



**FSBPT  
Coursework Tool  
For Foreign Educated  
Physical Therapists who graduated  
from 1998 to  
June 30, 2009**

**CWT 4**

**Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy**  
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**COURSEWORK TOOL 4**  
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## INTRODUCTION

The Coursework Tools for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists (CWT) were developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) in response to the needs of its member jurisdictions for a standardized method to evaluate the educational equivalence of foreign educated physical therapists. Each CWT reflects the minimum general and professional educational requirements for substantial equivalence at the time of graduation with respect to a US first professional degree in physical therapy. Adoption of the tools would allow the same mobility of foreign educated physical therapists as that afforded to US educated graduates. Coursework Tools should not be interpreted as the sole determinant of an individual's educational preparation or competence to practice. CWT 4 is based upon the *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists*, CAPTE, which was implemented by FSBPT on January 1, 1998.

The CWT that reflects current standards may be used to determine qualifications for prescreening certification for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). They are also designed to be used by credentialing organizations and education programs. In addition, the CWTs may be used as a self-evaluation method to guide foreign educated physical therapists in comparing their education to US standards.

## OVERVIEW

### Summary

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The applicant must meet the requirement of not less than 150 semester credit hours as a prerequisite. The minimum coursework requirements, in and of themselves, do not necessarily satisfy the requirements of the first professional degree. The applicant must have completed sufficient credit to satisfy the requirement for a post-baccalaureate degree. The applicant must also meet any jurisdiction-specific requirements.

### General Education

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General education in the areas of humanities, physical science, biological science, social science, behavioral science, and mathematics, must be identified. A minimum of a one-semester course must be successfully completed in each area of general education unless otherwise noted.

**Note:** Some jurisdictions may require a specific number of semester credits. The applicant must meet the specific requirements in the jurisdiction where they are seeking licensure.

**1. Humanities**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| a. English                                       | e. Literature |
| b. English composition                           | f. Art        |
| c. Speech or oral communication                  | g. Music      |
| d. Foreign language (other than native language) |               |

**2. Physical Science**

- a. Chemistry with laboratory (two courses required)
- b. Physics with laboratory (two courses required)
- c. Geology
- d. Astronomy

**3. Biological Science**

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. Biology    | e. Kinesiology  |
| b. Anatomy    | f. Neuroscience |
| c. Physiology | g. Genetics     |
| d. Zoology    |                 |

**4. Social Science**

- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| a. History   | d. Economics         |
| b. Geography | e. Political science |
| c. Sociology | f. Religion          |

**5. Behavioral Science**

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| a. Psychology   | c. Philosophy |
| b. Anthropology | d. Ethics     |

**6. Mathematics**

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. Statistics | d. Calculus     |
| b. Algebra    | e. Trigonometry |

c. Pre-calculus

f. Geometry

## Professional Education

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Ninety semester credits shall be the minimum required in professional education.

### 1. Basic Health Science

Content is required in each topic listed (a through e) under basic health sciences.

- a. Human anatomy (specific to physical therapy)
- b. Human physiology (specific to physical therapy)
- c. Neuroscience
- d. Kinesiology or functional anatomy
- e. Pathology

### 2. Medical and Clinical Science

To prepare a competent physical therapist practitioner, the education must incorporate the essential elements of Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention. Therefore, educational coursework must contain all of the following:

- a. Clinical medicine pertinent to physical therapy. This must include but not be limited to:
  1. Neurology
  2. Orthopedics
  3. Pediatrics
  4. Geriatrics
  5. Cardiopulmonary
  6. Pharmacology
- b. Physical therapist coursework must include but not be limited to:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Integumentary System<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Examination</li><li>b. Evaluation</li></ol></li><li>2. Musculoskeletal System<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Examination</li><li>b. Evaluation</li></ol></li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Neuromuscular System<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Examination</li><li>b. Evaluation</li></ol></li><li>4. Cardiopulmonary System<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Examination</li><li>b. Evaluation</li></ol></li></ol>
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**Note:** Examination and evaluation content areas must be completed. See Examination and Evaluation Content Area Summary.

