

**ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

**CHAPTER 700-X-2  
LICENSURE**

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**700-X-2-.01     Appropriate Education Required.**

(1) United States Educated Applicants. Each applicant for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant must have completed a program of physical therapy education appropriate for preparation as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, respectively, which is approved by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).

(2) Occupational licenses based on military education, training, or service. A member of the Armed Forces or reserves of the United States, the National Guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the naval militia of any state (hereinafter referred to collectively as military member) may petition any accredited college or university in accordance with Board rules to accept the education, training, or service completed by military member to count toward educational credits necessary to receive any degree required for licensure by statute or rule. When an applicant has successfully presented satisfactory evidence of said education, training or service, the board will accept and recognize any

degree earned by an applicant from an accredited college or university.

(3) Non-United States Educated Applicants.

(a) Statement of Policy. Foreign educated physical therapist applicants must demonstrate educational equivalency to United States educated physical therapists as measured by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

(b) Submission of Educational Credentials. Foreign educated physical therapist applicants shall submit their education credentials to:

FOREIGN CREDENTIALING COMMISSION ON PHYSICAL THERAPY (FCCPT)  
124 West St., South  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Fax: 703-684-8715

A copy of the evaluation by the credentials evaluating agency must be sent directly to the Board.

**Authors:** Alina Adams, Wiley Christian

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-193(a).

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982; effective September 15, 1982. **Amended:** January 3, 1990; Filed September 4, 1992; effective October 9, 1992. **Amended:** September 9, 1993; effective October 14, 1993. **Amended:** May 6, 1996; effective June 10, 1996. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed November 2, 2001; effective December 7, 2001. **Amended:** Filed May 12, 2003; effective June 16, 2003. **Amended:** Filed February 9, 2004; effective March 15, 2004. **Amended:** Filed April 3, 2006; effective May 8, 2006. **Amended:** Filed December 4, 2006; effective January 8, 2007. **Amended:** Filed November 18, 2009; effective December 23, 2009. **Amended:** Filed January 20, 2012; effective February 24, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020. **Amended:** Published May 28, 2021; effective July 12, 2021.

700-X-2-.02 Application Required.

(1) Application form. Each applicant for licensure shall complete an application form prescribed by the Board and supplied by the executive director.

(2) Documentation. The documents provided in this section must be received by the executive director before an application is considered complete.

(a) Applicants for Licensure.

1. The following must be submitted by the applicant:

(i) Completed application.

(ii) The required fees as prescribed by the Board.

(iii) Photographic identification with proof of citizenship or residency.

2. The following must be submitted directly to the Board by the appropriate person or entity:

(i) An official transcript of grades showing graduation or completion of the requisite physical therapy program. (Must be received prior to issuance of an annual license.)

(ii) Verification of all of applicant's licenses in other states as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant, if applicable.

(iii) For the applicant who holds a license in another state for more than one year, evidence of required continuing education.

(iv) Examination results. Applicants who took the examination between August 1965, and February 1991, must have passed each part of the examination, as well as the entire examination, by at least 1.5 sigma below the national mean. Applicants who took the examination between February 1991, and March 1993, must have passed the examination by at least 1.5 sigma below the national mean. Applicants who took the examination from March 1993, to the present must have passed the examination with a criterion referenced score of at least 600.

(b) Foreign-educated applicants.

1. The following must be submitted directly to the Board by the appropriate person or entity:

(i) A certified copy of the evaluation by the approved credentials evaluating agency of the applicant's education prior to application.

(ii) Any other certifying documents deemed necessary by the Board to establish professional status.

(iii) Photographic identification with proof of residency or citizenship.

**Authors:** Alina Adams, Wiley Christian

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-193(a).

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed November 29, 1989; Filed January 3, 1990; Filed September 4, 1992; effective October 9, 1992. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2012; effective October 25, 2012; Operative November 2, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020. **Amended:** Published May 28, 2021; effective July 12, 2021.

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**700-X-2-.03** **Application Fee Required.** A fee shall be required of all applicants for licensure. The fee shall be tendered in an appropriate method approved by the board. The application fee for spouses of active United States military personnel shall be waived upon receipt of appropriate documentation.

