

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy hereby amends Chapter 200, “Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants,” Chapter 203, “Continuing Education for Physical Therapists and Physical Therapist Assistants,” and Chapter 207, “Continuing Education for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments clarify the examination requirements for physical therapy applicants who fail the examination more than three times and clarify continuing education requirements for physical therapy and occupational therapy licensees.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on July 23, 2014, as **ARC 1559C**. A public hearing was held August 12, 2014, from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Conference Room 526, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. One public comment was received on the proposed amendments.

Since publication of the Notice, the following changes have been made as a result of the comment received.

In Item 4, subparagraph 203.3(2)“a”(9), the word “active” was added in the first sentence as follows: “Participating in professional organizations related to the practice of physical therapy, with 1 credit hour received for each six months of active service as an officer, delegate, or committee member, for a maximum of 4 hours of credit per biennium.”

In Item 7, subparagraph 207.3(2)“a”(8), the word “active” was added in the first sentence as follows: “Participating in professional organizations related to the practice of occupational therapy, with 1 credit hour received for each six months of active service as an officer, delegate, or committee member, for a maximum of 4 hours of credit per biennium.”

In addition, “of credit” was added after “4 hours” in both subparagraphs for consistency within the rule.

These amendments were adopted by the Board of Physical and Occupational Therapy on September 12, 2014.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 148A and 148B and sections 272C.1 and 272C.2.

These amendments will become effective on November 19, 2014.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 200.4(3) as follows:

200.4(3) Before the board may approve an applicant for testing beyond three attempts, an applicant shall ~~reapply for licensure and shall~~ demonstrate evidence satisfactory to the board of having successfully completed additional coursework. The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) determines the total number of times an applicant may take the examination in a lifetime. The board will not approve an applicant for testing when the applicant has exhausted the applicant’s lifetime opportunities for taking the examination, as determined by FSBPT.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **203.2(1)“a”** as follows:

a. Requirements for physical therapist licensees. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as a physical therapist in this state shall be required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education approved by the board; a minimum of ~~20~~ 30 hours shall be ~~clinical in nature~~ directly and primarily related to the clinical application of physical therapy.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **203.2(1)“b”** as follows:

b. Requirements for physical therapist assistant licensees. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as a physical therapist assistant in this state shall be required to complete a minimum

of 20 hours of continuing education approved by the board; a minimum of ~~10~~ 15 hours shall be ~~clinical in nature~~ directly and primarily related to the clinical application of physical therapy.

ITEM 4. Rescind subrule 203.3(2) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

203.3(2) Specific criteria.

a. Licensees may obtain continuing education hours of credit by:

(1) Attending workshops, conferences, or symposiums.
(2) Accessing online training, such as viewing interactive conferences, attending webinars, or completing online training courses.

(3) Completing an American Physical Therapy Association-approved postprofessional clinical residency or fellowship. A licensee will receive 1 hour of credit for every 2 hours spent in clinical residency, up to a maximum of 20 hours. Clinical residency hours may not be used for credit if the licensee is also seeking credit hours earned for postprofessional academic coursework in the same renewal period.

(4) Directly supervising students for clinical education if the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who is supervising is an American Physical Therapy Association Advanced Credentialed Clinical Instructor and if the student being supervised is from an accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program and is participating in a full-time clinical experience (defined as approximately 40 hours per week, ranging from 1 to 18 weeks). One hour will be awarded for every 160 contact hours of supervision. A maximum of 8 hours for a physical therapist and 4 hours for a physical therapist assistant may be awarded per biennium. The physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must have documentation from the accredited educational program indicating the number of hours spent supervising a student.

(5) Presenting professional programs that meet the criteria listed in this rule. Two hours of credit will be awarded for each hour of presentation for the first offering of the course. A course schedule or brochure must be maintained for audit.

