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**Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board**

77 South High Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Governor  
*John R. Kasich*  
Executive Director  
*Jeffrey M. Rosa*

**Notice of Public Hearing**

In accordance with section 119.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 4755-21-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code, you are hereby notified that the Physical Therapy Section of the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 11:00 AM on the 31<sup>st</sup> Floor of the Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts located at 77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

**4755-23-02**

Educational Requirements (Amend)

**4755-23-03**

License by Examination (Amend)

**4755-23-04**

License by Endorsement (Amend)

**4755-23-06**

Biennial Renewal of Licensure (Amend)

**4755-23-09**

Waivers for Continuing Education (Amend)

**4755-23-10**

Reinstatement of License (Amend)

**4755-23-12**

Requirements for Foreign Educated Applicants (Amend)

Persons intending to testify are encouraged to pre-register by sending an email to [board@otptat.ohio.gov](mailto:board@otptat.ohio.gov) or writing to:

Jeffrey Rosa, Executive Director  
Ohio OTPTAT Board  
Physical Therapy Section  
77 S. High Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Testimony presented during the hearing or submitted to the Section will be considered by the Section at its May 7, 2015 meeting. A copy of the proposed rules referenced above may be obtained at the Board's website, <http://otptat.ohio.gov>, or by contacting the Board by email or telephone.

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**4755-23-02 Educational requirements.**

- (A) To be eligible for examination or licensure as a physical therapist, an applicant must complete a program in physical therapy accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education that includes:
- (1) A minimum of one hundred twenty academic semester credits, or the equivalent academic quarter hours, with a specific distribution in humanities, social sciences, biological sciences, and other physical sciences;
  - (2) Instruction in basic sciences, clinical sciences, and physical therapy theory and procedures; and
  - (3) Satisfactory completion of all clinical education curriculum requirements.
- (B) To be eligible for examination or licensure as a physical therapist assistant, an applicant must complete ~~provide evidence that he/she satisfactorily completed~~ a ~~two-year~~ program for physical therapist assistants accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education. The educational program shall include all clinical education curriculum requirements and courses in anatomical, biological, and other physical sciences and a distribution of course work as found in an accredited physical therapist assistant program.
- (C) In accordance with division (A)(4) of section 4755.45 ~~and division (D) of section 4755.451~~ of the Revised Code, an applicant holding a license or registration to practice as a physical therapist ~~or physical therapist assistant~~ in another state or foreign country is eligible for licensure in Ohio if the applicant's education is reasonably equivalent to the educational requirements that were in force for licensure in Ohio on the date of the applicant's initial licensure or registration in the other state or foreign country.
- (D) In accordance with division (D) of section 4755.451 of the Revised Code, an applicant holding a license or registration to practice as a physical therapist assistant in another state is eligible for licensure in Ohio if the applicant's education is reasonably equivalent to the educational requirements that were in force for licensure in Ohio on the date of the applicant's initial licensure or registration in the other state.

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**4755-23-03 License by examination.**

- (A) To be licensed by examination as a physical therapist an applicant must pass the following examinations:
- (1) The national physical therapy examination (NPTE) for physical therapists administered by the federation of state boards of physical therapy; and
  - (2) The examination approved by the physical therapy section on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in the state of Ohio.
- (B) To be licensed by examination as a physical therapist assistant an applicant must pass the following examinations:
- (1) The NPTE for physical therapist assistants administered by the federation of state boards of physical therapy; and
  - (2) The examination approved by the physical therapy section on the laws and rules governing the practice of physical therapy in the state of Ohio.
- (C) Applicants failing the NPTE may be approved by the physical therapy section to re-take the NPTE following the submission of the application for licensure by examination.
- (D) In addition to the other requirements of this rule, a foreign educated applicant [for licensure as a physical therapist](#) shall meet the requirements established in rule 4755-23-12 of the Administrative Code.
- (E) An applicant who passes the examinations specified in:
- (1) Paragraphs (A)(1) and (A)(2) of this rule shall be issued a license to practice as a physical therapist.
  - (2) Paragraphs (B)(1) and (B)(2) of this rule shall be issued a license to practice as a physical therapist assistant.
- (F) Pursuant to division (A)(1) of section 4755.45 and division (A) of section 4755.451 of the Revised Code, an applicant who passed the NPTE under the approval of another state physical therapy regulatory entity is eligible for a license by examination provided the applicant meets all other requirements contained in sections 4755.40 to 4755.56 of the Revised Code and any rule adopted by the physical therapy section and provided that the applicant was never issued a license to practice in the state that approved the applicant to sit for the NPTE.

