

# **General information on the Oregon PT / PTA**

## **Initial Licensure Process**

To be issued a license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, in the State of Oregon, a candidate must make application through the examination or endorsement process.

If you are a graduate of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program that was or is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) but you have never passed the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) or you have passed the NPTE but have never obtained a license in another State, you will apply to the Oregon Board through the examination application process.

If you are a graduate of a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program that was or is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE), you have sat for and passed the NPTE and you hold a current unrestricted license in another State or Territory of the United States, you will apply to the Oregon Board through the endorsement application process.

### **Examination Application Process**

The three entities that you will be working with are; the Oregon Physical Therapy Licensing Board (**OPTLB**), the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (**FSBPT**) and **Prometric Test Centers**.

The OPTLB is responsible for processing your application, releasing your eligibility to take the examination and the issuance of your license. The FSBPT is the owner of the NPTE, issues your “Authorization To Test” (**ATT**) letter and releases your exam scores. Prometric administers the examination at one of their test centers.

Once the OPTLB has a completed application file including; the application, fee, Oregon jurisprudence exam with a passing score, Certificate of Professional Education and a clear criminal background check, it will release your eligibility to sit for the NPTE.

Once the FSBPT has a completed online test registration, the fee and the release of eligibility from the Oregon Board, it will issue your ATT letter and the candidate can then schedule their test date with Prometrics.

Immediately following the examination, Prometrics will release all test scores to the FSBPT who will validate the scores and, within 5 business days of the test date, release the scores to the OPTLB. Candidates with passing scores will have a license issued within 48 hours of receipt of the scores by the Board.

### **Endorsement Application Process**

The most frequently asked question relative to completing an endorsement application is “How long will the process take?) The OPTLB will issue an endorsement license within 48 hours of completion of the application file.

A completed application file includes; the application, fee, Oregon jurisprudence exam with a passing score, Certificate of Professional Education, FSBPT transfer score report, written

primary source verification from every state or territory of the United States in which an applicant has ever held a license, regardless of the current status of that license and lastly an online national criminal background check.

The timing depends on how long the; applicant (responsible for completion and return of the application, fee, jurisprudence exam), the school (responsible for the completion and return of the Certificate of Professional Education), the FSBPT (responsible for the transfer of the NPTE scores) and the other States (responsible for the completion and return of a primary source written verification) take to complete the documentation required and send it back to the Oregon Board. The Board assumes no responsibility for the request or transfer of these documents that is the responsibility of the applicant.

### **Non CAPTE (foreign) Educated Therapists**

The process for examination or endorsement application noted above is the same for a foreign educated therapist (FET) with the exception of the qualifying “Certificate of Professional Education” (Cert of Ed).

In place of the Cert of Ed a FET must complete one of the Board’s credentialing processes that will produce a report stating the applicant’s foreign physical therapy education program is “substantially equivalent” to that of a US graduate and providing proof of English proficiency (contact the Board office or see OAR 848-010-0015(3) or OAR 848-010-0022 for detailed requirements).

Please note that the credentialing of a foreign education program can take several weeks to several months to complete, that an application filed with the Oregon Board is valid for one year from the date first received and processed. Also note that, in the State of Oregon, any candidate can make an application and sit for the NPTE without a social security number, however, the Board can not issue a professional license until the applicant provides proof they hold a valid US social security number.