



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

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This document outlines changes to the examination application procedures adopted by the Physical Therapy Section at its April 2011 meeting to address the implementation of fixed date testing.

Fixed-Date Testing Deadlines

Deadlines related to fixed-date testing are established by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). These dates include the registration & payment deadline for applicants, the deadline for the Board to make an applicant eligible to sit for the NPTE, the date that seats are held for NPTE candidates at Prometric Testing Centers, the dates that scores are reported to the Board, and the dates when an applicant can download a free NPTE score report.

You can access these deadlines at <http://www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting>. This page also contains other important information related to the NPTE.

Examination Application Process Changes

The following paragraph is from the 2013 NPTE Policies, which are developed by the FSBPT.

12. Approval for Candidates to Sit for the NPTE

The licensing authority of the jurisdiction to which the candidate is applying must approve the candidate to sit for the examination. At a minimum, the licensing authority must require the candidate is a graduate of or graduating from a PT or a PTA program that meets the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or is deemed substantially equivalent. Candidates may sit for the NPTE no more than 90 days prior to program (didactic and clinical) completion date and they become eligible for graduation. The FSBPT will not grant a candidate access to the NPTE unless the candidate has first been approved by a licensing authority or authorized designee to sit for the examination.

An examination may only be used for administration to bona fide candidates for initial licensure, reinstatement or reactivation, or to candidates who are not licensed in a jurisdiction and do not have a qualifying examination score for that jurisdiction. In the case of reinstatement or reactivation, the licensing authority must notify the Federation that the candidate is taking the NPTE and provide the reason the examination is required.

As noted in paragraph 12, the policies developed by FSBPT allow a jurisdiction to approve a “bona fide” examination candidate, even if that candidate has not yet completed the entry level education. Once the Board approves the candidate to sit for the NPTE, the candidate will receive the authorization to test (ATT) information, which will allow the individual to schedule the NPTE with Prometric.

Each PT/PTA program has the discretion to establish its own criteria to determine if a student is a bona fide examination candidate to graduate. Therefore, PT/PTA programs are not required to identify students that have not yet completed their entry level education as bona fide candidates.

As a result, the Board adopted the following changes to its internal examination application processing for applicants for licensure by examination:

1. Application and \$100 application fee submitted by applicant to the Board.
2. Applicant registers to sit for the NPTE with the FSBPT (including paying NPTE exam fee).

3. Applicant's program director submits the "Entry Level Education Pre-Completion Form" indicating that the individual is a bona fide candidate for graduation from that entry-level PT/PTA program. As noted above, PT/PTA programs are not required to complete a Pre-Completion Form if that program has not identified that student as a bona fide examination candidate.
4. Based on receipt of the document identified in step 3, the Board will make the individual eligible to sit for an upcoming fixed date administration of the NPTE.
 - a. This allows the applicant to receive the Authorization to Test (ATT) information and schedule the NPTE in advance of the program completion.
 - b. Applicant could ultimately sit for and pass the NPTE prior to graduation.
 - c. Note: The Board must review and approve the credential evaluation before a foreign educated applicant will be made eligible to sit for the NPTE.
5. Upon program completion, the program director will submit the "Certification of Entry Level Education" document for each student.
6. Upon receipt of the Certification of Entry Level Education document and receipt of the BCI/FBI criminal records checks, the applicant will be made eligible to sit for the Ohio Jurisprudence Examination.
 - a. The chart on the last page of this document identifies the earliest date an applicant can submit the results of the **BCI/FBI** criminal records check. The results are only valid for a period of six (6) months from the date the results are received. If the criminal records check results are received prior to the date identified in the chart, the applicant will be required to submit updated BCI/FBI results prior to the issuance of a license. (*See "Note 1" below if an applicant sits for the NPTE prior to graduation.*)
 - b. Applicants should register for the **Ohio Jurisprudence Examination** approximately one (1) month before the program completion date. The FSBPT closes all unapproved registrations for the Ohio Jurisprudence Exam after six (6) months. Since the Board will not make an individual eligible to sit for the Ohio Jurisprudence Examination prior to the applicant completing the entry-level PT/PTA program, if the applicant registers too early, the Board will not be able to approve the individual to sit for the Ohio Jurisprudence Exam before the FSBPT cancels the registration.
7. Once the Board receives passing scores on both the NPTE and the Ohio Jurisprudence Examination, the Board will issue an Ohio license in accordance with R.C. 4755.44 or R.C. 4755.441.

Deadlines for NPTE – Physical Therapists (PT)

<i>Test Date - PT</i>	<i>Earliest Date to Submit BCI/FBI</i>	<i>Deadline to Submit Testing Accommodation Request</i>
January 29, 2014	August 5, 2013	November 1, 2013
April 30, 2014	November 7, 2013	March 1, 2014
July 22/23, 2014	January 30, 2014	May 1, 2014
October 29, 2014	May 5, 2014	September 1, 2014
January 28, 2015	August 4, 2014	November 1, 2014
April 29, 2015	November 6, 2014	March 1, 2015
July 21/22, 2015	January 29, 2015	May 1, 2015
October 28, 2015	May 4, 2015	September 1, 2015

Deadlines for NPTE – Physical Therapist Assistants (PTA)

<i>Test Date - PTA</i>	<i>Earliest Date to Submit BCI/FBI</i>	<i>Deadline to Submit Testing Accommodation Request</i>
January 15, 2014	July 23, 2013	November 1, 2013
April 9, 2014	October 16, 2013	January 1, 2014
July 8, 2014	January 15, 2014	May 1, 2014
October 8, 2014	April 16, 2014	July 1, 2014
January 14, 2015	July 22, 2014	November 1, 2014
April 8, 2015	October 15, 2014	January 1, 2015
July 8, 2015	January 15, 2015	May 1, 2015
October 7, 2015	April 15, 2015	July 1, 2015

Additional information regarding fixed date testing, registration & approval deadlines, and Prometric seat availability can be reviewed at: <https://www.fsbpt.org/fixeddatetesting>

Note 1: Under rule 4755-23-14 of the Administrative Code, “a new criminal records check will be required if the applicant’s criminal records check on file with the board is greater than six months old based on the date the board received the report.” As a result if a license is not issued within 6 months of the date listed in the “Earliest Date to Submit BCI/FBI” column, the applicant will need to submit new criminal records checks. If an applicant sits for the NPTE prior to graduation, the BCI/FBI date would be 6 months prior to the graduation date. The date listed in the table above only applies when the applicant sits for the NPTE after the graduation date.

Note 2: Since all requests for testing accommodations must be reviewed and approved by the Board, the deadline to submit the accommodations request is set to ensure that all materials are received prior to the PT Section meeting immediately preceding the Board’s deadline to make a candidate eligible to sit for the NPTE. If the request is received after the deadline date, the Board cannot guarantee that the request will be reviewed prior to the eligibility deadline. The Board also cannot guarantee that the request will be reviewed prior to the eligibility deadline if the candidate submits an incomplete accommodation request.