**Authors:** James R. Hobbs, Jr.; Anne H. Harrison; Robert L. Shoemake; Danny F. Sutter; Janice M. Goodwin, Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-211.

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**700-X-2-.04      Examinations Required.**

(1)            Examinations.

(a)            Each candidate for licensure must pass licensure examination approved by the Board.

(b)            The cost of the examinations is in addition to the application fee provided for in Rule 700-X-2-.03 and the payment should be made directly to the examination service.

(2)            Each candidate must register with FSBPT to take the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and select Alabama as the jurisdiction for which the applicant will be testing in order to have the first score sent to this state.

(3)            Scoring of Examinations.

(a)            Examinations shall be scored by and maintained on file by the appropriate examination service, and a record of the applicant's examination scores shall be kept by the Board.

(b)            Passing Score.

1.            Physical Therapist Applicants. Physical therapist applicants must pass the examinations with a score of at least 600.

2.            Physical Therapist Assistant Applicants. Physical therapist assistant applicants must pass the examinations with a score of at least 600.

(4)            Reexamination.

(a)            Any candidate who fails to pass the first licensure examination may reschedule for reexamination with the examination service. Applicant is responsible for all fees required by the examination service for reexamination.

(b) Applicants fee for licensure with the board remains valid until the candidate exhausts all opportunities to pass examinations under the established guidelines provided by the examination service.

**Authors:** James R. Hobbs, Jr.; Anne H. Harrison; Robert L. Shoemake; Danny F. Sutter; Janice M. Goodwin, Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-212, 34-24-216.

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**700-X-2-.05** **Licensure Without Examination.** Any individual licensed prior to 1978 who applies for licensure without examination under the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-214, must provide the Board with a copy of the law under which he/she was licensed and, where appropriate, have the licensing authority or appropriate score reporting service provide the Board with a copy of his/her examination scores.

**Authors:** James R. Hobbs, Jr.; Anne H. Harrison; Robert L. Shoemake; Danny F. Sutter; Janice M. Goodwin; Herbert R. Caillouet; Donald L. Hiltz; Bernard Harris; Vince Molyneux; John Cormier; Eric Dekle; Jay Segal; Mitzi Watson; Mary Jolley

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-215.

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed November 29, 1989. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed September 20, 2012; effective October 25, 2012; Operative November 2, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020.

**Ed. Note:** Previous Rule .06 was renumbered .05 per certification filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017.

**700-X-2-.06**     Issuance Of License. Each license shall be dated and numbered in the order of issuance and shall be signed by the chair and the executive director.

**Authors:** James R. Hobbs, Jr.; Anne H. Harrison; Robert L. Shoemake, Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris  
**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-213, 34-24-214, 34-24-215.

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**700-X-2-.07**     Temporary Licenses.

(1)           Upon application for licensure by qualified candidates under the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-215(b), and upon submission of documentation required by Rule 700-X-2-.02, a candidate shall be issued a temporary license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant. The temporary license shall be valid only until the first examination is scored and the Board determines whether a license shall be issued. Physical therapists practicing under a temporary license must be under the direct, on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist. Physical therapist assistants practicing under a temporary license must be under the direct, on-site supervision of a licensed physical therapist or a licensed physical therapist assistant, with the approval of the supervising physical therapist.

(2)           The Board shall issue a temporary license under the provisions of Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-215(a), upon application and payment of a fee not to exceed \$100.00, which fee shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Board.

(3)           Spouses of active United States military personnel who hold a valid license from another jurisdiction

shall be issued a temporary license upon application. The temporary license issued to the spouse shall be valid for up to 180 days or until an annual license is issued to the spouse.

**Authors:** Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-214.

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed March 9, 1995; effective April 13, 1995. **Amended:** Filed December 6, 1996; effective January 10, 1997. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed February 4, 2003; effective March 11, 2003. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020.

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#### 700-X-2-.08      Renewal Of License.

(1) Annual Renewal Required. Each license expires on October 1 of the year following its issuance.

(2) Renewal Fee Required. A renewal fee shall be required for annual renewal of license.