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**4755-23-04 License by endorsement.**

- (A) The physical therapy section may issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who is currently licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant under the laws of another state, provided the requirements for registration or licensure under the appropriate category in that state, including minimal education and passing score on the national physical therapy examination (NPTE) were reasonably equal to the requirements in force in this state on the date of the applicant's initial licensure in the other state.
- (B) In addition to the other requirements of this rule, a foreign educated applicant for licensure as a physical therapist by endorsement shall meet the requirements established in rule 4755-23-12 of the Administrative Code.
- (C) An applicant who has been out of the practice of physical therapy for a period of five or more years shall: ~~retake and pass the NPTE. Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the endorsement application.~~
- (1) Retake and pass the NPTE; or. Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the endorsement application.**
- (2) Complete the general practice review tool and submit an action plan based on the results of the practice review tool for any knowledge areas and/or systems where the applicant is identified as needing improvement. The action plan must be approved by the physical therapy section.
- (3) Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the endorsement application.
- (D) An applicant who fulfills the requirements listed in paragraphs (A) to (C) of this rule shall be issued a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

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**4755-23-06 Biennial renewal of licensure.**

- (A) Renewal of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license shall be in accordance with section 4755.46 of the Revised Code.
- (1) The entire licensure renewal application, including any required forms, compliance with the continuing education requirement specified in rule 4755-23-08 of the Administrative Code, and payment of the renewal fee prescribed by rule 4755-24-04 of Administrative Code, shall be completed to satisfy the requirements of the renewal procedure.
  - (2) The licensure renewal notice shall be ~~mailed~~sent to the address on file with the board.
- (B) All individuals licensed as a physical therapist shall renew their license by the thirty-first day of January in each even-numbered year. When a license to practice as a physical therapist is issued by the board on or after October first of an odd-numbered year, that license shall be valid through the thirty-first day of January of the second even-numbered year.
- (C) All individuals licensed as a physical therapist assistant shall renew their license by the thirty-first day of January in each odd-numbered year. When a license to practice as a physical therapist assistant is issued by the board on or after October first of an even-numbered year, that license shall be valid through the thirty-first day of January of the second odd-numbered year.
- (D) Persons who fail to submit the renewal fee, completed application, any other required information, and/or comply with the continuing education requirement specified in rule 4755-23-08 of the Administrative Code, by the thirty-first day of January of the appropriate year shall have their license automatically expire.
- (1) A license holder whose license expires for failure to renew must submit a reinstatement application in accordance with rule 4755-23-10 of the Administrative Code. The physical therapy section shall approve the reinstatement application before the individual may legally practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in Ohio.
  - (2) A licensee who continues to practice physical therapy or physical therapy assisting with an expired license shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 4755.47 of the Revised Code.
- (E) For the purposes of filing an electronic renewal application via the Ohio e-License system, the board shall supply the applicant with a "UserID" and password. The use of the "UserID" and password provided by the board is solely the responsibility of the licensee to whom it is issued and shall be limited to filing an electronic renewal application. The "UserID" and password shall constitute the legally recognized signature for the purposes of this rule and may not be transferred, distributed, or shared with any other person.

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## **4755-23-09      Waivers for continuing education.**

The physical therapy section of the Ohio occupational therapy, physical therapy and athletic trainers board may grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements in the case of illness, disability, or undue hardship. A request for waiver form, as provided by the physical therapy section, must be completed in full. In the case of illness or disability, a physician's statement is required. All completed forms must be received by the section for consideration no later than the first day of October of the year preceding the renewal date. A waiver may be granted for any period of time not to exceed one renewal cycle. In the event that the illness, disability, or hardship continues to the next renewal cycle, then a new waiver request is required.

Should a waiver be granted due to disability or illness, the section may require the individual to provide ~~appropriated~~ appropriate documentation from a physician or another qualified and appropriate practitioner to verify the ~~individuals~~ individual's competency and ability to practice physical therapy in the state of Ohio prior to the return to active practice of physical therapy in Ohio.

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**4755-23-10 Reinstatement of license.**

- (A) Reinstatement is mandatory for any person wishing to practice who held a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the state of Ohio according to section 4755.40 of the Revised Code.
- (B) A reinstatement application must be completed and returned to the physical therapy section of the Ohio occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic trainers board for review.
- (C) The application must be accompanied by the fee prescribed by rule 4755-24-08 of the Administrative Code.
- (D) The applicant must meet the appropriate continuing education requirements.
  - (1) For reinstatement applications submitted before March first of the year in which the applicant's license expired, the applicant shall complete the number of contact hours of continuing education that were required to renew the expired license. All contact hours used to reinstate the license shall be in accordance with rule 4755-23-08 of the Administrative Code. Contact hours used to meet the requirement of this paragraph shall not be used to renew the reinstated license.
  - (2) For reinstatement applications submitted on or after March first of the year in which the applicant's license expired, the applicant shall complete the number of contact hours specified in paragraph (A) of rule 4755-23-08 of the Administrative Code within the two year period immediately preceding the date the board receives the application for reinstatement. All contact hours used to reinstate the license shall be in accordance with rule 4755-23-08 of the Administrative Code. Contact hours used to meet the requirement of this paragraph shall not be used to renew the reinstated license.
- (E) An applicant who has been out of the practice of physical therapy for a period of five or more years shall: ~~retake and pass the national physical therapy examination. Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the reinstatement application.~~
  - (1) Retake and pass the national physical therapy examination; or. Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the reinstatement application.**
  - (2) Complete the general practice practice review tool and submit an action plan based on the results of the practice review tool for any knowledge areas and/or systems where the applicant is identified as needing improvement. The action plan must be approved by the physical therapy section.**
  - (3) Out of practice is defined as being actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy for fewer than five hundred hours over the five year period prior to the date the applicant submits the reinstatement application.**
- (F) The applicant must take and pass the Ohio laws and rules examination as specified in section 4755.43 of the Revised Code.

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- (G) The physical therapy section may require persons filing reinstatement applications to appear in person before the section.
- (H) Any application received in accordance with this rule that remains incomplete one year after the initial application filing shall be considered to be abandoned and no further processing shall be undertaken with respect to that application.
  - (1) If the application process extends for a period longer than one year, the board may require updated information as it deems necessary.
  - (2) No application for licensure may be withdrawn without approval of the board.
  - (3) Submitted fees shall be neither refundable nor transferable.

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**4755-23-12 Requirements for foreign educated applicants.**

- (A) A "foreign-educated applicant" is a person whose physical therapist education ~~in physical therapy~~ was obtained in a program not accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education and located in a country other than the United States.
- (B) All foreign-educated applicants must show an educational background deemed by the physical therapy section to be reasonably equivalent to the requirements established in section 4755.42 of the Revised Code, division (A)(4) of section 4755.45 of the Revised Code, and paragraph (A) of rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code.
- (C) All foreign-educated applicants must submit to the section an evaluation of education credentials prepared by a professional education evaluating service approved by the section.
- (1) Evaluations of the applicant's foreign education coursework content and required semester credits shall be completed utilizing the appropriate coursework evaluation tool adopted by the federation of state boards of physical therapy. The appropriate coursework evaluation tool means the latest edition coursework evaluation tool that applies to the period when the applicant was initially licensed as a physical therapist in the initial country or state of license.
- (2) The following professional education evaluating services are approved by the section to conduct and submit an evaluation of education credentials to the section:
- (a) Foreign credentialing commission on physical therapy, inc. (FCCPT).
- (b) International consultants of Delaware, inc. (ICD).
- (c) International education research foundation, inc. (IERF).
- (3) A list of approved professional education evaluating services shall also be available on the board's website (<http://otptat.ohio.gov>).
- (D) To be considered reasonably equivalent to the requirements established in rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code, the applicant's foreign education must contain evidence of the content and distribution of coursework identified in the appropriate coursework evaluation tool identified in paragraph (C)(1) of this rule.
- (E) The general education requirements established in rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code may be satisfied by credits earned through successful completion of college level examination program (CLEP) or advanced placement (AP) credits.
- (F) Evaluations prepared pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule reflect only the findings and conclusions of the evaluating service and shall not be binding upon the physical therapy section. In accordance with division (B) of section 4755.45 of the Revised Code, if the physical therapy section determines that an applicant's education is not reasonably equivalent to the educational requirements that were in force for license in Ohio on the date of the applicant's initial license or registration in another state or foreign country, the physical therapy section shall send written notice via certified mail stating the reasons why the applicant's education is not reasonably equivalent.

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- (G) All foreign-educated applicants shall demonstrate a working knowledge of English by obtaining:
- (1) Scores of at least:
    - (a) 4.5 on the test of written English (TWE);
    - (b) Fifty on the test of spoken English (TSE); and
    - (c) Two hundred twenty on the computer based test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) or five hundred sixty on the paper based TOEFL; or
  - (2) Scores on the TOEFL iBT of at least:
    - (a) Twenty-four on the writing section;
    - (b) Twenty-six on the speaking section;
    - (c) Twenty-one on the reading comprehension section;
    - (d) Eighteen on the listening comprehension section; and
    - (e) Eighty-nine on the overall examination.
  - (3) A foreign-educated applicant whose native language is English and who graduated from a physical therapy education program located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom shall not be required to demonstrate a working knowledge of English.
- (H) An applicant who submits either of the following meets the requirements of paragraph (G) of this rule.
- (1) A notarized copy of a type I comprehensive credentials evaluation, prepared for the applicant by the foreign credentialing commission on physical therapy (FCCPT); or
  - (2) A notarized copy of a visascreen certificate, prepared for the applicant by the international commission on healthcare professions (CGFNS/ICHP).
- (I) An applicant must meet the requirements established in paragraph (G) of this rule prior to the board making the applicant eligible to sit for the examinations specified in rule 4755-23-03 of the Administrative Code.