Bureau of Professional Licensing

Physical Therapy FAQ

1. Do I need to complete professional development requirement credits/continuing education programs and activities?

For license renewal cycles beginning in 2017, professional development is required. The requirements are outlined in the Physical Therapy General Rules, Rule 61 and 63, which were promulgated in September 2015. The rules can be found HERE.

2. How long are the Physical Therapist (PT)/Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) licenses issued for? Can I renew my license early? How will I know when I need to renew?

An initial license is valid until the next license expiration date of the profession unless the license is issued less than 120 days prior to the expiration date and then it will carry to the following year. After your first renewal, your license will be valid for a period of 2 years commencing on August 1st. You cannot renew your license early. Licensees will be mailed a renewal notification to their address on record with the Department approximately 90 days prior to the expiration date of the license. Remember to notify the Department in writing of any address change. It’s a licensee’s responsibility to renew his or her license on time. Failure to receive the renewal notification, or to notify the Department of an address change, does not exempt a licensee from renewing their license on time.

Licensees are required to renew their license(s) by using the online renewal system at www.michigan.gov/elicense using a debit or credit card containing a MasterCard, Visa or Discover logo or by electronic check.

3. As a PT who has earned a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree, can I present myself to clients or the general public as "Dr."?

You are entitled to use any title, letters or phrases granted to you by an educational institution for the purpose of identifying yourself as having completed a specific level of training. If you use Dr., you must also include the terms physical therapy so it is clear you are a doctor of physical therapy. DPT is not a recognized title or initial for a licensee. Per MCL 333.17820(2) the Board recommends that you use the term PT after your name to indicate that you hold a license to practice. You can then list educational degrees after PT. For example:

Joan Smith, PT, MA
John Jones, PT, PhD
Sam Striker, PT, DPT
4. Are the physical therapy services received in a physician's office comparable to the therapy received in a physical therapist's clinic?

PT services in a physician's office would be equivalent to PT services in a physical therapy clinic if the services were provided by or under the direction of the PT.

5. Do I need a temporary license between graduating and taking the national physical therapist examination?

Upon graduation from a physical therapy educational program, the individual ceases being recognized as a student. The individual must now become licensed to practice. Michigan does not offer a temporary license or an intern license during this time period. Since the examinations are now computer administered, the licensing process can be completed quickly. Applications for licensure can be downloaded from http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-72600_72603_27529_27549---,00.html.

6. What is the legal duration of a physical therapy prescription?

Administrative Rule 338.7122(2) states that a prescription is valid for 90 days from the date the prescription was written unless the termination date is otherwise stated by the authorized licensee on the prescription.

7. Who has to take the English as a Foreign Language Internet Based Test (TOEFL iBT)

Any applicant whose physical therapist educational program was taught in a language other than English must demonstrate of working knowledge of the English language by obtaining a total score of not less than 89 on the TOEFL iBT and must obtain the following scores on each section:

- Not less than 21 on the reading section.
- Not less than 18 on the listening section.
- Not less than 26 on the speaking section.
- Not less than 24 on the writing section.

8. What licenses are available?

Physical Therapist (PT) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA).

9. What are the Michigan requirements to become licensed as a PT by Examination for a US graduate? What are the requirements for a foreign graduate?

**US Graduate**

- Application and Fee
- Final official transcripts from an accredited PT educational program approved by the Board showing the degree earned and the date conferred. Please note the transcripts must come directly from your school.
- Michigan jurisprudence examination taken through PSI. The passing score is 75%, (21 out of 28 questions) for the PT jurisprudence exam and (15 out of 20 questions) for the PTA jurisprudence exam. You must contact PSI to schedule your exam by visiting www.psiexams.com or by calling PSI at 800-733-9267.
• National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) - You must register with the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) for the NPTE exam at www.fsbpt.org. Michigan accepts the passing score required by FSBPT for the national exam.

Foreign Graduate

• Application and Fee
• Credential Evaluation - You must have your Physical Therapy Education evaluated by the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT) or a substantially equivalent evaluation that utilizes the FSBPT's course work evaluation tool or the standards that were utilized by the FCCPT at the time you graduated.
• Michigan jurisprudence examination taken through PSI. The passing score is 75% (21 out of 28 questions) for the PT jurisprudence exam and (15 out of 20 questions) for the PTA jurisprudence exam. You must contact PSI to schedule your exam by visiting www.psiexams.com or by calling PSI at 800-733-9267.
• NPTE Exam - You must register with FSBPT for the NPTE exam at www.fsbpt.org. Michigan accepts the passing score required by FSBPT for the national exam.
• TOEFL iBT- An applicant, whose PT education program was taught in a language other than English, must pass the TOEFL iBT examination prior to being determined eligible for the NPTE. The passing score on the TOEFL iBT is 89. Applicants must also have passing scores on each of the following sections:
  
  Not less than 21 on the reading section.
  Not less than 18 on the listening section.
  Not less than 26 on the speaking section.
  Not less than 24 on the writing section.

  You can contact ETS at 609-771-7100 or at www.toefl.org (e-mail: toefl@ets.org) to arrange to take these examinations or to have results sent to the Department.

10. How many times may I take the NPTE exam?

An applicant who fails to achieve a passing score may retake the examination consistent with FSBPT testing standards. Please visit the following website at https://www.fsbpt.org/ for specifics regarding eligibility requirements.

11. Is the jurisprudence exam required for licensure? Where do I schedule and take the exam?

All applicants for physical therapy licensure must take and pass the jurisprudence examination before licensure can be issued. The passing score on the exam is 75%, (21/28) for the PT jurisprudence exam and (15/20) for the PTA jurisprudence exam. The jurisprudence examination covers material that can be found in the Administrative Rules of the Michigan Board of Physical Therapy and in Article 15, parts 161 and 178 of the Michigan Public Health Code.

Effective June 1, 2017 licensure candidates must take the jurisprudence examination through PSI. You may contact PSI to schedule your exam by visiting www.psiexams.com or by calling PSI at 800-733-9267.
12. There have been changes to the Public Health Code and Administrative Rules that require licensees and individuals seeking licensure to complete training for identifying victims of human trafficking. When does this take effect?

Human Trafficking requirement – Administrative Rule R 338-7126: Proof of completion of training to identify victims of human trafficking. This is a one-time training that is separate from continuing education. Licensees renewing for 2018 must complete training by renewal in 2021; renewals for 2019 by 2022, and renewals for 2020 by 2023. Beginning in 2022, completion of the training is a requirement for initial licensure.