

## Bureau of Professional Licensing Physical Therapy FAQ

**1. Do I need to complete continuing education/professional development requirement (PDR) credits?**

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/Physical Therapist Assistant 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 2 years.

You cannot renew your license early. Licensees will be mailed a renewal notification to their address on record 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](http://www.michigan.gov/elicense) using a debit or credit card containing a MasterCard, Visa or Discover logo or by electronic check.

**3. As a physical therapist who has earned a 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. 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.

**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 physical therapist. In any setting, it is best to ask about the credentials of the person who will provide your care. If the person is not a licensed physical therapist, the Board recommends you seek care elsewhere.

**5. Is there a graduate physical therapist category between graduation and licensure?**

Upon graduation from a physical therapy 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 this website.

**6. What is the difference in the quality of physical therapy offered by a therapist who uses the letters: DPT, LPT, MPT, PTA, RPT or just PT?**

The Public Health Code indicates that a physical therapist is entitled to use the following initials to indicate that they are licensed: PT, RPT, LPT, and PTT. Some of these initials represent titles or terms from the past such as RPT and PTT, which are rarely used now.

The terms DPT and MPT refer to a degree awarded by an authorized educational institution.

PTA refers to a physical therapy assistant who is not regulated but who operates under the delegation of a licensed physical therapist.

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

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

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

If the prescription does NOT list an end date, it expires in 90 days.

If the prescription states a time period such as TIW x 6, it expires in 6 weeks.

If the prescription lists an expiration date, it is valid through that date.

**8. Since the Public Health Code does not list many specifics on how to handle various practice issues, how do I know what standards to use?**

The Public Health Code uses the term "standards of acceptable and prevailing practice" as the guide for actions. What is typically done and deemed acceptable practice in the profession would be the standard.

You should also check with any requirements imposed by payers as part of your guidance. Another guide would be the Standards of Practice supported by your professional organization, APTA.

**9. If I am Foreign Educated and I have been licensed in another state over 5 years, do I still have to take and pass the TOEFL/TSE?**

No, if you have been licensed in another state for more than 5 years, you are exempt from taking the TOEFL/TSE.

**10. What licenses are available?**

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

**11. 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 (\$135)
- Final Official Transcripts showing degree earned and date conferred. Please note the transcripts must come directly from your school.
- Michigan jurisprudence examination taken through PSI. The passing score is 75%. You may contact PSI to schedule your exam by visiting [www.psiexams.com](http://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](http://www.fsbpt.org). Michigan accepts the passing score required by FSBPT for the national exam.

**Foreign Graduate**

- Application and Fee (\$135)
- Credential Evaluation - You must have your Physical Therapy Education reviewed by one of the following Credential Evaluation review agencies: International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 215-222-8454 x 603; International Education Research Foundation 310-258-9451; or FCCPT 703-684-8406.
- Starting with applications received **on or after September 1, 2009**, foreign graduates must have their education reviewed using the FCCPT/FSBPT evaluation tool.
- Michigan jurisprudence examination taken through PSI. The passing score is 75%. You may contact PSI to schedule your exam by visiting [www.psiexams.com](http://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](http://www.fsbpt.org). Michigan accepts the passing score required by FSBPT for the national exam.
- TOEFL/TSE - An applicant, whose PT education program was taught in a language other than English, shall satisfactorily complete the TOEFL (passing score is 550 on written exam or 213 on the computerized exam) and TSE (passing score is 50) or the TOEFL iBT examinations 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](http://www.toefl.org) (e-mail: [toefl@ets.org](mailto:toefl@ets.org)) to arrange to take these examinations or to have results sent to our office.

## **12. 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. You should verify that your application and fee with the Michigan Board of Physical Therapy is still current before sending in your re-exam application and fee.

## **13. 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%. 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](http://www.psiexams.com) or by calling PSI at 800-733-9267.