

Board of Physical Therapy

Board Guidance on Credentialing and TOEFL Requirements for Physical Therapy Graduates of Schools Not Approved by CAPTE

Section 18VAC112-20-50(B)(1) of the Board's Regulations Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy provides the following:

B. The board shall only approve a credentialing agency that:

1. Utilizes the FSBPT Coursework Evaluation Tool for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists, as required to sit for FSBPT examination, and utilizes original source documents to establish substantial equivalency to an approved physical therapy program;

The Board interprets this requirement to mean that the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) Coursework Evaluation Tool utilized by the credentialing agency should be based upon the year of the applicant's graduation from the physical therapy program.

Further, Sections 18VAC112-20-50(B)(3) and (C)(1) of the Board's Regulations provide the following for applicants for licensure as physical therapists and physical therapist assistants:

B. The board shall only approve a credentialing agency that:

3. Verifies English language proficiency by passage of the TOEFL and TSE examination or the TOEFL iBT, the Internet-based tests of listening, reading, speaking, and writing or by review of evidence that the applicant's physical therapy program was taught in English or that the native tongue of the applicant's nationality is English.

C. An applicant for licensure as a physical therapist assistant who is a graduate of a school not approved by the board shall submit with the required application and fee the following:

1. Proof of proficiency in the English language by passing TOEFL and TSE or the TOEFL iBT, the Internet-based tests of listening, reading, speaking, and writing by a score determined by the board or an equivalent examination approved by the board. TOEFL iBT or TOEFL and TSE may be waived upon evidence that the applicant's physical therapist assistant program was taught in English or that the native tongue of the applicant's nationality is English.

With regard to passage of the TOEFL examination, the Board follows the recommended passing scores from FSBPT.