(6) Completing academic courses that directly relate to the professional competency of the licensee. Official transcripts indicating successful completion of academic courses that apply to the field of physical therapy will be necessary in order for the licensee to receive the following continuing education credits:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

(7) Teaching in an approved college, university, or graduate school. The licensee may receive the following continuing education credits on a one-time basis for the first offering of a course:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

(8) Authoring research or other activities, the results of which are published in a recognized professional publication. The licensee shall receive 5 hours of credit per page.

(9) Participating in professional organizations related to the practice of physical therapy, with 1 credit hour received for each six months of active service as an officer, delegate, or committee member, for a maximum of 4 hours of credit per biennium. Verification of participation must be provided by the professional organization to document the continuing education credit.

b. Continuing education hours of credit in the following topics are not considered to be directly and primarily related to the clinical application of physical therapy and therefore must not exceed a maximum combined total of 10 hours of credit for a physical therapist licensee and 5 hours of credit for a physical therapist assistant licensee:

(1) Business-related topics, such as marketing, time management, government regulations, and other like topics.

(2) Personal skills topics, such as career burnout, communication skills, human relations, and other like topics.

(3) General health topics, such as clinical research, CPR, mandatory reporter training, and other like topics.

ITEM 5. Amend paragraph **207.2(1)“a”** as follows:

a. Requirements for occupational therapist licensees. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as an occupational therapist in this state shall be required to complete a minimum of 30 hours of continuing education approved by the board; a minimum of ~~15~~ 20 hours shall be ~~clinical in nature~~ directly and primarily related to the clinical application of occupational therapy.

ITEM 6. Amend paragraph **207.2(1)“b”** as follows:

b. Requirements for occupational therapy assistant licensees. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as an occupational therapy assistant in this state shall be required to complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing education approved by the board; a minimum of ~~8~~ 10 hours shall be ~~clinical in nature~~ directly and primarily related to the clinical application of occupational therapy.

ITEM 7. Rescind subrule 207.3(2) and adopt the following **new** subrule in lieu thereof:

207.3(2) Specific criteria.

a. Licensees may obtain continuing education hours of credit by:

(1) Attending workshops, conferences, or symposiums.

(2) Accessing online training, such as viewing interactive conferences, attending webinars, or completing online training courses.

(3) Directly supervising students for clinical education if the student being supervised is from an accredited occupational therapy or occupational therapy assistant program and is participating in a full-time clinical experience (defined as approximately 40 hours per week, ranging from 1 to 18 weeks). One hour will be awarded for every 160 contact hours of supervision. A maximum of 8 hours for an occupational therapist and 4 hours for an occupational therapy assistant may be awarded per biennium. The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must have documentation from the accredited educational program indicating the number of hours spent supervising a student.

(4) Presenting professional programs that meet the criteria listed in this rule. Two hours of credit will be awarded for each hour of presentation for the first offering of the course. A course schedule or brochure must be maintained for audit.

(5) Completing academic courses that directly relate to the professional competency of the licensee. Official transcripts indicating successful completion of academic courses that apply to the field of occupational therapy will be necessary in order for the licensee to receive the following continuing education credits:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

(6) Teaching in an approved college, university, or graduate school. The licensee may receive the following continuing education credits on a one-time basis for the first offering of a course:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

(7) Authoring research or other activities, the results of which are published in a recognized professional publication. The licensee shall receive 5 hours of credit per page.

(8) Participating in professional organizations related to the practice of occupational therapy, with 1 credit hour received for each six months of active service as an officer, delegate, or committee member, for a maximum of 4 hours of credit per biennium. Verification of participation must be provided by the professional organization to document the continuing education credit.

b. Continuing education hours of credit in the following topics are not considered to be directly and primarily related to the clinical application of occupational therapy and therefore must not exceed a maximum combined total of 8 hours of credit for an occupational therapist licensee and 4 hours of credit for an occupational therapy assistant licensee:

- (1) Business-related topics, such as marketing, time management, government regulations, and other like topics.
- (2) Personal skills topics, such as career burnout, communication skills, human relations, and other like topics.
- (3) General health topics, such as clinical research, CPR, mandatory reporter training, and other like topics.

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