

Often Asked Questions ~ Foreign Educated PT Applicants

Q: What do these initials mean?

- FSBPT: Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
- NPTE: National Physical Therapy Examination
- AZSBPT: Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy
- AZLAW: Arizona Jurisprudence Examination

Q: What is the website for Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy?

- www.ptboard.az.gov

Q: I have practiced physical therapy in the United States for many years. Do I still apply as a foreign trained physical therapist?

Yes, you must apply as a foreign trained physical therapist if you did not receive your degree from a CAPTE approved school of physical therapy.

Q: Do I have to request an evaluation of my foreign transcript?

Yes. In addition, we strongly suggest that applicants who received their physical therapy education wait until the credential evaluation is completed specifically for Arizona before an application for licensure is submitted. You may refer to the instructions included with the application for foreign trained physical therapists for a list of approved agency names and contact information. The instructions also include a list of all requirements necessary for licensure in Arizona.

Q: How many professional and general education hours do I need?

As of April 1, 2008, the requirement is 90 professional credit hours and 60 general education hours.

Q: Does the Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy (AZSBPT) accept a transcript from a transitional degree program.

No.

Q: Must I take the TOEFL?

Yes, if English is not your native language.

Q: Must I be currently licensed in the country in which I received my degree?

Yes, you must have legal authorization to practice as a physical therapist without limitation in the country where the professional education occurred.

Q: Can I send copies of my documents?

No, all documentation must be sent directly to this Board from the agency or school originating the document.

Q: What is Prometric?

Prometric is the company providing testing sites and is a separate entity from FSBPT and AZSBPT. The Web address is: www.prometric.com/fsbpt.

Q: Do I have to take a state examination?

Yes, all applicants are required to take the AZLAW (Jurisprudence) examination. You may take it as soon as we receive your application. See the application for specific instructions.

Q: What happens if I fail the AZLAW exam?

You will receive a letter from AZSBPT shortly after taking and failing the exam that explains the next step. You may take the exam twice before having to reapply with a new application and new application fee. FSBPT requires that you submit the exam fee with each and every registration. Prometric requires the same. FSBPT will allow you to retake the exam 3 times within one year beginning with the first exam.

Q: I took the NPTE years ago. How do I transfer the score to Arizona?

Contact FSBPT via their website at www.FSBPT.com and request that they be transferred electronically to AZSBPT.

Q: When can I take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)?

When all required documentation has been received, your file will be presented to the Board to determine whether to approve your request to take the NPTE.

Q: What happens if I fail the NPTE?

You will receive a letter from AZSBPT shortly after taking and failing the exam that explains the next step. You may take the exam twice before having to reapply with a new application and new application fee. FSBPT requires that you submit the exam fee with each and every registration. Prometric requires the same. FSBPT will allow you to retake the exam 3 times within one year beginning with the first exam.

Q: Do I have to participate in a supervised clinical practice period (SCPP)?

The AZSBPT at a regular meeting of the Board will make the decision as to whether you will be required to complete a SCPP. Most applicants who received physical therapy education in a foreign country must complete an SCPP. If you have already completed an SCPP within the United States, please submit the completed "Clinical Performance Instrument" documentation.

Q: How long does the application process take to complete?

The time varies depending on how long it takes to receive all documentation as listed in the instructions attached to the application for licensure.