

MICHIGAN MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSING GUIDE

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

(Listed below are the minimum requirements needed to obtain a massage therapy license.)

APPLICATION AND FEES

- Online application for a Massage Therapy – Complete all fields, answer all questions and upload any supporting documentation. Online application can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus.
- Application Fee (Must be paid by American Express, Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit or debit card.):
 MT by Exam: \$264.90
 MT by Endorsement: \$264.90
 MT Relicensure: \$284.90

THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ALL APPLICANTS FOR A MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSE

- Criminal Background Check – Once the application is completed and submitted you will be emailed an Application Confirmation letter containing instructions to complete the Criminal Background Check (except those applicants seeking relicensure, if the license expired within the last three years).
- Good Moral Character Questions – Documentation and explanation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking a license.
- Human Trafficking – Beginning March 14, 2022, completion of training to identify victims of human trafficking is required for initial licensure that meets the standards of Administrative Rule 338.732. This is a one-time training.
- Social Security Number (SSN) – An individual applying for licensure is required to provide his or her social security number at the time of application. If exempt under law from obtaining an SSN or do not have an SSN, the SSN affidavit form will be required to be submitted with the application.
- Verification/certification of Licensure – If you hold a current license or ever held a license as a massage therapist, verification of licensure will be required to be submitted directly to this office by the licensing agency of any state of the United States in which you hold or ever held a license. Verification can be emailed to bpldata@michigan.gov or mailed to Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, MI 48909.

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- Pass either the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), or the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork's (NCBTMB) National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB), if taken prior to November 1, 2014.
- English Language Proficiency – An individual applying for licensure must demonstrate a working knowledge of the English language. This can be established if either the applicant's required health professional educational program was taught in English, a transcript established the applicant earned not less than 60 college level credits from an English-speaking graduate or undergraduate school, or that the applicant obtained a passing score on an approved English proficiency exam as established by the department under [R 338.7002b\(2\)](#) of the Public Health Code – General Rules
- Implicit Bias Training– Beginning June 1, 2022, completion of 3 hours of implicit bias training within the 5 years immediately preceding issuance of the license or registration is required. This requirement does not apply to applicants for relicensure.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY EXAM

- Have official academic transcripts Have official academic transcripts submitted directly to this office from the institution confirming the completion of the massage education program that meets the requirements of MCL 333.17959 and R 338.722 and approved by the NCBTMB as an assigned school or accredited by CHEA.
- Certification of Completion of Massage Therapy Supervised Curriculum form.
 - Graduate from an approved massage therapy supervised curriculum. Curriculum shall include, at a minimum, both of the following: **(a)** Classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(b)(i), including all of the following: (i) 500 total hours, if the applicant is or was enrolled in school before August 1, 2017, or at least 625 hours if the applicant enrolls in the school on or after August 1, 2017 (ii) 40 hours performing massage therapy services in a student clinic that is supervised by a licensed massage therapist. (iii) 200 hours of massage and bodywork assessment theory, and application instruction **(b)** Classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(1)(b) or (ii) including all of the following: 125 hours of instruction on the body systems, that includes anatomy, physiology and kinesiology (iii) 40 hours in Pathology (iv) 10 hours of business, professional practice, and ethics instruction, with a minimum of 6 hours in ethics (iv) 85 hours of instruction in an area or related field, as determined by the school, that complete the massage therapy program of study.
 - A supervised curriculum shall use only classroom instruction as defined in R 338.701(b) to satisfy the requirements of this rule.
 - Any curriculum that meets the requirements of [R 338.722](#), or R 338.722a, as applicable.
- If your massage therapy curriculum was completed outside of the United States, you must have your education reviewed and certified by a recognized and accredited credential evaluation agency that is a member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). You may find an accredited credentialing agency by visiting their website at www.naces.org.

