



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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DATE: March 17, 2026
TIME: 8:15 AM
WSR 26-07-052

Agency: Department of Health - Board of Physical Therapy

Subject of possible rule making: Updating the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) scoring scale for foreign educated physical therapy applicants. The Board of Physical Therapy (board) will consider amendments to WAC 246-915-120, Foreign Educated Applicants, to update TOEFL scoring requirements in response to changes made by the Educational Testing Services (ETS).

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.74.023

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: Foreign educated applicants are required to verify English language proficiency for licensure as a physical therapist. One of the options is to take and pass the TOEFL which is administered by ETS. As a result of recent changes to the scoring system by ETS, the score requirements laid out in WAC 246-915-120 no longer align with the updated scoring system. The board will review the updated scoring system as well as the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) recommended passing scores and will consider updating WAC 246-915-120. The board will also consider additional housekeeping updates to the section. Rulemaking is necessary to ensure that the requirements to qualify for a physical therapy license for foreign educated applicants are clear and up-to-date.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study
- Other (describe) Collaborative Rulemaking

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

	(If necessary)
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Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. The board will be conducting rules workshops with interested parties and subject matter experts. The board will use existing GovDelivery lists and other known contact information to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To find out more information about our rulemaking, visit www.doh.wa.gov. To subscribe to GovDelivery for rulemaking notices,

please visit www.doh.wa.gov, and select the "Sign up for Updates from DOH" button at the bottom of the page, select Health Professions, and then Physical Therapy Program. You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to receive information related to that specific profession.

Date: 3/16/2026

Name: Jennifer Santiago

Title: Executive Director

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Santiago", written over a horizontal line.