

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Approval of a Traineeship

Section 18VAC112-20-70 in *Regulations Governing the Practice of Physical Therapy* provides the following requirements for a traineeship for an unlicensed graduate who is scheduled to sit for the national examination.

A. Upon approval of the president of the board or his designee, an unlicensed graduate who is registered with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to sit for the national examination may be employed as a trainee under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist until the results of the national examination are received.

B. The traineeship, which shall be in accordance with requirements of 18VAC112-20-140, shall terminate two working days following receipt by the candidate of the licensure examination results.

C. The unlicensed graduate may reapply for a new traineeship while awaiting to take the next examination. A new traineeship shall not be approved for more than one year following the receipt of the first examination results.

The Board provides guidance for applicants in the following circumstances:

- An applicant who has graduated from an accredited physical therapy program and has registered to sit for the national examination may be approved for a traineeship even if the degree is to be awarded at a later date. Evidence of graduation would be required for approval.
- An unlicensed graduate who has taken and passed the national examination may be granted an additional traineeship after the termination required in subsection B until licensure is granted or for one year, whichever comes first.
- An unlicensed graduate who is awaiting official degree conferral and who has taken and passed the national examination may be granted a traineeship until licensure is granted or for one year, whichever comes first. Evidence that the graduate has met all degree requirements would be required for approval.
- An unlicensed graduate who has taken and failed the national examination may be granted an additional traineeship after the termination required in subsection B, provided he has registered to retake the examination. The new traineeship may only be approved until he has passed the examination and been granted a license or for one year from the receipt of the first examination results, whichever comes first.
- Another new traineeship shall not be granted to an unlicensed graduate after termination of the one additional traineeship.
- A traineeship may be approved for a foreign-trained graduate upon evidence that his degree is equivalent to an accredited physical therapy program and that he is registered to sit for the national examination.