

**645—200.4 (147) Examination requirements for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.** The following criteria shall apply to the written examination(s):

**200.4(1)** The applicant shall take and pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) or other nationally recognized equivalent examination as defined by the board.

**200.4(2)** The applicant shall abide by the following criteria:

*a.* For examinations taken prior to July 1, 1994, satisfactory completion shall be defined as receiving an overall examination score exceeding 1.5 standard deviations below the national average.

*b.* For examinations completed after July 1, 1994, satisfactory completion shall be defined as receiving an overall examination score equal to or greater than the criterion-referenced passing point recommended by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

**200.4(3)** Before the board may approve an applicant for testing beyond three attempts, an applicant 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.

**200.4(4)** The applicant shall be notified by the board in writing of examination results.

**200.4(5)** Special accommodations. To eliminate discrimination and guarantee fairness under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), an individual who has a qualifying disability may request an examination accommodation.

*a.* Disability requirements. An applicant is an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that individual in one or more major life activities, who has a record of such a physical or mental disability, or who is regarded as having such a physical or mental impairment.

(1) Physical impairment, as defined by the ADA, means any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense organs, respiratory (including speech organs), cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive, genitourinary, hemic and lymphatic, skin, and endocrine.

(2) Mental impairment, as defined by the ADA, means any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

*b.* To be considered an impairment that limits a major life activity, the disability shall impair an activity that an average person can perform with little or no difficulty, for example, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, working, sitting, standing, lifting, or reading.

*c.* To verify the accommodation, the applicant must submit appropriate documentation that uses professionally recognized criteria; that details how the disability leads to functional limitations; and that illustrates how the limitation or limitations inhibit the individual from performing one or more major life activities.

*d.* An evaluator shall on the documentation provide a signature, verify the diagnosis, verify the professionally recognized test/assessment, and recommend the accommodation. The evaluator shall be a licensed health care professional, including but not limited to a physician who practices in a field that includes, but may not be limited to, neurology, family practice, orthopedics, physical medical medicine and rehabilitation, and psychiatry; or a psychologist who performs evaluations to assess individuals for mental disorders that might impact those individuals' academic or testing performance.

*e.* An accommodation shall not give the individual an unfair advantage over others taking the examination, shall not change the purpose of the examination, and shall not guarantee that the individual will pass the examination.

*f.* The board and staff shall maintain confidentiality of all medical and diagnostic information and records.

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