(3) Expired Renewal Fee. Anyone wishing to renew an expired license after November 1<sup>st</sup> of the license issuance year shall pay an Expired Renewal Fee. This Fee is in addition to the restoration fee set by Administrative Regulation 700-X-2-.09. After the five-year period, a license shall only be obtained by complying with the provisions relating to the issuance of an original license.

(4) Continuing Education Required. Continuing education activities are required to assure continued competency of licensees and thereby public protection. Successful completion of continuing education activities shall be a requirement for the renewal of licenses and for initial licensure without examination.

(5) Effective October 1, 2014, the Board does not pre-approve continuing education providers, sponsors or individual programs. It is the licensee's responsibility, using her/his professional judgment, to determine if the continuing



education activities they complete are applicable, appropriate, and meet the requirements of the Board. All continuing education offerings, regardless of source will be accepted provided that it is directly related to the licensee's practice of physical therapy and meets the following general guidelines.

(a) General Guidelines

1. Maintain, improve or expand skills or knowledge of the practice of physical therapy

2. Contribute to the professional competency of the licensee by means of an organized activity with clearly described or outlined course content, dates or timelines for completion, and times of instruction or activity engagement expectations

3. Pertain to common subjects related to the practice of physical therapy and are based upon referenced scientific evidence; practice-based evidence; case studies; clearly identified anecdotal experience; current or proposed regulation of practice; accepted professional guidelines; policy documents; or best practices

4. Conducted by experts in the subject matter - individuals with special education, training, and experience,

5. Include stated program goals/objectives.

6. Identify target audience or describes prerequisite levels of experience

7. Describe requirements for successful progression or completion when using self-directed methods of learning (i.e., self-study, online, video, audio, teleconference, etc.). Self-directed methods of instruction may utilize a post-test but cannot result in a pass/fail grade

8. Include a certificate or other sufficient proof of completion -For a concurrent session conference that does not provide documentation of individual session(s) completed, each individual course attended must be verified by having a conference official or course instructor sign or stamp the session description in the conference program if the conference does not use an automated format that allows for individual course verification

(b) Non-traditional continuing education activities shall have the following credit values:

1. Completion of physical therapy related academic coursework - awarded fifteen (15) hours of credit per semester hour completed

2. Participation in a physical therapy related clinical residency or fellowship program - awarded fifteen (15) hours of credit for each 1,000 hours completed

3. Completion of a physical therapy related specialty certification or recognition of advanced proficiency - awarded three (3) hours of credit for the initial certification or recognition and one (1) hour of credit for recertification or subsequent recognition

4. Publication in a peer-reviewed publication - awarded five (5) hours of credit for a book, three (3) hours of credit for a chapter or single author publication, or two (2) hours of credit for a multi-author publication

5. Teaching or lecturing in a physical therapy related continuing education activity - awarded two (2) hours per hour taught. Teaching or lecturing in the academic setting is also included, if teaching is not the licensee's primary occupation

6. Once every five (5) years, a formal internal or external peer review of practice, with verification of acceptable practice - awarded three (3) hours of credit

(c) Limited non-traditional continuing education activities are also permitted by the Board but shall not exceed forty percent (40%) of a licensee's total annual continuing education requirement and shall have the following credit values:

1. Publication in a peer-reviewed publication of an abstract, scientific review of a research paper, or book review - awarded one (1) hour of credit

2. Participation as a book or manuscript reviewer - awarded one (1) hour of credit

3. Database publication of a clinical practice guideline - awarded one (1) hour of credit

4. Authorship of a presented scientific poster or platform presentation - awarded one (1) hour of credit

5. Acting as the primary clinical instructor for CAPTE accredited PT or PTA program students - awarded one (1) hour for each 200 hours completed

6. Developing alternative media materials, including computer software, programs, and digital instructional materials - awarded one (1) hour for each project released for public access.

(d) Requirements

1. Each physical therapist and physical therapist assistant licensed to practice by this Board shall complete for each compliance period, a minimum of ten (10) hours of continuing education activities. One hour of continuing education is defined as 50 minutes of engagement in the continuing education activity. October 1 through September 30 of the next year shall constitute a compliance period.

(i) For the applicant who holds a license in another state for more than one year, they must demonstrate a total of ten (10) hours of acceptable continuing education in the twelve (12) months prior to application.

