

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES  
490-2-.01, 490-2-.03, 490-2-.09, 490-2-.10, 490-4-.02, 490-4-.03, 490-5-.01, 490-9-.05 AND  
490-13-.01 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1) Rule 490-2-.01 Application for Licensure and Examination**
- 2) Rule 490-2-.03 Licensure – Foreign-Educated Applicants**
- 3) Rule 490-2-.09 Licensure: Endorsement/Reciprocity**
- 4) Rule 490-2-.10 Licensure – Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**
- 5) Rule 490-5-.01 Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant**
- 8) Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter “Board”) proposes amendments to Board Rules 490-2-.01, 490-2-.03, 490-2-.09, 490-2-.10, 490-5-.01, and 490-13-.01 (hereinafter “proposed rule amendments”).

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments, 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/39>, or by contacting the Board office at 844-753-7825.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at **9:30 a.m.** on **May 12, 2020**, 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 **May 5, 2020**. Written comments should be addressed to La Trenda Tyler-Jones, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-7127.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendments for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at **9:30 a.m. on May 12, 2020** 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 amendments to Board Rules 490-2-.01, 490-2-.03, 490-2-.09, 490-2-.10, 490-5-.01 and 490-13-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4; 43-1-19, 43-1-24; 43-1-25, 43-1-34; 43-33-2; 43-33-3; 43-33-10; 43-33-12; 43-33-13.1; 43-33-14; 43-33-15; 43-33-16; 43-33-17; 43-33-18; 43-33-30 and 43-33-31.

At its meetings on July 9, 2019 and November 5, 2019, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these rules do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee; and any cost to comply with the proposed rules cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-12 through 43-33-19.

Additionally, at its meetings on July 9, 2019 and November 5, 2019, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10 and 43-33-12 through 43-33-19 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 physical therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at 844-753-7825.

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 14 day of February 2020.

  
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LA TRENDA TYLER-JONES  
Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted:

2/14/20

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES CHAPTERS 490-2,  
APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AND EXAMINATION, RULE 490-2-.01.**

**Purpose/Main Features:** To fulfill the Board's mandate to begin issuing and accepting individuals who apply for a Compact privilege in the state of Georgia in accordance with House Bill 39, the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. It clarifies that physical therapist and physical therapist applicants must hold either a Georgia license or a Georgia Compact privilege used by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission before the applicant can practice in Georgia. Paragraph two (2) of the rule includes a reference to the Compact privilege and the Physical Therapy Compact Commission.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-2, APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE AND  
EXAMINATION, RULE 490-2-.01.**

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

**Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination**

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission prior to beginning said practice.
- (3) Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within one year of initial filing date will not be given further consideration by the Board until submission of new application and payment of appropriate fees.
- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-33-18.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-10(11), (12); 43-33-14; and 43-33-31.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES CHAPTERS 490-2,  
LICENSURE: FOREIGN-EDUCATED APPLICANTS, RULE 490-2-.03.**

**Purpose/Main Features:** To enhance the Board’s ability to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public through the use of current national professional standards to evaluate the English proficiency, education and coursework of foreign educated applicants as developed by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy (CAPTE) and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT). The amendments further ensure that the level of education required of foreign educated applicants is substantially equivalent to the level of education required of applicants educated in the United States. The amendments clarify which tools the credentialing evaluation agencies are to use to evaluate the education of foreign-trained applicants and adjust the criteria for passing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to the current standard in each content area.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-2, LICENSURE: FOREIGN-EDUCATED APPLICANTS,  
RULE 490-2-.03.**

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

**Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants**

- (1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.
  - (a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall evaluate the transcripts and professional instruction using the most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet. ~~Additional lists may be obtained from the Board office.~~
  - (b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.
  - (c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.

- (d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive a passing score of 89 on the IBT TOEFL to include: a passing score of ~~2422~~ on the writing section, a passing score of ~~2422~~ on the reading section, a passing score of ~~1821~~ on the listening section and a passing score of ~~2624~~ on the speaking section before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.
  - (e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.
  - (f) Once a completed application is on file and prior to initiation of a traineeship, all foreign educated applicants must take and pass the NPTE and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.
  - (g) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit. *This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency with a minimum of 5 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing. The Pre Examination Traineeship hours may be used toward the satisfaction this requirement (See Board Rule ~~490-2-.04~~).*
- (2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation ~~and~~ but they must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Authority: §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-10(1),(2),(3),(10),(11); 43-33-12(1); 43-33-13(1); and 43-33-14.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES CHAPTERS 490-2,  
LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY, RULE 490-2-.09.**

**Purpose/ Main Features:** To amend the title of the rule to more closely align with the statute, provide for an alternative method for demonstrating competence and to clarify that applicants for reciprocity not only have to take the national and Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence exams, but they must also achieve a passing score.

