



Internationally Educated / Foreign-Trained - Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Applicants Licensure Information

North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners / Updated – February 1, 2015

North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act

"§ 90-270.30. Licensure of foreign-trained physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

Any person who has been trained as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in a foreign country and desires to be licensed under this Article and who:

- (1) Is of good moral character;
- (2) Holds a diploma from an educational program for physical therapists or physical therapist assistants approved by the Board;
- (3) Submits documentary evidence to the Board of completion of a course of instruction substantially equivalent to that obtained by an applicant for licensure under G.S. 90-270.29; and
- (4) Demonstrates satisfactory proof of proficiency in the English language;

may make application on a form furnished by the Board for examination as a foreign-trained physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. At the time of making such application, the applicant shall pay to the secretary-treasurer of the Board the fee prescribed by the Board, no portion of which shall be returned."

Important: The **Practice Act** requires that a PTA applicant must be a graduate of a PTA educational program; therefore, a PT graduate is **not** eligible for licensure as a PTA in North Carolina unless the PT has also graduated from a PTA educational program.

Board Rules, as amended, effective Feb 1, 2015

21 NCAC 48E .0110 FOREIGN-TRAINED PHYSICAL THERAPIST APPLICANT BY EXAMINATION

- (a) This Rule applies to a physical therapist who has graduated from a program located outside the United States that has not been accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), or its successor, in accordance with G.S. 90-279(2) and does not hold an active license in another State or Territory of the United States.
- (b) All application forms and supporting documents shall be in English or accompanied by an English translation.
- (c) For the applicant's educational background to be determined substantially equivalent to that obtained by an applicant for licensure under G.S. 90-270.29(2), the applicant shall meet the standards of the Federation's most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) for Physical Therapists at (http://www.fsbpt.org/Portals/0/documents/free-resources/CWT5_Rev20141101.pdf) and for Physical Therapy Assistants at <http://www.fsbpt.org/Portals/0/documents/free-resources/PTATool2007.pdf>. This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the Federation at 703-299-3100 or download a copy from the Federation's website noted in this Paragraph. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the Division located at **18 West Colony Place, Suite 140, Durham, NC 27705** and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.
- (d) The applicant shall make arrangements to have the credentials evaluated by FCCPT (Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc.), or a service with a physical therapist consultant on its staff that is

determined by the Board to be equivalent. The Board may make its own review of an applicant's educational program and is not bound by the findings of the credentialing service.

(e) The applicant shall provide the following information to the Board:

- (1) proof that the applicant has demonstrated English language proficiency by meeting the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score requirement as defined by the Federation; The instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to register for the TOEFL should contact Examination Testing Service (<http://www.ets.org/toefl/>). The cost of this examination in February 2015 is posted on the ETS website and noted in this Paragraph. The TOEFL is an examination that is owned by ETS and is not available for public review.
- (2) proof that coursework was taught in the English language; or
- (3) documentation for exemption as per USCIS CFR § 212.15 (<http://www.uscis.gov/>). This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD) toll free. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the Division located at **18 West Colony Place, Suite 140, Durham, NC 27705** and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-270.26; 90-270.29; 90-270.30; 90-270.31; G.S. 150B-21.6(2); Eff. December 30, 1985; Amended Eff. November 1, 1991; August 1, 1991; Temporary Amendment Eff. July 21, 1995, for a period of 180 days or until the permanent Rule becomes effective, whichever is sooner; Amended Eff. February 1, 2015; December 1, 2006; November 1, 2004; August 1, 2002; August 1, 1998; February 1, 1996; October 1, 1995.

21 NCAC 48E .0111 FOREIGN-TRAINED PHYSICAL THERAPIST APPLICANT BY ENDORSEMENT

(a) This Rule applies to a physical therapist who has graduated from a program located outside the United States that has not been accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), or its successor, in accordance with G.S. 90-279(2) and holds an active physical therapist license in another State or Territory of the United States.

(b) All application forms and supporting documents shall be in English or accompanied by an English translation.

(c) For the applicant's educational background to be determined substantially equivalent to an educational program accredited under G.S. 90-270.29(2), the applicant shall meet the standards of the Federation's Coursework Tool (CWT) (www.fsbpt.org) for the applicant's year of graduation. This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the Federation at 703-299-3100 or download a copy from the Federation's website noted in the Paragraph. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the Division located at 18 West Colony Place, Suite, 140, Durham NC 27705 and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

(d) The applicant shall make arrangements to have the credentials evaluated by FCCPT (Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc.), or a service with a physical therapist consultant on its staff that is determined by the Board to be equivalent. The Board may make its own review of an applicant's educational program and is not bound by the findings of the credentialing service.

(e) The applicant shall provide the following information to the Board:

- (1) for examinations administered prior to August 1, 1998, proof that a score of 210 on the TSE (Test of Spoken English) or the SPEAK (Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit) examination was obtained (www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/);
- (2) for examinations administered on or after August 1, 1998, and prior to January 1, 2007, the following proof shall be provided:
 - (a) minimum score of 50 on the TSE examination or the SPEAK examination;
 - (b) minimum score on the Test of Written English (TWE) of 4.5; and

- (c) minimum score of 560 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).
- (3) for examinations administered on or after January 1, 2007, proof shall be provided that the applicant obtained the following minimum standard scale scores in each of the four scoring domains (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking), and the total score of the iBT/Next Generation TOEFL:
- (a) Writing: 24;
 - (b) Speaking: 26;
 - (c) Reading Comprehension: 21;
 - (d) Listening Comprehension: 18; and
 - (e) Total Score: 89.
- (4) proof that coursework was taught in the English language; or
- (5) documentation for exemption as per USCIS CFR § 212.15 (<http://www.uscis.gov/>). This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD) toll free. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the Division located at 18 West Colony Place, Suite, 140, Durham NC 27705 and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-270.26; 90-270.29; 90-270.29(2); 90-270.30; 90-270.31; 150B-21.6(2); Eff. February 1, 2015.

