telehealth registries are allowing health care practitioners with out-of-state licenses to provide services without submitting to the licensure process and requirements. Although these individuals may be providing services in the jurisdiction (e.g., compact privilege), when attempting to move to a jurisdiction, they find significant barriers to becoming licensed. Jurisdictions may consider evaluating their current endorsement requirements for applicants educated at a school that has not been accredited by an agency approved by the board for inconsistencies with other legal alternatives to practice/work in the jurisdiction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPT)

To be eligible for licensure by endorsement, at the time of application an GNCAPPT applicant must hold a current, valid license/certification as a physical therapist from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. An individual may not apply by endorsement when holding a temporary license from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. A GNCAPPT who does not meet the requirements of this section may apply for licensure **under REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPT)**

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the version of the FSBPT Coursework Tool (CWT) in place at the time of graduation or newer for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.

Licensure Verification. Submission of a verification of each license currently or previously held from a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has:

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the required jurisprudence examination
- (c) Successfully passed the required (Jurisdictions with other requirements should list them here)

Criminal Records Check. (may also be called Criminal Background Check or Criminal History Record Information) At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.



REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPTA)

To be eligible for licensure by endorsement, at the time of application an GNCAPPTA applicant must hold a current, valid, license/certification as a physical therapist assistant from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. An individual may not apply by endorsement when holding a temporary license from a physical therapy licensing authority of the United States. A GNCAPPTA who does not meet the requirements of this section may apply for licensure under **REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION FOR GRADUATES OF NON-CAPTE ACCREDITED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT EDUCATION PROGRAM (GNCAPPTA)**

Application. Submission of a complete application establishing that the applicant has met the qualifications as set forth in these rules.

Educational Credential Review. Submission of an education credentials review directly to the Board from an approved credentialing agency using the version of the FSBPT Coursework Tool (CWT) in place at the time of graduation or newer for the purpose of evaluating and verifying that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a curriculum approved by the Board. The curriculum must be evaluated in accordance with the FSBPT Guidelines for Use of the CWT.

Licensure Verification. Submission of a verification of each license currently or previously held from a physical therapy licensing authority of a jurisdiction of the United States.

Examinations. Submission of proof that the applicant has

- (a) Successfully passed the NPTE; and
- (b) Successfully passed the jurisprudence examination
- (c) Successfully passed the required (Jurisdictions with other requirements should list them here)

Criminal Background Checks. (may also be called Criminal Background Check or Criminal History Record Information) At the applicant's expense, an applicant for licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check and furnish a complete set of fingerprints to the Board.

