

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT  
TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY  
CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIRMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY  
EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.02, FACULTY REQUIREMENTS, AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 345-8, Requirements – Board Recognized Massage Therapy Education Program, rule 345-8-.02, Faculty Requirements (hereinafter “proposed rule amendment”).

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/33>, or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on September 9, 2016, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on September 2, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Massage Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-1308.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on September 9, 2016 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment to 345-8-.02 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-24A-3(4).

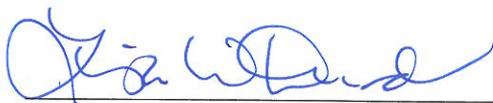
At its meeting March 4, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-24A-3(4).

Additionally, at its meeting March 4, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-24A-3(4) to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of massage therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 16 day of June 2016.



Lisa W. Durden  
Director  
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 16 JUNE 16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.02, FACULTY REQUIREMENTS**

**Purpose:** The purpose is to amend the rule to clarify the faculty requirements for Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education programs.

**Main Features:** The rule addresses which faculty instructor(s) are required to hold a massage therapy license, addresses where faculty instructor(s) are to teach and indicates the time frame that the Board must be notified of any program faculty changes.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY CHAPTER 345-8, REQUIREMENTS – BOARD RECOGNIZED MASSAGE THERAPY EDUCATION PROGRAM, RULE 345-8-.01, FACULTY REQUIREMENTS**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

**345-8-.02 Faculty Requirements. Amended.**

(1) In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the program must have a faculty that consists of a sufficient number of full and part-time instructors to ensure that the educational obligations to the student are fulfilled. Lab, clinical and community course core (lead) faculty must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours of experience in their field. Faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current state license, if a state license is required to practice massage therapy in that state. Human sciences course core (lead) faculty (anatomy, pathology, physiology) is not required to hold a massage therapy license; however, the faculty member must demonstrate competence in their respective areas of teaching as evidenced by a minimum of 2 years or 2000 hours experience in their field and/or by appropriate degrees/certificates from approved colleges/schools/institutions.

(2) All program faculty members must teach at the physical address which has been provided to the Board on the program's application to become a board recognized massage therapy education program.

(3) The Board must be notified of any program faculty changes within ten (10) days of the date the change becomes effective.

(24) If a school utilizes faculty assistants, in order to be a Board recognized massage therapy education program, it shall establish and maintain policies that set forth qualifications, duties and procedures for use of these personnel. Faculty assistants shall not be used as substitutes or replacements for regular faculty; shall not be responsible for the overall evaluation of any student; and shall work under the direct supervision of approved faculty. Faculty assistants shall hold a current license, if a license is required to practice massage therapy in that state.

| (35) In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the ratio of students to faculty in the lab/clinical/community area shall not exceed 20 students to 1 instructor with no more than 10 student therapists and 10 students serving as clients. Lecture classes are not subject to this ratio.

| (46) When student clinical practice is being performed on the general public, the supervising clinical faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current Georgia massage license.

**Authority: O.C.G.A.: 43-1-25 and 43-24A-3(4)**

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(5) In order to be a Georgia Board recognized massage therapy education program, the ratio of students to faculty in the lab/clinical/community area shall not exceed 20 students to 1 instructor with no more than 10 student therapists and 10 students serving as clients. Lecture classes are not subject to this ratio.

(6) When student clinical practice is being performed on the general public, the supervising clinical faculty instructor(s) shall hold a current Georgia massage license.

**Authority: O.C.G.A.: 43-1-25 and 43-24A-3(4)**