- c. Physical therapist coursework must include but is not limited to:
  1. Integumentary Interventions
  2. Musculoskeletal Interventions
  3. Neuromuscular Interventions
  4. Cardiopulmonary Interventions

**Note:** Intervention content areas must be completed. See Intervention Content Area Summary.

**3. Clinical Education**

Clinical education must include physical therapist-supervised application of physical therapy theory, examination, evaluation, and intervention. The applicant must have a minimum of two full-time clinical internships of no less than 800 hours total, which are supervised by a physical therapist. The maximum number of full time clinical education credits is 23.

**4. Related Professional Coursework**

Content is required in the following nine areas:

- |                           |  |   |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| a. Professional behaviors | d. Research and clinical decision making | g. Communication (related to client/patient care)         |
| b. Administration         | e. Educational techniques                | h. Legal and ethical aspects of physical therapy practice |
| c. Community health       | f. Medical terminology                   | i. Psychosocial aspects in physical therapy practice      |

## EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name:	Date:
School:	Country:
Degree:	
Reviewing Organization:	
Reviewer(s):	
Signature of Issuing Organization's Authorized Representative:	
Print Name and Title:	

**Note for Reviewing Organizations:** Please affix official organization seal to each page of the Evaluation Checklist for authentication purposes.

### General Education

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A. <b>HUMANITIES:</b> One course minimum	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. English*		
2. English Composition*		
3. Speech or Oral Communication		
4. Foreign Language (other than native language)		
5. Literature		
6. Art		
7. Music		
8. Native Language		
9.		

\*For rows 1 & 2, if no credit in English or English composition is provided, the licensing jurisdiction should require the applicant to demonstrate English proficiency.

<b>B. PHYSICAL SCIENCE:</b> Two one-semester courses in chemistry with laboratory and two one-semester courses in physics with laboratory are required*	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. Chemistry with laboratory (Course I)*		
2. Chemistry, with laboratory (Course II)*		
3. Physics with laboratory (Course I)*		
4. Physics with laboratory (Course II)*		
5. Geology		
6. Astronomy		
7.		
8.		

\*Required

<b>C. BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE:</b> One course minimum	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. Biology		
2. Anatomy		
3. Physiology		
4. Zoology		
5. Kinesiology		
6. Neuroscience		
7. Genetics		
8.		
9.		



D. <b>SOCIAL SCIENCE:</b> One course minimum	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. History		
2. Geography		
3. Sociology		
4. Economics		
5. Religion		
6. Political Science		
7.		
8.		

E. <b>BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE:</b> One course minimum	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. Psychology*		
2. Anthropology		
3. Philosophy		
4. Ethics		
5.		
6.		

\*Required

F. <b>MATHEMATICS:</b> One course minimum	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE
1. Statistics		
2. Algebra		
3. Pre-Calculus		
4. Calculus		
5. Trigonometry		
6. Geometry		
7.		

**SUB-TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION CREDITS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional Education

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A minimum of 90 semester credits is required in this area.

<b>A. BASIC HEALTH SCIENCE:</b> Must include but not limited to areas 1- 5.	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
1. Human Anatomy (Specific to physical therapy)			
2. Human Physiology (Specific to physical therapy)			
3. Neuroscience (Neuroanatomy/ Neurophysiology)			
4. Kinesiology or Functional Anatomy			
5. Pathology			
6.			
7.			

<b>B. MEDICAL SCIENCE:</b> <b>Clinical medicine pertinent to physical therapy.</b> Must include but not limited to 1 - 6.	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
1. Neurology			
2. Orthopedics			
3. Pediatrics			
4. Geriatrics			
5. Cardiopulmonary			
6. Pharmacology			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

<b>C. CLINICAL SCIENCE: Examination &amp; Evaluation</b> Must include but not limited to 1a – 4b.	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
1. Integumentary System			
a. Examination			
b. Evaluation			
2. Musculoskeletal System			
a. Examination			
b. Evaluation			
3. Neuromuscular System			
a. Examination			
b. Evaluation			
4. Cardiopulmonary System			
a. Examination			
b. Evaluation			
5.			
6.			
7.			

