

Department of Health
Board of Physical Therapy
Policy/Procedure

Title:	Acceptable Clinical Training and/or Coursework Under WAC 246-915-020 (2)	Number:	5.4
Reference:	RCW 18.74.023 Board – Powers and duties		
Contact:	Kris Waidely, Health Services Consultant 4		
Effective Date:	October 20, 2014		
Supersedes:	June 16, 2014, May 18, 2011, January 16, 1996, November 16, 1993		
Approved:	Signature on file _____		
	Robert Schmidt, PT, DPT, Board Chair		

POLICY

In accordance with WAC 246-915-020, if a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant applicant does not pass the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) after two attempts they must demonstrate evidence satisfactory to the Board of having successfully completed clinical training and/or course work as determined by the Board before being permitted two additional attempts.

Evidence satisfactory to the Board of successful completion of clinical training and/or coursework may include but is not limited to:

- APTA sponsored refresher course of 20 or more contact hours specific to areas of the exam that applicant has failed.

- Continuing Education course(s) of 20 or more contact hours specifically related to topics or sections of the exam which the applicant failed.
- Practice exams.
- Clinical observation in both orthopedic and rehabilitation settings of not less than 80 hours, plus a list of articles or texts read of not less than 10 contact hours plus a two-page synopsis of each item reviewed that specifically relate to topics or sections of the exam which the applicant failed.
- Audit of accredited PT or PTA program classes of a minimum of 20 contact hours specifically related to topics or sections of the exam which the applicant failed.
- Other coursework, literature review, video tape audit, or other multi-media devices of not less than 20 contact hours plus a two-page synopsis of each item reviewed that demonstrates that the applicant has taken adequate steps to increase/improve entry level competency.

The above are general guidelines. Each applicant will be considered on a case by case basis. When considering if an applicant has taken adequate steps to increase/improve competency, the Board will consider sections of the exam that were failed and the respective scores received. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate to the Board that he or she has taken adequate steps to improve his or her entry level competency and that his or her chances of passing the exam have significantly improved.

Before beginning the clinical training and/or coursework, the applicant may submit a plan requesting pre-approval. The plan should include the following:

- How many times the applicant has taken NPTE; and
- The dates of all exams (NPTE) taken; and
- The exam scores for each exam taken; and

- Indicate if the applicant has ever requested pre-approval to receive two more attempts to take and pass the exam. If the applicant has received approval from the Board for previous plans, the applicant is asked to provide a copy of all prior plans; and
- The date the applicant plans on retaking the exam; and
- A detailed explanation of the plan (Examples: list names of courses, dates of courses, instructors name and license information. If mentoring or shadowing provide name and license number, contact information, area of practice, and provide a letter or acknowledgement from the mentor); and
- The date the applicant will complete their board-approved plan

The Board may request additional information or documentation if necessary.

After the Board acts on the plan, department staff will notify the applicant.

After the applicant completes all the objectives outlined in the plan, the applicant must provide evidence of successful completion (such as certificates of completion for all courses completed) to the Board prior to receiving final approval to take the exam.

PLEASE NOTE: According to The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) www.fsbpt.org the NPTE is property of the FSBPT and is protected by contract, trade secret, and federal copyright laws. It is a violation of those laws, and thus illegal, to share any information whatsoever about any NPTE question. In particular, sharing information about an NPTE question recalled from memory or asking someone who has taken the NPTE to share such information is illegal. It is also unethical to share or to solicit someone else to share information about an NPTE question.