

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
BOARD RULES CHAPTER 500-2 AND 500-5; RULE 500-2-.01.
REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE AND
RULE 500-5-.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 500-2-.01. Requirements for Examination and Licensure
RULE 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended.

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule 500-2-.01. Requirements for Examination and Licensure and Rule 500-5-.01 Continuing Education Hours (herein after “proposed rules”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rules, and a synopsis of the proposed rules are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rules, and a synopsis of the proposed rules may also 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. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at https://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/41/podiatry_proposed_amendments_to_the_rules. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (844) 753-7825.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendments at a public hearing to be held **1:30 PM, April 29, 2022**, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Members of the public can call into the meeting via the following number: 1(301)715-8592, Meeting ID 935 0300 6666, Passcode 118863.

Interested parties affected by the rules may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **April 22, 2022**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Gabriel Sterling, Interim Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Written comments may be faxed to (866) 888-1308.

During 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 will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on March 31, 2021, and September 10, 2021. The Board also voted on September 10, 2021, that the formulation and adoption of the rule amendments does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, 43-35-11, 43-35-12, 43-35-12, and 43-35-15. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, 43-35-11, 43-35-12, 43-35-12, and 43-35-15. to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(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 podiatry.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 500-5-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9, 43-35-11, 43-35-12, 43-35-12, and 43-35-15.

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

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This 3rd day of March, 2022.



Gabriel Sterling
Interim Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 3/3/22

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
PODIATRY EXAMINERS RULES CHAPTER 500-2,
RULE 500-2-.01 REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE.**

Purpose/Main Features: To ensure that the rules accurately reflect the entity that approves podiatric residency programs and that the appropriate title of the national examination approved by the Board is indicated.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
RULE FOR CHAPTER 500-2, RULE 500-2-.01 REQUIREMENTS FOR
EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE.**

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

Rule 500-2-.01. Requirements for Examination and Licensure. Amended.

Any person desiring to take the examination and be licensed to practice podiatry in this State shall meet the following qualifications and requirements.

(a) Qualifications for Examination.

1. Has attained the age of 21 years;
2. Be a graduate of an accredited college of podiatric medicine approved by the Board;
3. Holds a doctoral degree or its equivalent;
4. File a completed application for examination with required attachments with the Board 45 days prior to the examination date. The following items shall be submitted with the application:
 - (i) Certificate of Podiatric education;
 - (ii) Photo;
 - (iii) Proof of completion of a minimum one year's residency in podiatric medicine and surgery in a program based at a hospital approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME)~~American Podiatric Medical Association~~ and the Board or a letter dated within 90 days of the expected date of completion of residency from the Director of Training, Registrar; or Head of the Department on official letterhead documenting the date on which the applicant is expected to complete the one year's residency. License will not be issued until Certificate of Residency is received and exams passed.
 - (iv) All applicants for licensure, after January 1, 1999, shall submit proof of

having successfully passed the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examinations (APMLE)~~PMLE~~PMLE administered by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners with a passing score determined by the Board;

- (v) Proof of having passed the APMLE~~PMLE~~PMLE shall be a certified copy of the applicant's transcript of scores from the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; and
 - (vi) Required Fees.
- (b) Licensure Requirements. Any Person desiring to be licensed to practice podiatry in this State must have satisfactorily passed an examination approved by the Board.
- (c) The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be made in writing and received in the Board office by the application deadline along with the appropriate documentation, as indicated in the Request for Disability Accommodation Guidelines.

Authority: Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-35-9, 43-35-11, 43-35-12, & 43-35-14.

Rule 500-2-.01. Requirements for Examination and Licensure. Amended.

Any person desiring to take the examination and be licensed to practice podiatry in this State shall meet the following qualifications and requirements.

(a) Qualifications for Examination.

1. Has attained the age of 21 years;
2. Be a graduate of an accredited college of podiatric medicine approved by the Board;
3. Holds a doctoral degree or its equivalent;
4. File a completed application for examination with required attachments with the Board 45 days prior to the examination date. The following items shall be submitted with the application:
 - (i) Certificate of Podiatric education;
 - (ii) Photo;
 - (iii) Proof of completion of a minimum one year's residency in podiatric medicine and surgery in a program based at a hospital approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and the Board or a letter dated within 90 days of the expected date of completion of residency from the Director of Training, Registrar; or Head of the Department on official letterhead documenting the date on which the applicant is expected to complete the one year's residency. License will not be issued until Certificate of Residency is received and exams passed.
 - (iv) All applicants for licensure, after January 1, 1999, shall submit proof of having successfully passed the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examinations (APMLE) administered by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners with a passing score determined by the Board;
 - (v) Proof of having passed the APMLE shall be a certified copy of the applicant's transcript of scores from the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; and
 - (vi) Required Fees.

(b) Licensure Requirements. Any Person desiring to be licensed to practice podiatry in this State must have satisfactorily passed an examination approved by the Board.

(c) The Americans with Disabilities Act. The Board will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified applicant with a disability in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The request for an accommodation by an individual with a disability must be made in writing and received in the Board office by the application deadline along with the appropriate documentation, as indicated in the Request for Disability

Accommodation Guidelines.