**Note:** Within the credit hours assigned in Clinical Science: Examination & Evaluation above, indicate on the examination and evaluation content area summary below, for which you found evidence for items 1 - 23.

### Examination and Evaluation Content Area Summary

Must include, but are not limited to areas 1-23:	Present = √ Absent = ∅	Transcript Reference
1. Aerobic capacity		
2. Anthropometric characteristics		
3. Arousal, mentation, and cognition		
4. Assistive and adaptive devices		
5. Community and work (job, school, or play) reintegration		
6. Cranial nerve integrity		
7. Environmental, home, and work barriers		
8. Ergonomics and body mechanics		
9. Gait, assisted locomotion, and balance		
10. Integumentary integrity		
11. Joint integrity and mobility		
12. Motor function		
13. Muscle performance (including strength, power, and endurance)		
14. Neuromotor development and sensory integration		

Must include, but are not limited to areas 1-23:	Present = √ Absent = ∅	Transcript Reference
15. Orthotic, protective and supportive devices		
16. Pain		
17. Posture		
18. Prosthetic requirements		
19. Range of motion		
20. Reflex integrity		
21. Self-care and home management (including activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living)		
22. Sensory integration (including proprioception and kinesthesia)		
23. Ventilation, respiration, and circulation		
24.		
25.		

Adapted from *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists*. Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; 1996; p. 29.

<b>D. CLINICAL SCIENCE: Interventions</b> Must include but not limited to areas 1 – 4.	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
1. Integumentary Interventions			
2. Musculoskeletal Interventions			
3. Neuromuscular Interventions			
4. Cardiopulmonary Interventions			
5.			
6.			

**Note:** Within the credit hours assigned in Clinical Science: Interventions above, indicate on the intervention content area summary below, content for which you found evidence for items 1-10.

### Intervention Content Area Summary

Must include, but not limited to, areas 1-10.	Present = √ Absent = ∅	Transcript Reference
1. Airway clearance techniques		
2. Debridement and wound care		
3. Electrotherapeutic modalities		
4. Functional training in community and work (job, school, or play) reintegration (including instrumental activities of daily living, work hardening, and work conditioning)		
5. Functional training in self-care and home management (including activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living)		
6. Manual therapy techniques		
7. Patient-related instruction		
8. Physical agents and mechanical modalities		
9. Prescription, application, and as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and equipment		
10. Therapeutic exercise (including aerobic conditioning)		
11.		
12.		

Adapted from: *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists*. Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education; 1996; p. 30.

E. CLINICAL EDUCATION	CREDIT HOURS*	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
Two Clinical Internships, total 800 hours			

**Note:** Clinical education must include physical therapist-supervised application of physical therapy theory, examination, evaluation, and intervention. The applicant must have a minimum of two full-time clinical internships of no less than 800 hours total that are supervised by a physical therapist.

\*Maximum number of full time clinical education credits is 23.

<b>F. RELATED PROFESSIONAL COURSEWORK:</b> Must include but not limited to areas 1 – 9.	CREDIT HOURS	TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE	COMMENTS
1. Professional Behaviors			
2. Administration			
3. Community Health			
4. Research and Clinical Decision Making			
5. Educational Techniques			
6. Medical Terminology			
7. Communication (related to client/patient care)			
8. Legal and Ethical Aspects of Physical Therapy practice			
9. Psychosocial Aspects in Physical Therapy Practice			
10.			
11.			
12.			

