

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Rules Committee Minutes**  
**Teleconference Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 2017 - 08:30 a.m.**

**Board Members Via Teleconference**

Dorothy Gaskin, Committee Chair  
Monty Strickland, Board Member  
Reid Lawson, Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Kathy Osier, Licensure Supervisor  
Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Visitors Present**

No visitors present

**Attorney General's Office**

No Attorney General present.

**Call to Order:** Ms. Gaskin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**           The Rules Committee accepts the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Board Rules**

Ms. Gaskin began the Rules Committee discussion by stating that the purpose of their meeting was to suggest amendments to the rules that would put FSPT Course Work Tool 6 in place. The Committee reviewed the changes discussed during the last Board meeting and after further discussion recommends that the Board vote to post proposed amendments to Board Rule 490-2-.02 Licensure Examination, Board Rule 490-2-.03 Licensure – Foreign-Educated Applicants, and Board Rule 490-2-.09 Licensure Endorsement – Reciprocity as follows for a hearing.

**1. Board Rule 490-2-.02 Licensure Examination**

**Rule 490-2-.02. Licensure: Examination**

- (1) All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are required to submit a completed application, the appropriate fee, and pass an examination for licensure to practice the profession in Georgia except as provided for in O.C.G.A. Sec. [43-33-15](#). The Board may at its discretion grant a license to an applicant who has previously taken and completed, within the requirements as set by the Board, the examination required.
  - (a) All applicants who are graduates of Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited schools and are applying for licensure must submit:
    1. ~~p~~Passing scores from the national licensing examination; and<sub>2</sub>
    2. ~~p~~Passing scores from examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; and<sub>2</sub>
    3. ~~e~~Official proof of graduation directly from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation.
  - (b) All applicants who graduated from a non-CAPTE accredited school shall provide all of the above information. Additionally, the applicant shall meet the requirements of Board Rule 490-2-.03.
  - (bc) Verification of licensure in all states in which the licensure candidate holds a license or has ever held a license may be conducted by board staff.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.02

Authority: O.C.G.A. Secs. [43-1-1](#), [43-1-3](#), [43-1-19](#), [43-1-24](#), [43-1-25](#), [43-33-10](#) to [43-33-14](#), [43-33-17](#), [43-33-18](#).

History: Original Rule entitled "Registration Examination" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

Repealed: New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Apr. 7, 1981; eff. Apr. 27, 1981.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Licensure Examination" adopted. F. June 6, 1983; eff. June 26, 1983.

**Amended:** F. Jan. 18, 1984; eff. Feb. 7, 1984.

**Amended:** F. Feb. 4, 1985; eff. Feb. 24, 1985.

**Amended:** F. Feb. 28, 1986; eff. Mar. 20, 1986.

**Amended:** F. July 22, 1986; eff. Aug. 11, 1986.

**Amended:** F. Dec. 8, 1988; eff. Dec. 28, 1988.

**Amended:** F. Mar. 22, 1989; eff. Apr. 11, 1989.

**Amended:** F. May 13, 1991; eff. June 1, 1991.

**Amended:** F. July 1, 1993; eff. July 21, 1993.

**Amended:** F. Nov. 22, 1996; eff. Dec. 12, 1996.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010.

## **2. Board Rule 490-2-.03 Licensure – Foreign-Educated Applicants**

### **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 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.~~
    - (i) If the applicant does not hold a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant license in the United States at the time of application to this Board, the professional instruction shall also meet the standards of the most recent Coursework Tool (CWT) adopted by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.
    - ~~(ii)~~ If the applicant is applying for licensure by endorsement/reciprocity and has actively practiced within the past two (2) years in the United States, the professional instruction from a non-CAPTE accredited program shall be evaluated by 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.
  - (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 24 on the writing section, a passing score of 21 on the reading section, a passing score of 18 on the listening section and a passing score of 26 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](#).

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-2-.03**

**Authority:** O.C.G.A. §§ [43-1-25](#), [43-33-3](#), [43-33-10](#), [43-33-12](#), [43-33-15](#), and [43-33-17](#).

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Board Action Upon Application for Registration" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

**Repealed:** New Rule of same title adopted. F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

**Repealed:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Foreign-Educated Applicants" adopted. F. Jan. 19, 2005; eff. Feb. 8, 2005.

**Repealed:** New Rule of the same title adopted. F. May 12, 2010; eff. June 1, 2010.

**Amended:** F. May 23, 2013; eff. Jun. 12, 2013.

**Amended:** F. Aug. 26, 2015; eff. Sep. 15, 2015.

### **3. Board Rule 490-2-.09 Licensure Endorsement – Reciprocity**

#### **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](#) ~~a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license~~; and,

(b) ~~V~~erification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has [held a license to](#) actively practiced; ~~and~~.

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

(~~e~~) ~~o~~fficial transcript from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation; and,

(~~e~~) ~~s~~cores from the national licensing 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](#) ~~a list of all states where the applicant holds an active license~~; and,

(b) ~~v~~Verification of licensure in good standing from the state board of all states in which the applicant has [held a license to actively practice](#); ~~d~~. and.

(c) [Verification of active practice](#) in the two years immediately preceding the date of this application; and.

(~~e~~) ~~o~~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~~) ~~s~~Scores from the national licensing examination.

(4) ~~Proper proof of licensure in good standing from the state(s) where the applicant practiced in the two years immediately preceding this application, p~~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.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. r. 490-2-.09**

**Authority: O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15.**

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Examination Proctors" adopted. F. and eff. June 30, 1965.

**Repealed:** F. May 1, 1973; eff. May 21, 1973.

**Amended:** New Rule entitled "Licensure: Endorsement" adopted. F. June 27, 1995; eff. July 17, 1995.

[The Committee further recommends that if the Board votes to post the rule amendments as presented, that it also vote to repeal Board Policy #14 Foreign Credentialing in its entirety as follows](#)

## **1. Policy 14 Foreign Credentialing**

### **Policy #14 Foreign Credentialing**

~~(A) (A) The Board requires sixty (60) hours of general education and ninety (90) hours of professional education for a total of 150 hours for foreign educated applicants. The Board further authorizes the use of the FSBPT Retro Tools for applicants educated prior to 1997.~~

~~(B) The Board approved foreign credentialing agencies are ICA, IERF and FCCPT.~~

~~Policy approved at the May 20, 2008 meeting.~~

~~Policy revised at the January 2009 meeting.~~

~~Policy revised at the July 2010 meeting.~~

**Adjournment:** With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**

Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor and Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes Approved on:**

May 16, 2017

DOROTHY GASKIN  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

ADRIENNE PRICE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR