

645—200.5(147) Educational qualifications.

200.5(1) The applicant must present proof of meeting the following requirements for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant:

a. Educational requirements—physical therapists. Physical therapists shall graduate from a physical therapy program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board.

(1) If the degree is granted on or before January 31, 2004, the degree must be equivalent to at least a baccalaureate degree. The baccalaureate program shall consist of a minimum of 60 hours of general education and 60 hours of professional education.

(2) If the degree is granted on or after February 1, 2004, the degree must be equivalent to a postbaccalaureate degree.

b. Educational requirements—physical therapist assistants. Physical therapist assistants shall graduate from a PTA program accredited by a national accreditation agency approved by the board.

200.5(2) Foreign-trained applicants shall:

a. Submit an English translation and an equivalency evaluation of their educational credentials through the following organization: Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc., 124 West Street South, Third Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314; telephone (703)684-8406; Web site www.fcpt.org. The credentials of foreign-educated physical therapist licensure applicants should be evaluated using the version of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Coursework Evaluation Tool (CWT) that covers the date the applicant graduated from the applicant's respective physical therapy education program. A credentialing agency should use the version for the CWT that coincides with the professional educational criteria that were in effect on the date the applicant graduated from the applicant's respective physical therapy education program. This same process should be used for first-time licensees and for those seeking licensure through endorsement. The professional curriculum must be equivalent to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education standards. An applicant shall bear the expense of the curriculum evaluation.

b. Submit certified proof of proficiency in the English language by achieving on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (IBT-TOEFL) a total score of at least 89 on the Internet-based TOEFL as well as accompanying minimum scores in the four test components as follows: 24 in writing; 26 in speaking; 21 in reading comprehension; and 18 in listening comprehension. This examination is administered by Educational Testing Services, Inc., P.O. Box 6157, Princeton, NJ 08541-6157. An applicant shall bear the expense of the TOEFL examination. Applicants may be exempt from the TOEFL examination when the native language is English, physical therapy education was completed in a school approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), language of instruction in physical therapy was English, language of the textbooks was English, and the applicant's transcript was in English.

c. Submit an official statement from each country's or territory's board of examiners or other regulatory authority regarding the status of the applicant's license, including issue date, expiration date and information regarding any pending or prior investigations or disciplinary action. The applicants shall request such statements from all entities in which they are currently or formerly licensed.

d. Receive a final determination from the board regarding the application for licensure.