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

An applicant applying by endorsement must meet either of the following requirements:

- Has first been licensed in another state and actively engaged in the practice of massage therapy for **LESS** than 3 years before the filing of an application and meet all requirements above.
- Has first been licensed in another state, country, jurisdiction, territory, or province for 3 years or **MORE** preceding the date of application satisfies the requirements for licensure pursuant to section 19759(2) of the code, MCL 333.19759 section 1(a) (b) Good moral character and 18 years or older. An applicant shall have his or her license, certification, or registration in good standing verified by the licensing, certifying, or registering agency of each state, country, jurisdiction, territory, or province in which the applicant holds, or has ever held, a license, certification, or registration as a massage therapist. If applicable, verification must include the record of any disciplinary action taken or pending against the applicant.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR RELICENSURE

Applicants for a massage therapist license by relicensure who's license has been lapsed for **LESS** than 3 years at the time of application must submit the following:

- Verification/certification of license to be submitted directly to this office by the licensing agency of any state or territory of the United States in which you hold a current license or ever held a license as a massage therapist. Verification includes, but is not limited to, showing proof of any disciplinary action taken or pending disciplinary action imposed.
- Continuing Education (CE) Requirement if applying AFTER October 31, 2021: During the 2 years preceding the application for relicensure, successful completion of 18 continuing education contract hours that are approved by the board are required. At least 1 hour of the continuing education shall be earned in the area of pain and symptom management and at least 2 hours of CE shall be earned in the area of professional ethics and boundaries.

Applicants for a massage therapist license by relicensure who's license has been lapsed for 3 years or **MORE** at the time of application must submit the following:

- Meet either of the following requirements:
 - a. Pass an examination by one of the following: Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx). You can download the MBLEx Mobility Form at: www.fsmtb.org. **OR** the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB) offered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) at www.ncbtmb.org/contact-us, if taken prior to November 1, 2014.
 - b. Verification that you have been a massage therapist in another state during the 3-year period immediately preceding the application for relicensure. Verification/certification of license to be submitted directly to this office by the licensing agency of any state or territory of the United States in which you hold a current license or ever held a license as an occupational therapist/therapist assistant.

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Verification includes, but is not limited to, showing proof of any disciplinary action taken or pending disciplinary action imposed.

RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

- Online Application for Massage Therapy Renewal – Can be completed by visiting www.michigan.gov/miplus.
- Renewal Application Fee: \$243.30 (Must be paid by Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit or debit card)
- Renewal Cycle: 3 years
- Good Moral Character Questions - Documentation and explanation will be required if you answer “yes” to either question to show at the current time you have the ability to, and are likely to, serve the public in a fair, honest and open manner, that you are rehabilitated, or that the substance of the former offense is not reasonably related to the occupation or profession for which you are seeking license renewal.
- Disciplinary Question - Documentation will be required if you answer “yes” to having sanctions imposed against you by a similar licensure, registration, certification, or disciplinary board of another state or country you have not previously reported to the department.
- Accept Renewal Attestation - By accepting the renewal attestation you, as the licensee, are certifying that you have met the human trafficking requirements and the continuing education requirements during the renewal period.
- Continuing Education (CE) Requirement:
 - During the 3 years preceding the application for renewal, successful completion of 18 continuing education contact hours that are approved by the board.
 - Minimum of 1 hour of continuing education earned in the area of pain and symptom management.
 - Minimum of 2 hours of continuing education earned in the area of professional ethics and boundaries.
- Human Trafficking –
 - Beginning in 2019, and all renewals thereafter, licensees seeking renewal must have completed training in identifying victims of human trafficking that meets the standards in Administrative Rule 338.732 prior to renewing their license. The training must only be completed one time.
- Implicit Bias Training – For initial renewals completed after June 1, 2021, completion of one hour of implicit bias training is required for each year of licensure since June 1, 2021. If renewing prior to June 1, 2022, implicit bias training is not required for that renewal. Once the initial renewal is completed, then 1 hour of implicit bias training will be required for each year of the current license cycle going forward. Please note, this is not a one-time training and must be completed for each renewal cycle prior to the renewal being completed.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND FORMS

- By visiting www.michigan.gov/healthlicense and clicking on the massage therapy link you can access the following helpful resources and forms:

Resources:

- Public Health Code
- Administrative Rules for Massage Therapy

Forms:

- Supervised Curriculum Form