**SUB-TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CREDITS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(90 minimum)

**Academic Institution**

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<b>Describe the academic level of the educational program and the institution within the context of the country's educational system:</b>
1. Status (recognition/accreditation) within the country's educational system:
2. Entry requirements (secondary education):

<b>Describe the academic level of the educational program and the institution within the context of the country's educational system:</b>
3. Degree equivalence (Baccalaureate, etc.):
4. Other (CAPTE accreditation, etc.):

**Summary**

Total General Education Credits:	
Total Professional Education Credits (90 Minimum):	
Total Credits (150 Minimum)	

## DEFINITIONS

**Adequate:** Coursework satisfies the requirement that the level of complexity and scope of the content in a course or courses meets established standards necessary for the entry-level degree.

**Clinical Education:** That portion of a physical therapy program that is conducted in the healthcare environment rather than the academic environment. (*A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004: p. 159*)

**Clinical Sciences:** Content includes both diseases that require direct intervention of a physical therapist for management and diseases that affect conditions being managed by physical therapists across systems. (*Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004; p. 159*)

**Clock Hour:** Fifty to sixty minutes or as determined by the policy of the institution.

**Comments:** Validation of transcript references. Identifies specific location within official institutional records where content area(s) may be found. These references may be in the form of educational objectives, listing of course content, course syllabi, test questions or other curricular documents.

**Content Area:** Component competencies as designated by the *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists* (Adopted October 1996; Effective January 1998).

**Course:** A series of study which is taught at the post secondary level, which results in an official transcript of record with assigned grade, a course description and syllabus, and credit that can be verified by the institution. Credit is either assigned by a semester of 15 weeks, plus an exam week, or is converted to semester hours based on 16 weeks of study.

**Credit Hour:** A semester credit hour must include at a minimum: 15 hours of lecture, or 30 hours of laboratory, or 48 hours of clinical education.

**Evaluation:** A dynamic process in which the physical therapist makes clinical judgments gathered during the examination (*Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Rev. Second Edition, 2003, APTA*).

**Examination:** A comprehensive and specific testing process performed by a physical therapist that leads to diagnostic classification or, as appropriate, to a referral to another practitioner. The Examination has three components: the patient/client history, the systems reviews, and tests and measures. (*Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Rev. Second Edition, APTA, 2003*)

**Foundational Sciences:** Essential content that contributes to the development and understanding of physical therapy to include sciences that can be described as *basic* and *applied* and as *biological, physical, and behavioral*. (*A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004, p. 162*)

**General Education:** General Education constitutes all non-physical therapy education completed, provided these courses were taken at the college level from a recognized educational program. These courses, both pre-professional and post-professional education, may be used to fulfill the core course requirements

**Grades:** Undergraduate grades must equate to a "C" average in the United States. No failing grades should be accepted. Professional coursework must meet the requirement of a "C" or higher. Credentialing decisions for conversion of grades or semester credits should follow accepted guidelines as published in acceptable and



recognized country codes and “International Reference Guides.” This includes, but is not limited to P.I.E.R., NAFSA publications, or AACROA publications.

**Intervention:** The purposeful interaction of the physical therapist with the patient/client, and, when appropriate, with other individuals involved in patient/client care, using various physical therapy procedures and techniques to produce changes in the condition. (*A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004*; Page 163)

**Standards:** Foundational requirements of an established profession; in this case used by FCCPT to determine entry-level professional requirements for physical therapists. In physical therapy, *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Second Edition*, *A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004*, and *Evaluative Criteria for Accreditation of Education Programs for the Preparation of Physical Therapists* serve as resources for setting these requirements.

**Substantially Equivalent:** The individual has satisfied or exceeded the minimum number of credits required in general and professional education needed for a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy. Coursework completed may not be identical in all respects to a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy, but all required content areas are evident. Deficiencies may be noted in coursework, but not in essential areas of professional education nor be of such magnitude that the education is not deemed to be at the entry-level of preparation for practice in the United States.

**Transcript Reference:** Official documentation from the academic institution of courses completed, grades assigned, and degree conferred in the form of an official transcript. In the exceptional cases where an official transcript does not exist within the institution, an alternative official document may be considered.