

## **205. Licensing of Foreign-Trained Physical Therapist Graduates of Non-Accredited Programs**

The purpose of this rule is to establish procedures for determining whether a foreign-trained physical therapist applicant who has graduated from a non-accredited program has substantially equivalent education and training as required pursuant to section 12-41-111(1)(a), C.R.S.

- A. A foreign-trained applicant who has graduated from a non-accredited program must have education and training in physical therapy substantially equivalent to the entry-level education and training required at accredited physical therapy programs in the United States in effect at the time of the applicant's graduation. This includes an assessment of the applicant's general and professional education, as well as training in wound care and debridement.
- B. Applicants who wish to have their general and professional education considered "substantially equivalent" in order to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) through Colorado and qualify for licensure shall submit their credentials to the Foreign Credentialing Commission of Physical Therapy (FCCPT). The applicant must submit a credentials evaluation utilizing the version of the Coursework Evaluation Tool for Foreign-Educated Physical Therapists developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) that applies to the applicant's year of graduation in order to evaluate the applicant's credentials against the requirements at accredited physical therapy programs in place at the time of the applicant's graduation. The Board will not accept a credentials evaluation from an organization not listed in this rule.
- C. A foreign-trained applicant who has graduated from a non-accredited program and already passed the NPTE may submit a credentials evaluation from a credentialing agency other than FCCPT provided that:
  1. The credentialing agency utilized the version of the Coursework Evaluation Tool for Foreign-Educated Physical Therapists developed by FSBPT that applies to the applicant's year of graduation in order to evaluate the applicant's credentials against the requirements at accredited physical therapy programs in place at the time of the applicant's graduation; and
  2. The applicant has been licensed in good standing and actively engaged in clinical practice as a licensed physical therapist in the United States for 2 out of the 5 years immediately preceding his/her application for licensure.
- D. All expenses associated with the credential evaluation are the responsibility of the applicant.
- E. Failure to have a credentials evaluation pursuant to the terms of this rule will result in the Board denying the application.
- F. In the event a foreign-trained applicant's general education is found to be deficient, the applicant may take and pass subject examinations from the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) to overcome the deficiency in general education.
- G. In the event a foreign-trained applicant's professional education is found to be deficient, the applicant shall either:
  1. Successfully complete a Board-approved plan to overcome deficiencies; or
  2. Overcome the deficiency by obtaining a master or doctorate degree at an accredited physical therapy program.

H. Degrees obtained in a transitional program are not equivalent to a professional entry-level physical therapy degree and will not be accepted for initial licensure.

I. On or after January 1, 2019, applicant must submit fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation responsible for retaining the state's criminal records set forth in Section 24-60-3702 (3) (B).