The amendments clarify that the education of military spouses and transitioning service members is evaluated in the same manner as non-military applicants.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-2, LICENSURE: ENDORSEMENT/RECIPROCITY, RULE  
490-2-.09.**

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

**Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: ~~Endorsement/Reciprocity~~**

(1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8) and,

(d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,

(e) Passing Scores from the national licensing examination; and,

(f) Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination.

(3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and

(e) Passing Scores from the national licensing examination; and,

(f) Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(4) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-2, 43-33-10(2); and 43-33-15.

**Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure – Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#), is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,
  - (a) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:
    1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
    2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
    - 3.) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8); and,
    4. Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
    5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
    6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
  - (b) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
    1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
    2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has

- ~~3.~~(e) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application [which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
- ~~4.~~(d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
- ~~5.~~(e) [Passing Sscores](#) from the national licensing examination.
- ~~6.~~(f) [Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.](#)
- (b4) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

  - ~~1.~~(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
  - ~~2.~~(b) Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,
  - ~~3.~~(e) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application [which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02\(1\)\(2\)\(4\)\(7\) and \(8\)](#); and,
  - ~~4.~~(d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the ~~State of Georgia~~Board [which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool \(CWT\) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program](#); and,
  - ~~5.~~(e) [Passing Sscores](#) from the national licensing examination.
  - ~~6.~~(f) [Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.](#)
- (~~3~~5) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be

prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-1-34(b), 43-33-2, 43-33-10(1),(2),(3),(11); 43-33-14; and 43-33-15.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES CHAPTERS 490-5,  
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSED PHYSICAL THERAPIST IN SUPERVISION  
AND DIRECTION OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT, RULE 490-5-.01.**

**Purpose/Main Features:** To clarify the type of assistant referenced within the rule and to provide for gender neutrality as well as to correct spacing and grammatical errors.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-5, RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LICENSED PHYSICAL  
THERAPIST IN SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF THE PHYSICAL THERAPIST  
ASSISTANT, RULE 490-5-.01.**

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

**Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant**

- (1) A licensed physical therapist shall at all times be responsible for providing adequate supervision of the physical therapists assistant-~~supervised by him~~, as defined in Rule 490-5-.02.
- (2) The licensed physical therapist shall be present in the same institutional setting, as defined in paragraph (3) of this section, 25 percent of any work week, Monday through Friday, and shall be readily available to the assistant at all other times, including weekend coverage, for advice, assistance and instruction.
- (3) "Institutional setting" means any nursing home, acute hospital, convalescent hospital, rehabilitation center, other in-~~patient~~ facility by any other name and out-~~patient~~ clinic which would include private off-ice.
- (4) The licensed physical therapist in the home health setting responsible for the patient shall supervise the physical therapist assistant working with the patient and shall:
  - (a) perform the initial patient evaluation to establish a physical therapy diagnosis , treatment goals-, frequency, duration, and plan of care;
  - (b) meet with the assistant no less than once weekly to review all patients being treated;
  - (c) document all meetings with the assistant and subsequent decisions;
  - (d) be available to the assistant at all times for advice, assistance, and instructions.
- (5) A licensed physical therapist shall be designated as the physical therapist assistant's supervisor in the school setting and shall:
  - (a) perform all physical therapy evaluations to develop or amend physical therapy interventions stated on the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for the

purpose of assisting with the achievement of educational goals and objective-s, including frequency and duration of physical therapy services.

- (b) make an on-site visit to each student scheduled for direct weekly services from the physical therapist assistant no less than every two (2) months, and no less than once every five (5) months for students who are scheduled with the physical therapist assistant once monthly or less. The on-site visit shall include, but not be limited to, a case review, reassessment of the program and physical therapy services and review of documentation prepared by the physical therapist assistant.
- (c) document the on-site visit including status of case(s), program or services status or change and indicate instructions given to the physical therapist assistant.
- (d) interact with the physical therapist assistant in appropriate ways specific to the goals and objectives stated in the IEP of the student who is scheduled for sessions with the physical therapist assistant.
- (e) be available to the physical therapist assistant at all times for advice, assistance and instructions.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24; 43-1-25; 43-33-3(6); and 43-33-10(11).

