

### **304. Certification of Foreign-Trained Physical Therapist Assistant Graduates of Non-Accredited Programs**

The purpose of this rule is to establish procedures for determining whether a foreign-trained physical therapist assistant applicant who has graduated from a non-accredited program has substantially equivalent education and training as required pursuant to section 12-41-207(1)(a), C.R.S.

- A. A foreign-trained applicant who has graduated from a non-accredited program must have education and training as a physical therapist assistant substantially equivalent to the entry-level education and training required at accredited physical therapist assistant programs in the United States in effect at the time of the applicant's graduation. This includes but is not limited to an assessment of the applicant's foundational studies and applied and technical education, as well as training in non-selective wound care.
- B. Applicants who wish to have their foundational studies, and applied/technical education considered "substantially equivalent" in order to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) through Colorado and qualify for certification 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 Tool for Foreign Educated Physical Therapist Assistants 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 therapist assistant 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 therapist assistant programs in place at the time of the applicant's graduation; and
  - 2. The applicant has been licensed, certified, or registered in good standing and actively engaged in clinical practice as a physical therapist assistant in the United States for 2 out of the 5 years immediately preceding his or her application for certification.
- D. All expenses associated with the credentials 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 foundational studies are 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 applied and technical 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 an associate degree from an accredited physical therapist assistant program.

H. 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).