

Chapter PT 2

EXAMINATIONS

PT 2.01 Panel review of applications; examinations required.
PT 2.02 Conduct of examinations.

PT 2.03 Failure and reexamination.
PT 2.04 Examination waiver.

PT 2.01 Panel review of applications; examinations required. (1) All applicants shall complete written examinations. In addition, an applicant may be required to complete an oral examination if the applicant:

(a) Has a medical condition which in any way impairs or limits the applicant's ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety.

(b) Uses chemical substances so as to impair in any way the applicant's ability to practice physical therapy with reasonable skill and safety.

(c) Has been diagnosed as suffering from pedophilia, exhibitionism or voyeurism.

(d) Has within the past 2 years engaged in the illegal use of controlled substances.

(e) Has been subject to adverse formal action during the course of physical therapy education, postgraduate training, hospital practice, or other physical therapy employment.

(f) Has been disciplined or had licensure denied by a licensing or regulatory authority in Wisconsin or another jurisdiction.

(g) Has been convicted of a crime the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of physical therapy.

(h) Has not practiced as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant for a period of 3 years prior to application, unless the applicant has been graduated from a school of physical therapy or a physical therapist assistant educational program within that period.

(i) Has been graduated from a physical therapy school or a physical therapist assistant educational program not approved by the board.

(2) An application filed under s. PT 1.03 shall be reviewed by an application review panel consisting of at least 2 board members designated by the chairperson of the board. The panel shall determine whether the applicant is eligible for a regular license without completing an oral examination.

(3) All examinations shall be conducted in the English language.

(4) Where both written and oral examinations are required, they shall be scored separately and the applicant shall achieve a passing grade on both examinations to qualify for a license.

(5) The board shall notify each applicant found eligible for examination of the time and place scheduled for that applicant's examination. Failure of an applicant to appear for examination as scheduled will void the applicant's examination application and require the applicant to reapply for examination unless prior scheduling arrangements have been made with the board by the applicant.

(6) (a) The score required to pass each written physical therapy or physical therapist assistant examination shall be based on the board's determination of the level of examination performance required for minimum acceptable competence in the profession and on the reliability of the examination. The passing grade shall be established prior to giving the examination.

(b) The passing scores for the national physical therapy examination and the national physical therapist assistant examination

are those scores recommended by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

(c) To pass the examination on statutes and rules, the applicant shall receive a score determined by the board to represent minimum competence to practice after consultation with subject matter experts who have received a representative sample of the examination questions and available candidate performance statistics.

(7) Members of the board shall conduct oral examinations of each candidate and are scored as pass or fail.

(8) Any applicant who is a graduate of a school for physical therapists or an educational program for physical therapist assistants in which English is not the primary language of communication shall take and pass each of the following in order to qualify for a license:

(a) The test of English as a foreign language as administered by the educational testing service.

(b) The test of written English as administered by the educational testing service.

(c) The test of spoken English as administered by the educational testing service.

Note: Under 2001 Wisconsin Act 70, physical therapist assistants are not required to be licensed until April 1, 2004.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95; am. (6) (a), r. and recr. (6) (b) and (c), Register, June, 1998, No. 510, eff. 7-1-98; am. (8) (intro.), cr. (8) (a) to (c); Register, April, 2000, No. 532, eff. 5-1-00; **CR 03-020: am. (1) (h), (i), (6) (a), (b) and (8) (intro.) Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.**

PT 2.02 Conduct of examinations. At the start of the examinations, applicants shall be provided with the rules of conduct to be followed during the course of the examinations. Any violation of these rules of conduct by any applicant may cause for the board to withhold the applicant's grade and to find after a hearing that the applicant has failed the examination.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95; am. Register, June, 1998, No. 510, eff. 7-1-98.

PT 2.03 Failure and reexamination. An applicant who fails to achieve passing grades on the examinations required under this chapter may apply for reexamination on forms provided by the board. For each reexamination, the application shall be accompanied by the reexamination fee. If an applicant for reexamination fails to achieve passing grades on the second reexamination, the applicant may not be admitted to further examination until the applicant reapplies for licensure and presents to the board evidence of further professional training or education as the board may consider appropriate in the applicant's specific case.

Note: A list of all current examination fees may be obtained at no charge from the Office of Examinations, Department of Regulation and Licensing, 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1995, No. 477, eff. 10-1-95.

PT 2.04 Examination waiver. An applicant for a license to practice as a physical therapist assistant who applies prior to April 1, 2004, shall not be required to complete the national physical therapist assistant examination if the applicant does all of the following:

(1) Pays the fee specified in s. 440.05 (1), Stats.

(2) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, Stats., submits evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant does not have an arrest or conviction record.

(3) Provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has graduated from an accredited physical therapist assistant educational program.

(4) Provides evidence satisfactory to the board that during at least 2 years of the 5 year period immediately preceding April 26, 2002, the applicant was a physical therapist assistant, as defined

by s. 448.52 (3), Stats., assisting a physical therapist in practice under the general supervision of a physical therapist as specified in s. PT 5.01.

(5) Passes an examination administered by the board on state laws and administrative rules relating to physical therapy.

(6) Submits letters of recommendation from 2 physical therapists licensed by the board who have personal knowledge of the applicant's activities in assisting a physical therapist in practice.

History: CR 03-020: cr. Register April 2004 No. 580, eff. 5-1-04.