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF  
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES CHAPTERS 490-13,  
LICENSURE COMPACT, RULE 490-13-.01.**

**Purpose/Main Features:** This new rule is proposed to make it clear that the Board will follow the Physical Therapy Compact Commission Rules for administration of the newly enacted Compact Act found at O.C.G.A. § 43-33-30, 31. In addition, the new rule would provide for additional requirements with which individuals applying for a compact privilege must comply.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-13, DRY NEEDLING, RULE 490-13-.01.**

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

**Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact**

Pursuant to, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy hereby adopts as rule the Physical Therapy Compact Commission Rules, with the following additions:

(a) Individuals applying for a compact privilege to Georgia must pay the necessary fees and take and pass the Georgia Jurisprudence Assessment Module (GA-JAM) prior to issuance of the compact privilege;

(b) A licensee from another member state who is providing physical therapy services in Georgia under a compact privilege must comply with the laws, rules and policies related to the practice of physical therapy in the state of Georgia;

(c) A compact privilege holder must report to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy **any encumbrance or adverse action** placed upon any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license held by the compact privilege holder in a non-member state within thirty (30) business days of the effective date; **This requirement applies to both public and private actions that may be taken by a non-member state.**

(d) Any violation of the laws, rules and policies of the Board may subject the compact privilege holder to disciplinary action by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and loss of the Compact Privilege.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10(12); 43-33-30; 43-33-31.

**Rule 490-2-.01. Application For Licensure And Examination**

- (1) A completed application for examination must be submitted and approved prior to taking the examination.
- (2) Any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant who plans to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in the State of Georgia must be licensed by the Board or hold a Georgia Compact Privilege issued by the Physical Therapy Compact Commission prior to beginning said practice.
- (3) Any applicant who does not submit required documentation within one year of initial filing date will not be given further consideration by the Board until submission of new application and payment of appropriate fees.
- (4) All applicants for licensure and examination are also subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-19](#) and [43-33-18](#).

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-10(11), (12); 43-33-14; and 43-33-31.

**Rule 490-2-.03. Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants**

- (1) All applicants who are graduates of educational programs conducted in a foreign country that are not accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board must submit credentials prescribed by the Board in order to be considered for approval to take the licensing examination.
  - (a) Transcripts must be evaluated by a credential evaluation agency approved by the Board to determine if the professional instruction is substantially equivalent to that of entry-level United States-educated therapists. The credentialing evaluation agency shall evaluate the transcripts and professional instruction using the most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and send its evaluation and a copy of the official transcript directly to the Board. A list of credentialing agencies approved by the Board shall be included in each application packet.
  - (b) Proof of licensure/certification/registration, that is current and in good standing, to practice physical therapy, or proof of appropriate eligibility to practice physical therapy, in the country of education must be submitted.
  - (c) Verification of licensure/certification/registration in all jurisdictions in which the candidate holds or has ever held a license/certification/registration must be submitted.
  - (d) Applicants educated in a non-English speaking physical therapy program must take and receive a passing score of 89 on the IBT TOEFL to include: a passing score of 22 on the writing section, a passing score of 22 on the reading section, a passing score of 21 on the listening section and a passing score of 24 on the speaking section before being allowed to sit for the licensure examination. Official score results must be submitted to the Board.
  - (e) Applicants educated in an English speaking physical therapy program must have a school official submit an official letter to the Board attesting that the physical therapy curriculum was taught in English.
  - (f) Once a completed application is on file and prior to initiation of a traineeship, all foreign educated applicants must take and pass the NPTE and the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.
  - (g) All foreign-educated applicants must complete a Board-approved traineeship consisting of a minimum of 480 hours, which must be completed within three (3) months of the issuance of the traineeship permit. *This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Board if the applicant has demonstrated clinical competency with a minimum of 5 years of continuous active practice and license in good standing.*

- (2) Applicants educated in a foreign physical therapy program that is accredited by CAPTE and approved by the Board, do not have to submit a credentials evaluation but they must meet the conditions of Board Rule 490-2-.02.

Authority: §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-10(1),(2),(3),(10),(11); 43-33-12(1); 43-33-13(1); and 43-33-14.

**Rule 490-2-.09. Licensure: Reciprocity**

(1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 43-33-15 upon payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)

(2) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 and who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of application; or proof of completion of 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8) and,

(d) Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,

(e) Passing scores from the national licensing examination; and,

(f) Passing scores from the Georgia Ethics and Jurisprudence Examination.

(3) Any applicant applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. 43-33-15 who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:

(a) Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,

(b) A verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,

(c) Verification of active practice in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

(d) Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the State of Georgia which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and

(e) Passing scores from the national licensing examination; and,

(f) Passing scores from the examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(4) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-33-2, 43-33-10(2); and 43-33-15.