21 NCAC 48E .0112 FOREIGN-TRAINED PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT APPLICANT

- (a) This Rule applies to a physical therapist assistant who has graduated from a program located outside the United States that has not been accredited G.S. 90-270.29(2), by the Commission of Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), or its successor, in accordance with G.S. 90-279(2).
- (b) All application forms and supporting documents shall be in English or accompanied by an English translation.
- (c) If the applicant does not meet the requirements of G.S. 90-270.29(3), the Board shall examine the applicant's educational background to determine if the general and professional education is substantially equivalent to an educational program accredited under G.S. 90-270.29(2), who shall satisfy the requirements as determined by the Coursework Tool (CWT) developed by the Federation. This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the Federation at 703-299-3100 or download a copy from the Federation's website noted in this Paragraph. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the Division located at 18 West Colony Place, Suite, 140, Durham NC 27705 and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.
- (d) The applicant shall make arrangements to have the credentials evaluated by FCCPT (Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc.), or a service with a physical therapist consultant on its staff that is determined by the Board to be equivalent. The Board may make its own review of an applicant's educational program and is not bound by the findings of the credentialing service.
- (e) The applicant shall provide the following information to the Board:
- (1) proof that the applicant has demonstrated English language proficiency by meeting the most recent Test of English as a Foreign Language TOEFL score requirement as defined by the Federation; The instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to register for the TOEFL should contact Examination Testing Service (<http://www.ets.org/toefl/>). The cost of this examination in February 2015 is posted on the ETS website and noted in this Paragraph. The TOEFL is an examination that is owned by ETS and is not available for public review.
 - (2) proof that coursework was taught in the English language; or
 - (3) documentation for exemption as per USCIS CFR § 212.15 (<http://www.uscis.gov/>). This instrument is incorporated by reference and includes subsequent editions. Individuals wishing to purchase a copy may call the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service national Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD) toll free. The cost of this document in February 2015 is zero dollars (\$0.00). A copy of this instrument is on file at the

Division located at 18 West Colony Place, Suite, 140, Durham NC 27705 and is available for public inspection during regular business hours.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-270.26; 90-270.26(2); 90-270.29; 90-270.30; 90-270.31; 150B-21.6(2); Eff. February 1, 2015.

An internationally educated / foreign-trained physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice in North Carolina **must** have a current North Carolina license prior to beginning employment in the State. North Carolina does not have temporary licensure.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE - Each applicant must:

1. Be of good moral character;
2. Be a graduate of an educational program for physical therapists or physical therapist assistant approved by the Board;
3. Furnish documentary evidence of completion of a course of instruction substantially equivalent to that of the United States trained physical therapist or physical therapist assistant;
4. Be proficient in English;
5. Furnish examination scores that meet the North Carolina passing level;
6. **For Endorsement Only:** active license in another state.
7. Furnish the Board with his/her social security number.
(required by G.S. § 93B-14)
8. Complete Jurisprudence Exercise (www.ncptboard.org)

EVALUATION OF EDUCATION

The credentials of an internationally educated / foreign-trained physical therapist who is **not** a graduate of a CAPTE (Commission of Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education) accredited program, whether applying for licensure by examination or by endorsement, must be evaluated by a credentialing service acceptable to the Board to determine if the course of instruction is substantially equivalent to that of the United States trained physical therapist. Credentialing services accepted by the Board are as follows:

1. The Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT)
511 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone 703/684-8406, Fax 703/684-8715
E-mail address: fccpt@fsbpt.org
2. International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD)
P.O. Box 8629
Philadelphia, PA 19101-8629
Telephone 215-222-8454
E-mail address: www.icdel.com
3. International Credentialing Associates, Inc. (ICA)
10801 Starkey Road, Suite 104
Seminole, FL 33777
Telephone 727-549-8555, Fax 727-549-8554
E-mail address: www.customerservice@icaworld.com ; Website: www.icaworld.com
4. International Education Research Foundation, Inc. (IERF)
PO Box 3665 Culver City, CA 90231-3655
Telephone 310-258-9451, Fax: 310-342-7086
E-mail: info@ierf.org ; Web site: www.ierf.org (applications available off web page)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

It is the applicant's responsibility to ascertain that all forms are sent to the Board. Examination applications must be filed AT LEAST 90 days before the examination date.

ALL APPLICANTS must submit:

1. Application form and affidavit with photograph. All sections must be completed.
2. Two character references 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.*)
3. Evaluation of educational credentials from an acceptable credentialing service unless the educational program is CAPTE accredited.
4. Evidence of proficiency in English.

EXAMINATION APPLICANTS must also submit the following:

1. A CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY for the application fee in the amount of \$150.00 to be paid to NCBPTE; No portion of the application fee may be refunded. (Examination cost: \$ 400.00 is paid directly to the FSBPT)

Applicants 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 90 days before the examination date.

ENDORSEMENT APPLICANTS must also submit the following:

1. A CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY for the application fee of \$150.00. No portion of the application fee may be refunded.
2. 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.
3. Examination scores:
If the raw score for examinations taken prior to July, 1993 is not available from the board in another state, the score must be issued through the reporting service. Beginning with the July, 1993 examination, unless the other state has scores based on the 200 - 800 scale, the scores must be issued by the FSBPT Score Transfer Service. If the score does not meet the North Carolina passing level, the applicant must retake the examination and pay the cost of re-examination.

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