

**Military Trained Applicants for PTA Licensure  
Applicant Information**

*(February 4, 2013, Updated May 8, 2013)*

The following legislation was adopted by the North Carolina General Assembly on July 24, 2012:

**AN ACT TO ALLOW LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND  
MILITARY SPOUSES.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 93B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 93B-15.1. Licensure for individuals with military training and experience; licensure by endorsement for military spouses; temporary license.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an occupational licensing board, as defined in G.S. 93B-1, shall issue a license, certification, or registration to a military-trained applicant to allow the applicant to lawfully practice the applicant's occupation in this State if, upon application to an occupational licensing board, the applicant satisfies the following conditions:

- (1) Has been awarded a military occupational specialty and has done all of the following at a level that is substantially equivalent to or exceeds the requirements for licensure, certification, or registration of the occupational licensing board from which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this State: completed a military program of training, completed testing or equivalent training and experience as determined by the board, and performed in the occupational specialty.
- (2) Has engaged in the active practice of the occupation for which the person is seeking a license, certification, or permit from the occupational licensing board in this State for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application under this section.
- (3) Has not committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this State at the time the act was committed.
- (4) Pays any fees required by the occupational licensing board for which the applicant is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in this State.

The **North Carolina Physical Therapy Practice Act** has the following requirements:

**90-270.29. Qualifications of applicants for examination; application; fee.**

Any person who desires to be licensed under this Article and who:

- (1) Is of good moral character;
- (2) If an applicant for physical therapy licensure, has been graduated from a physical therapy program accredited by an agency recognized by either the U.S. Office of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation; and
- (3) If an applicant for physical therapist assistant licensure, has been graduated from a physical therapist assistant educational program accredited by an agency recognized by either the U.S.

Office of Education or the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation; may make application on a form furnished by the Board for examination for licensure as a 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.

**Additional requirement for endorsement applicants who were licensed in another jurisdiction by “military equivalency”:** Proof of an active license in another State / jurisdiction.

**Additional requirement for licensure by examination:** Proof of a passing score on the NPTE (National Physical Therapy Exam).

**Additional Requirement:** Has engaged in the active practice of physical therapy in North Carolina for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application under this section.

#### **EVALUATION OF EDUCATION / TRAINING OF MILITARY TRAINED PTA APPLICANTS**

- The “Act to Allow Licensure for Military Personnel and Military Spouses” states that the education / training should be “equivalent training and experience as determined by the board”. To assure that the education / training is equivalent, the Board has determined that military trained physical therapist assistant applicants must have their education / training evaluated by a credentialing agency using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy’s Coursework Tool for Physical Therapist Assistants – 2007 (PTA CWT – 2007). The credentialing agency that has been approved by the Board to administer this tool is FCCPT.

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](mailto:fccpt@fsbpt.org)

- The results of the evaluation must be sent directly to the Board by the credentialing service.

#### **LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION -**

- An applicant seeking initial licensure is required to pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).
- North Carolina uses computer testing, so the examination is held at testing centers throughout the country.
- Approved candidates will select the place and the date for the exam, which can be scheduled no sooner than 60 days from the day the applicant's file is opened.
- The examination must be passed with a score of 600. There is a fee to retake the examination.
- A Military Trained applicant who is not a graduate of CAPTE (*Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education*) accredited PTA program must have his/her education / training evaluated using the PTA – CWT – 2007 and must be determined to equivalent by the Board.
- An applicant must provide proof that he/she has engaged in assisting in the active practice of physical therapy for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application under this section.

**LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT** (of applicants who have been licensed in another state or jurisdiction by “military equivalency)

- An active license in another state or territory may be endorsed if the applicable requirements for licensure were at the time of the applicant's 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. The applicant's examination score must meet the North Carolina passing level.
- A Military Trained applicant who is not a graduate of CAPTE (Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education) must have his/her education / training evaluated using the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy 2007 Coursework Tool, which must be determined to be equivalent by the Board.
- Provides proof that he/she has engaged in assisting in the active practice of physical therapy for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application under this section.