

Arizona Board of Physical Therapy
Substantive Policy Statement #2025-01

EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY THROUGH ALTERNATE APPROVAL PATHWAY

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on the regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative procedures Act. If you believe that this Substantive Police Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1033 for a review of the statement. (A.R.S. § 41-1091 (B))

The Arizona Board of Physical Therapy (“Board”) issues this Substantive Policy Statement to provide information to applicants seeking examination eligibility for licensure. Among other things, A.R.S. § 32-2024 sets forth the eligibility requirements to take the examination for licensure to practice as a physical therapist (“PT”) and physical therapist assistant (“PTA”) in Arizona.

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (“FSBPT”) serves as the Board approved designee to determine and grant examination eligibility. FSBPT uses the Alternate Approval Pathway to determine examination eligibility to qualified exam candidates who are not requesting ADA accommodations and who are graduating/graduated from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (“CAPTE”) accredited educational programs.

CAPTE accredited educational programs electronically validate whether a student in the graduating cohort is on track to graduate using FSBPT’s secure online school processing interface. The Board has determined that affirmation from the CAPTE accredited educational institution satisfies the requirements set forth in A.R.S. § 32-2024(B)(2)(c) and (D)(2)(c).

For candidates requesting ADA accommodations, those requested accommodations must be reviewed by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting prior to the granting of exam eligibility. Candidates requesting ADA accommodations must submit an online license application through the Board’s Applicant Portal and include their requested accommodation documentation which will then be reviewed by the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting.

In all cases, the Board makes the final determination on whether an applicant has met all the requirements for licensure. Graduation from a PT or PTA educational program and/or passing licensure exams represents satisfaction of only two of the licensing requirements. Applicants for PT or PTA licensure must submit an online application, which must include all necessary supporting and third-party documentation, for review and processing along with all required fees. Additional Board review of a submitted application may be required.