(ii) All applicants for licensure must complete two (2) hours of continuing education on the topic of Alabama physical therapy jurisprudence, covering both the Practice Act and the Administrative Code prior to the next year's license renewal.

(iii) With the exception of jurisprudence individuals licensed within one year of graduation from a CAPTE approved program will not be required to meet the continuing education requirements for initial licensure or the first renewal.

2. Beginning with the compliance period starting October 1, 2015, licensees shall begin retaining a record of completed courses for five (5) years, including an agenda, brochure or other documentation that substantiate how the activities meet the accepted general guidelines, as well as documentation to establish the completion of those activities. Licensees shall provide the Board a copy of their records, or grant access to any online recording and reporting system—the

licensee elects to use for purposes of the Board verifying completion of the continuing education requirements.

3. Continuing education hours earned by a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in excess of ten (10) hours during a compliance period, may be carried forward into the next compliance period; but, no more than ten (10) hours may be carried forward.

4. Beginning with the compliance period starting October 1, 2015, licensees complete at least two (2) hours of continuing education every fifth year on the topic of Alabama physical therapy jurisprudence, covering both the Practice Act and the Administrative Code. Both PTs and PTAs will be required to fulfill this requirement when renewing their license in years ending in zero (0) or five (5) (i.e., 2020, 2025, 2030, etc.).

(e) Unacceptable activities for continuing education:

1. Regularly scheduled education opportunities provided within the employment setting such as orientations, in-services, staff meetings, informal rounds, case conferences, equipment or procedural updates, CPR, blood-borne pathogens, etc.

2. Meetings for purposes of policy decisions

3. Non-educational meetings at annual conferences, chapter or organizational meetings

4. Entertainment or recreational meetings or activities

5. Committee meetings, holding office, serving as an organizational delegate

6. Visiting exhibits, poster presentations

7. Entry-level coursework, activities, or presentations made by the lay public or non-medical professionals

8. Activities of less than fifty (50) minutes duration

(f) Failure to Meet Requirement

1. No license will be renewed in the absence of satisfactory evidence that the required hours have been earned. The Board may consider exceptions in extenuating circumstances

2. Upon audit, the licensee is responsible for demonstrating that the completed continuing education activities were of an acceptable nature. Should an audited activity prove to be unacceptable the licensee will have sixty (60) days to successfully meet the continuing education expectations. Failure to meet the continuing education requirements within that timeframe will result in disciplinary action.

**Authors:** Alina Adams, Wiley Christian

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-193(a).

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**Ed. Note:** Previous Rule .09 was renumbered .08 per certification filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017.

**700-X-2-.09**     **Restoration Of License.** All licenses shall expire on the first day of October. Any person who permits his/her license to lapse past September 30 may restore the license upon application to the Board and submission of all fees due on or before November first. After November first, a restoration fee set by the board will be required, in addition to the expired renewal fee. Upon receipt of all fees

applicable, a license will be reinstated and restored effective the date that all fees are received in the board office.

**Authors:** Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris, Wiley J. Christian III, John Cormier, Ron Bass, Andy Gustafson, Mitzi Tuttle, Amy Hall Smith, Sonja Enfinger

**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §§34-24-193, 34-24-216.

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Amended:** Filed February 4, 2005; effective March 11, 2005. **Amended:** Filed March 7, 2007. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020.

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**700-X-2-.10      Lost Or Destroyed License Or Name Change.**

(1) Lost or destroyed license. Any licensee whose license is lost or destroyed may be issued a replacement license upon making application to the Board. Such application must be accompanied with the appropriate form and fee set by the board.

(2) Name change. Any licensee whose name is changed by marriage or court order shall provide proof of name change and apply for a replacement license within 60 days.

**Authors:** Herbert R. Caillouet, Donald L. Hiltz, Bernard Harris  
**Statutory Authority:** Code of Ala. 1975, §34-24-193.

**History:** Filed September 30, 1982. **Amended:** Filed July 14, 1998; effective August 18, 1998. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed May 12, 2017; effective June 26, 2017. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed December 18, 2018; effective February 1, 2019. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published May 29, 2020; effective July 31, 2020.

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**700-X-2-.11      Schedule Of Fees Set By The Board.**

Application Fee (PT or PTA)..... \$100

