

North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

LICENSURE INFORMATION

Revised: June 29, 2010

A physical therapist or physical therapist assistant MUST have a current North Carolina license PRIOR to practicing in the State. There is no temporary licensure in North Carolina.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

1. good moral character;
2. graduation from an accredited P.T. or P.T.A. educational program;
3. examination scores that meet the North Carolina passing level.
4. Jurisprudence Exercise

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

An applicant seeking initial licensure or who fails to meet the requirements for endorsement is required to pass a written examination to be licensed in North Carolina.

North Carolina is using computer testing, so the examination is held at testing centers throughout the country. Approved applicants will select the place and the date for the exam, which can be scheduled no sooner than thirty days from the day the applicant's file is opened.

The passing level for the examination is 600 on a scale of 200 - 800. Persons failing the exam must repeat and pass it to become licensed. There is a fee to retake the examination.

Candidates with disabilities who need special arrangements for the exam must indicate this on the application form. The appropriate documentation must be filed in the Board's office no later than 60 days before the examination date.

LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

An active license in another state or territory may be endorsed if the individual's qualifications were at the date of his licensure substantially equal to the requirements of the North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act. A person must be licensed in another state by virtue of examination or by endorsement of a license granted on the basis of examination, and the scores must meet the North Carolina passing level. If the examination was taken prior to July 1, 1993, the N.C. passing level was 1.5 standard deviations below the national average. Thereafter, a score of 600 is required to pass the NPTE exam. If a physical therapist has taken an examination other than the national (NPTE) examination, it may be necessary for the Board to evaluate the examination to determine if it is substantially equal to the one required in North Carolina at the time of the applicant's licensure. For physical therapist assistants, the examination must be the national examination. If an applicant fails to meet the requirements for endorsement, the examination will be required and the examination cost must be paid in addition to the endorsement fee.

Some boards require a fee before the Certification of Valid License in Another State form can be completed. You should contact the board about this before sending the form. Inquire also about their policy of the reporting of scores to other boards. If they do not do this, the score must be issued by the FSBPT Score Transfer Service.

TEMPORARY LICENSURE

There is no temporary licensure in North Carolina for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants.

OVER

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (Revised: June 29, 2010)

It is the applicant's responsibility to ascertain that all forms are sent to the Executive Director. Examination applications must be filed AT LEAST 30 days before the examination date. Processing time for applications average six weeks.

ALL APPLICANTS must submit or complete:

1. Application form with ALL sections completed.
2. Official verification of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program.
3. Two character references are required from individuals other than relatives who have known the applicant for at least one year. (While not required, the Board prefers to have at least one reference from a physical therapist or a health care professional with whom the applicant has been associated for at least one year.)
4. Jurisprudence Exercise (www.ncptboard.org)

EXAMINATION APPLICANTS must submit the following (in addition to items 1,2,3):

5. CERTIFIED CHECK or MONEY ORDER for the non-refundable application fee and the examination cost as follows:

P.T. examination: Total Cost \$520 (application fee: \$150 to be paid to NCBPT) (Examination cost: \$370 *is paid directly to the FSBPT*)

P.T. A. examination: Total Cost \$520 (application fee: \$150 to be paid to NCBPT) (Examination cost: \$370 *is paid directly to the FSBPT*)

PERSONAL CHECKS are not acceptable and will be returned.

6. **CANDIDATES** with disabilities needing special exam arrangements - see other side of form.

ENDORSEMENT APPLICANTS must submit the following (in addition to items 1,2,3):

7. CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER for the non-refundable application fee as follows:

Physical Therapists: \$150 Physical Therapist Assistants: \$150

PERSONAL CHECKS are not acceptable and will be returned.

8. Official verification of a current license in another state, indicating license date, license number and manner in which license was obtained. This must come directly from the State Board. Faxed or scanned copies will not be accepted.
9. Examination scores:
 - A. N.P.T.E. Exam: If the raw score for examinations taken prior to July 1, 1993 is not available from the board in another state, the score must be issued by the FSBPT Score Transfer Service, 124 West Street South, Third Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Beginning with the July, 1993 examination, unless the score is based on the 200 - 800 scale, it must be issued by the FSBPT Score Transfer Service. Should the score fail to meet the North Carolina passing level, the applicant must take the examination and pay the cost of reexamination.
 - B. State Board Generated Exams (physical therapists only): Scores must be sent by the state that administered the examination. If the examination is not substantially equivalent to the North Carolina examination or the scores are not acceptable, the applicant must take the NPTE examination and must pay the cost of the examination.

Note: Scores on jurisprudent examinations given in other states are not required.