



State of Ohio

Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainers Board
Physical Therapy Section

Guidelines for Internationally Educated Applicants for Physical Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistant Licensure

A foreign-educated applicant is a person whose physical therapy and physical therapist assistant education was obtained in a program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Section I: General Information

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

License by Exam is for individuals applying to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) in Ohio or for those individuals who passed the NPTE under the approval of another state physical therapy regulatory entity but were never issued a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the state that approved the individual to sit for the NPTE.

License by Endorsement is for individuals who have taken or plan to take the NPTE in another state and are licensed by that state. However, if a state does not plan to issue a license to the applicant after successful passage of the exam, the applicant must furnish proof of that fact to the Board before the applicant will be considered for License by Exam.

Be advised that having a license in another state does not mean that you will automatically qualify to practice in Ohio.

Endorsement applicants must meet all of the same criteria required for applicants for licensure by exam.

If the wrong type of application is applied online, the applicant will be required to submit an application withdrawal service request for processing prior to applying for the correct application type.

Section II: Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant Foreign-Educated Requirements

CREDENTIAL EVALUATION

Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, all foreign-educated applicants must have an educational background deemed by the Physical Therapy Section to be reasonably equivalent to a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation on Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

To be considered as reasonably equivalent to the requirements established in sections 4755.42 or 4755.421 and 4755.45 or 4755.451 of the Ohio Revised Code:

Physical Therapist foreign education must contain evidence of course work in:

- Humanities;
- Physical sciences, including two one-semester courses in chemistry with laboratory and two one-semester courses in physics with laboratory;
- Biological sciences;
- Social sciences;
- Behavioral sciences; and
- Mathematics.

Physical Therapist Assistant foreign education must contain evidence of course work in:

- Anatomical,
- Biological, and
- Other physical sciences and a distribution of course work as found in an accredited physical therapist assistant program.

These general education requirements are in addition to the required physical therapist and physical therapist assistant professional courses and clinical education.

Evidence of admittance to a graduate program in a college or university in the United States alone may not demonstrate that the foreign education is reasonably equivalent. All foreign-educated applicants must submit a credential evaluation conducted by an approved professional education evaluating service. A list is provided below. Original credential evaluations must be sent directly to the Board from the professional education evaluating service. The Board will not accept copies submitted by the applicant.

PROOF OF FOREIGN LICENSURE

All foreign educated applicants must submit an official verification for any foreign physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license, registration, or certification that the applicant holds.

WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH

All foreign educated applicants must demonstrate a working knowledge of English by:

1. Obtaining scores of at least 4.5 on the TWE; 50 on the TSE; and 220 on the computer based TOEFL or 560 on the paper based TOEFL; or
2. Obtaining scores on the TOEFL iBT of at least 24 on the writing section; 26 on the speaking section; 21 on the reading comprehension section; 18 on the listening comprehension section; and 89 on the overall examination.

To register for either exam, please visit <http://www.toefl.org>. The OTPTAT Board's agency code is 9099.

An internationally-educated applicant who is a candidate for licensure by endorsement may request a waiver for the TOEFL requirements. In order to qualify for a waiver, the applicant must show proof of completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical practice each year in a state or territory of the United States, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom for three of the last ten years immediately prior to application. No more than five years can have elapsed since the applicant has been actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy. The physical therapy section may, at its discretion, grant a waiver of the TOEFL requirement.

Please fill out the TOEFL waiver request form and submit the required documentation in order to request a waiver.

Section III: Evaluation of Foreign Education

All foreign education must be evaluated by a professional evaluating service. Original credential evaluations must be sent directly to the Board from FCCPT. Evaluations are required to assist the Section in making a decision regarding the equivalency of the foreign education. Credential evaluations reflect only the findings and conclusions of the evaluator and are not binding upon the Section. The Section will take action on applications only after it has received and reviewed an evaluation of foreign education, in addition to all other required documents.

Approved Professional Education Evaluating Services

Pursuant to sections 4755.411, 4755.45, and 4755.451 of the Ohio Revised Code and rule 4755-23-12 of the Ohio Administrative Code, the Physical Therapy Section approved the following organizations to perform credential evaluations for foreign education applicants for licensure as a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant in Ohio.

Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy, Inc. (FCCPT)

124 West Street South, 3rd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-684-8406

Fax: 703-684-8715

Email: help@fccpt.org

Web: <http://www.fccpt.org>

International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD)

P.O. Box 8629

Philadelphia, PA 19101-8629

Phone: 215-222-8454 x. 510

Fax: 215-349-0026

Email: icd@icdel.com

Web: <http://www.icdel.com>

International Education Research Foundation, Inc. (IERF)

P.O. Box 3665

Culver City, CA 90231-3665

Phone: 310-258-9451

Fax: 310-342-7086

Email: info@ierf.org

Web: <http://www.ierf.org>

Section IV: Fees

All fees or costs incurred by an applicant while gathering information connected with the filing of an application are the responsibility of the applicant.

It is the applicant's responsibility to be aware of and in compliance with current requirements of the Physical Therapy Section. It will take some applicants as long as one year to gather the required items to complete the application. The completed application will be reviewed based upon the Section's current guidelines.

Your application will be held open for one year after the Board receives your application. After that time, your file will be closed and a new application and fee will be required to be considered for licensure in Ohio.

Section V: CLEP Exam Credits

Rule 4755-23-12 of the Administrative Code allows foreign educated applicants to satisfy the general education requirements through successful completion of a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam.

The table below lists the available CLEP examinations, the passing score required to receive credit, and the number of academic semester credit hours that the exam is worth.

Category/Exam	Required Passing Score	Academic Semester Credits
Business		
Financial Accounting	50	3
Intro Business Law	50	3
Info Systems and Computer Applications	50	3
Principles of Management	50	3
Principles of Marketing	50	3
Composition and Literature		
American Literature	50	6
Analyzing and Interpreting Literature	50	6
College Composition	50	3
English Literature	50	6
Humanities	50	6
Foreign Language		
French Language - Level 1 (2 semesters)	50	6
French Language - Level 2 (4 semesters)	59	12
German Language - Level 1 (2 semesters)	50	6
German Language - Level 2 (4 semesters)	60	12
Spanish Language - Level 1 (2 semesters)	50	6
Spanish Language - Level 2 (4 semesters)	63	12
Social Sciences and History		
American Government	50	3
History of the US I: Early Colonization to 1877	50	3
History of the US II: 1865 to Present	50	3
Human Growth and Development	50	3
Introduction to Educational Psychology	50	3
Principles of Macroeconomics	50	3
Principles of Microeconomics	50	3
Introductory Psychology	50	3
Social Sciences and History	50	6
Introductory Sociology	50	3
Western Civilization I: Ancient Near East to 1648	50	3
Western Civilization II: 1648 to the Present	50	3

Category/Exam	Required Passing Score	Academic Semester Credits
Science and Mathematics		
Biology	50	6
Calculus	50	3
Chemistry	50	6
College Algebra	50	3
College Mathematics	50	6
Precalculus	50	3
Natural Sciences	50	6



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Waiver of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirements

An internationally-educated applicant is a person whose physical therapy and physical therapist assistant education was obtained in a program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

Section I: TOEFL requirement – OAC 4755-23-12

TOEFL score requirements:

(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.

An internationally-educated applicant whose native language is English and who graduated from a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant 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.

Section II: TOEFL waiver provisions

An internationally-educated applicant who is a candidate for licensure by endorsement may request a waiver for the TOEFL requirements.

In order to qualify for a waiver, the applicant must show proof of completion of a minimum of 1,000 hours of clinical practice each year in a state or territory of the United States or in a country listed above for three of the last ten years immediately prior to application. No more than five years can have elapsed since the applicant has been actively engaged in the practice of physical therapy. The physical therapy section may, at its discretion, grant a waiver of the TOEFL requirement.

Section III: Employment information

-If you worked for a contract company, please list the company name and then the facility/facilities in parentheses.

Employer #1: (Company/Employer Name)	
Address, City, State, Zip Code:	
Phone Number w/ Area Code:	Supervisor(s) Name, Title:
Supervisor email:	
List the specific date(s) and number of hours per week you provided services at this workplace:	

Employer #2: (Company/Employer Name)	
Address, City, State, Zip Code:	
Phone Number w/ Area Code:	Supervisor(s) Name, Title:
Supervisor email:	
List the specific date(s) and number of hours per week you provided services at this workplace:	
Employer #3: (Company/Employer Name)	
Address, City, State, Zip Code:	
Phone Number w/ Area Code:	Supervisor(s) Name, Title:
Supervisor email:	
List the specific date(s) and number of hours per week you provided services at this workplace:	

Section D

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the information provided on the employment history form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Print Name

Type of License

Signature

Date

Return This Document

The applicant will upload the completed form to:

<https://elicense.ohio.gov>