**Rule 490-2-.10. Licensure – Endorsement/Reciprocity for Military Spouses and Transitioning Service Members**

- (1) The Board may, in its discretion register a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant without an examination as set forth in Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section [43-33-15](#) upon receipt of a complete application and payment of applicable fees. (Refer to fee schedule)
- (2) A military spouse or transitioning service member, as defined in O.C.G.A. § [43-1-34](#), is deemed eligible to apply for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) if the applicant is a holder of a valid physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in another State for which the training, experience and testing substantially meet or exceed the requirements under this state to obtain a license; and,
  - (a) The military spouse or transitioning service member must be a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) approved by the Board, and must provide:
    1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state board; and,
    2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit a verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has held a license to actively practice; and,
    - 3.) Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8); and,
    4. Official transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,
    5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
    6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
  - (b) Any military spouse or transitioning service member applying for licensure pursuant to O.C.G.A. [43-33-15](#) who is a graduate of a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or approved by the Board, must provide:
    1. Verification of an active license in good standing from another state; and,
    2. Within six (6) months of the issuance of a license, submit verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has

actively practiced in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and,

3. Verification of active continued competence in physical therapy in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application which may include a verification of employment or 26 hours of acceptable continuing education coursework pursuant to the requirements in Board Rule 490-4-.02(1)(2)(4)(7) and (8); and,
  4. Official evaluation and transcript from a credential evaluation organization approved by the Board which shall meet the standards of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy Coursework Tool (CWT) that was in effect at the time the applicant graduated from their physical therapy or physical therapist assistant educational program; and,
  5. Passing scores from the national licensing examination.
  6. Passing scores from the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy ethics and jurisprudence examination.
- (3) Proof of graduation from an accredited physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program or credential evaluations deemed substantially equivalent to the professional degree, and satisfactory completion of the licensing examination shall be deemed to be prima facie evidence of compliance with Code Section 43-33-15. The Board, however, may request further verification of any credential submitted if deemed necessary to evaluate the application.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25; 43-1-34(b), 43-33-2, 43-33-10(1),(2),(3),(11); 43-33-14; and 43-33-15.

**Rule 490-5-.01. Responsibility of the Licensed Physical Therapist in Supervision and Direction of the Physical Therapist Assistant**

- (1) A licensed physical therapist shall at all times be responsible for providing adequate supervision of the physical therapists assistant, as defined in Rule 490- 5-.02.
- (2) The licensed physical therapist shall be present in the same institutional setting, as defined in paragraph (3) of this section, 25 percent of any work week, Monday through Friday, and shall be readily available to the assistant at all other times, including weekend coverage, for advice, assistance and instruction.
- (3) "Institutional setting" means any nursing home, acute hospital, convalescent hospital, rehabilitation center, other inpatient facility by any other name and outpatient clinic which would include private office.
- (4) The licensed physical therapist in the home health setting responsible for the patient shall supervise the physical therapist assistant working with the patient and shall:

- (a) perform the initial patient evaluation to establish a physical therapy diagnosis , treatment goals, frequency, duration, and plan of care;
  - (b) meet with the assistant no less than once weekly to review all patients being treated;
  - (c) document all meetings with the assistant and subsequent decisions;
  - (d) be available to the assistant at all times for advice, assistance, and instructions.
- (5) A licensed physical therapist shall be designated as the physical therapist assistant's supervisor in the school setting and shall:
- (a) perform all physical therapy evaluations to develop or amend physical therapy interventions stated on the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) for the purpose of assisting with the achievement of educational goals and objectives, including frequency and duration of physical therapy services.
  - (b) make an on-site visit to each student scheduled for direct weekly services from the physical therapist assistant no less than every two (2) months, and no less than once every five (5) months for students who are scheduled with the physical therapist assistant once monthly or less. The on-site visit shall include, but not be limited to, a case review, reassessment of the program and physical therapy services and review of documentation prepared by the physical therapist assistant.
  - (c) document the on-site visit including status of case(s), program or services status or change and indicate instructions given to the physical therapist assistant.
  - (d) interact with the physical therapist assistant in appropriate ways specific to the goals and objectives stated in the IEP of the student who is scheduled for sessions with the physical therapist assistant.
  - (e) be available to the physical therapist assistant at all times for advice, assistance and instructions.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-24; 43-1-25; 43-33-3(6); and 43-33-10(11).

**Rule 490-13-.01. Licensure Compact**

Pursuant to, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy hereby adopts as rule the Physical Therapy Compact Commission Rules, with the following additions:

- (a) Individuals applying for a compact privilege to Georgia must pay the necessary fees and take and pass the Georgia Jurisprudence Assessment Module (GA-JAM) prior to issuance of the compact privilege;
- (b) A licensee from another member state who is providing physical therapy services in Georgia under a compact

privilege must comply with the laws, rules and policies related to the practice of physical therapy in the state of Georgia;

(c) A compact privilege holder must report to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy **any encumbrance or adverse action** placed upon any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant license held by the compact privilege holder in a non-member state within thirty (30) business days of the effective date; **This requirement applies to both public and private actions that may be taken by a non-member state.**

(d) Any violation of the laws, rules and policies of the Board may subject the compact privilege holder to disciplinary action by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and loss of the Compact Privilege.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-33-10(12); 43-33-30; 43-33-31.