Authority: Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-35-9, 43-35-11, 43-35-12, & 43-35-14.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
PODIATRY EXAMINERS RULES CHAPTER 500-5,
RULE 500-5-.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS.**

Purpose/Main Features: To establish options for providers and adapt to the current directives of the Board, clarify the continuing medical education (CME) requirements for reinstatement, provide more options for continuing education, and provide for minimum standards to be met by those who desire to reinstate. The rule amendment expands access to care and services by allowing more options, so licensees have the proper medical education training and requires all licensees to adequately maintain their required CME as well as make the language of the rule less ambiguous.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
RULE FOR CHAPTER 500-5, RULE 500-5-.01 CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS.**

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

Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended

- (1) The purpose of continuing education hours for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.
- (2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date.
 - (a) No more than ~~ten (10)~~ twenty-five (25) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
 - (b) ~~No more than~~ Up to ten (10) hours ~~shall~~ may be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
 - (c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) ~~and must be obtained live (in person).~~
 - (d) Every Podiatrist who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for acute pain management.

- (i) Beginning the biennium ending August 31, 2023, Podiatrists must certify on their renewal application that the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement has been met. Once completed, this specific CME requirement shall not be required for subsequent renewals.
 - (ii) Any controlled substance prescribing guidelines coursework that meets the requirements of this rule will count toward completion of this requirement provided that the podiatrist can submit documentation of such to the satisfaction of the Board.
 - (iii) Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.
- (3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license by reciprocity or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:
- (a) If the license was issued or reinstated during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from September of the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal in accordance with (2)(a-d) of this rule;
 - (b) If the license was issued or reinstated during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the even numbered year to February of the odd numbered year of the licensure period, thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for the license renewal;

 - (i) No more than five (5) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
 - (ii) Up to five (5) hours may be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
 - (iii) At least twenty (20) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).
 - (iv) Podiatrist who maintain an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances.

and controlled substance prescribing for pain management. Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.

- (c) If the license was issued or reinstated during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the odd numbered year to August of the odd numbered year, the licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennial licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.

~~(4) This rule shall become effective with the 2013–2015 renewal cycle.~~

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 500-5-.01

Authority: Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9 and 43-35-15.

Rule 500-5-.01. Continuing Education Hours. Amended

- (1) The purpose of continuing education hours for podiatrists is to maintain and enhance the professional competence of podiatrists licensed to practice in Georgia for the protection of the health and welfare of the people of the State of Georgia.
- (2) As a requirement for the biennial renewal of his/her license, a podiatrist must certify to the Georgia State Board of Podiatry Examiners the completion of not less than fifty (50) hours of approved continuing education in the preceding two (2) years prior to the license expiration date.
 - (a) No more than twenty-five (25) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
 - (b) Up to ten (10) hours may be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
 - (c) At least thirty (30) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).
 - (d) Every Podiatrist who maintains an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for acute pain management.
 - (i) Beginning the biennium ending August 31, 2023, Podiatrists must certify on their renewal application that the controlled substance prescribing CME requirement has been met. Once completed, this specific CME requirement shall not be required for subsequent renewals.
 - (ii) Any controlled substance prescribing guidelines coursework that meets the requirements of this rule will count toward completion of this requirement provided that the podiatrist can submit documentation of such to the satisfaction of the Board.
 - (iii) Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.
- (3) A podiatrist who has obtained a Georgia license by reciprocity, reinstatement or by examination, and who must renew his or her Georgia license for the first time, shall obtain the following number of continuing education hours prior to renewal of the license:

- (a) If the license was issued or reinstated during the first six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from September of the odd numbered year to the end of the following February, the full fifty (50) hours of continuing education shall be required for renewal in accordance with (2)(a-d) of this rule;
- (b) If the license was issued or reinstated during the following twelve (12) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the even numbered year to February of the odd numbered year of the licensure period, thirty (30) hours of continuing education shall be required for the license renewal;
 - (i) No more than five (5) hours shall be obtained from online courses/correspondence courses/webinar, and such courses must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME).
 - (ii) Up to five (5) hours may be obtained live (in person) from any healthcare related source.
 - (iii) At least twenty (20) continuing medical education hours must be approved by the Council of Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) and/or the Georgia Podiatric Medical Association (GPMA) and must be obtained live (in person).
 - (iv) Podiatrist who maintain an active DEA certificate and prescribes controlled substances, except those holding a residency training permit, shall complete, at least one time, three (3) hours of CME that is specifically designed to address controlled substance prescribing practices. The controlled substance prescribing CME shall include instruction on controlled substance prescribing guidelines, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, and controlled substance prescribing for pain management. Completion of this requirement may count toward the CME requirement for license renewal if submitted during the biennium in which the coursework was taken.
- (c) If the license was issued or reinstated during the last six (6) months of the biennial renewal period, from March of the odd numbered year to August of the odd numbered year, the licensee shall be exempt from the continuing education requirements for that biennial licensing cycle and no continuing education hours shall be required to renew the license.

Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 500-5-.01

Authority: Authority O.C.G.A. Secs. 43-1-4, 43-1-25, 43-35-9 and 43-35-15.