



Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board

77 South High Street, 16th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

Governor
Mike DeWine
Executive Director
Missy Anthony

March 6, 2019

Dear Program Directors:

The Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers (OTPTAT) Board is making a change to its PT and PTA examination application process in an effort to streamline processes for both the applicant and the staff of the Board. Effective March 27, 2019, students will no longer apply to the Board to receive approval to take the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE). The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) will give approval directly once the program has validated the student is on track to graduate on the FSBPT website. Students who apply with FSBPT prior to March 27, 2019 will need to receive Board approval to take the NPTE.

This process change aligns with the licensing processes of the other professions that the OTPTAT Board regulates. FSBPT conducts the approvals for eleven other states at this time, and Ohio will be the twelfth. Once implemented, this new process shortens the time it takes to be approved for the exam and will increase efficiencies at the Board office.

What this means for programs:

- The process for program directors registering a cohort of students with FSBPT will not change.
- Please communicate this process change to your students who are nearing graduation.
- In the short term, some students may need to apply to the Board for approval, while some may not. There may be some differences within a cohort and students looking for assistance, depending on when they plan to take the NPTE.
- The Board's entry level pre-completion form will no longer be required.

What this means for students who apply on March 27, 2019 or later:

- You do not need to apply with the OTPTAT Board until after you have taken and/or passed the NPTE.
- The requirement to complete your program still remains in effect. You must have graduated before the Board can issue your license, even if you pass the exams prior to graduation.
- The entry level pre-completion form will no longer be required. Until a change can be made to eLicense in April, you may still be requested to upload this form. If so, please upload a blank document.

Additionally, the Board has made some changes to the documentation required for a license application. The requirement of a photograph submission has been eliminated. The Board is also no longer requiring the certification of applicant form that must be notarized.

Please visit our website (<https://otptat.ohio.gov>) for more information. The Board will be answering frequently asked questions on the website as inquiries are received. Feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at 614-466-3474 or missy.anthony@otptat.ohio.gov. You may also contact the Board staff at 614-466-3774 or Board@otptat.ohio.gov. Thank you for your assistance in working through this process change.

Sincerely,

Missy Anthony
Executive Director