



Washington State Board of Massage

Special Meeting Agenda
June 27, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

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Board Members

Heidi Williams, LMT, chair
Autumn Christina Straker, LMT, vice-chair
Annika Samuelsen, LMT
Chimere Figaire-Correa, LMT
Lynna Fuller, LMT
Sherise Gueck-Mckinney, LMT

Program Contact

Megan Maxey, Program Manager
Phone: (360) 236-4945
massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov

Open Public Meetings Act

This meeting is being held by webinar to comply with the use of telephonic access, electronic, internet, or other means for remote access that provides the ability for all persons attending the meeting to hear each other at the same time.

Times and Order

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this agenda is not subject to change.

Accessibility

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. Special aids and services can be made available upon advance request. If you wish to receive general information about this meeting, please call the program at 360-236-4912. If you need assistance with special needs and services, you may leave a message with that request at 800-525-0127 or 360-236-4052. TDD may also be accessed by calling the TDD relay service at 800-833-6388. If you need assistance due to a speech disability, Speech-to-Speech provides human voicers for people with difficulty being understood. The Washington Speech-to-Speech toll free access number is 877-833-6341.

Open Session – 8:30 A.M.

1. Call to Order – Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair

- 1.1. Introductions and Meeting Ground Rules.
- 1.2. Approval of the Agenda.

2. Public Forum

The purpose of the open forum is to provide the public an opportunity to address the board on issues of significance to or affecting massage and that are not related to topics for which a rules hearing is, was, or will be scheduled.

Members of the public who indicate an interest in speaking may share comments at this time. The board may limit the speaker's time based on the number of people interested in speaking.

3. Rules Workshop for WAC 246-830-035 – Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state applicants

- 3.1. Public Comment – Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There will be 15 minutes allotted for public comment.
- 3.2. The board will hold a rules workshop to examine and may consider making amendments to WAC 246-830-035 – Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state applicants.

4. Rules Workshop for WAC 246-830-430 – Education and training

- 4.1. Public Comment – Members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the board on this agenda item. There will be 15 minutes allotted for public comment.
- 4.2. The board will hold a rules workshop to examine and may consider making amendments to WAC 246-830-430 – Education and training.

5. Proposed Resolution for the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board's (FSMTB) Annual Meeting – Megan Maxey

Board members will review a draft resolution and make a decision about proposing it to the member boards at the FSMTB's 2023 annual meeting.

6. Adjournment – Heidi Williams, LMT, Chair

Next Business Meeting

Date: July 14, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Webinar with a physical location in Olympia/Tumwater

WAC 246-830-035 Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state

applicants. (1) ~~A massage therapist applicant holding a~~
~~massage license in another state or foreign jurisdiction may be~~
~~granted a Washington massage license if:~~The education of all
massage therapy applicants seeking licensure by endorsement will
be evaluated with the state's or foreign jurisdiction's
education requirement for a massage license. The hours earned
in the massage education and training program completed by the
applicant will not be taken into consideration in the
evaluation.

(2) A massage therapist applicant who holds an active and
unrestricted massage therapy license in another state or foreign
jurisdiction may be granted a Washington massage license if:

(a) ~~The board determines the other state's, territory's, or~~
~~foreign jurisdiction's~~in which the applicant holds an active
and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure
~~education and training requirements are substantially equivalent~~
~~to Washington's. Substantial equivalency means a course of study~~
~~at a massage school or massage program that requires:~~

~~(i) A~~a minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training~~, to be completed in no fewer than twenty-four weeks and~~from a massage school or massage program that is approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state~~, territory,~~ or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; or

~~(ii) The state or foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure less than six hundred and twenty-five hours of massage therapy education and training from a massage school or massage program that is~~A minimum of five hundred hours of education and training, and approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state~~, territory,~~ or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation, and the applicant can substantiate the following:

(i) At least two years of massage therapy practice within the three years prior to making application; and

(ii) Completion of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education related to the practice of massage therapy within two

~~years prior to making application. at least two years of experience, and documentation of at least twenty four hours of continuing education within two years prior to making application.~~

Commented [MM(1): What additional requirements does the board want to include?

Commented [MM(2R1): Previous discussion included:

- Ethics CE
- What qualifies as 2 years experience?
- School's accreditation in lieu of 2 years experience and CE (would need to define accreditation)

(b)3) All massage therapy applicants applying through licensure by endorsement who have not practiced for three or more years prior to making application must provide documentation of twenty-four hours of hands on continuing education of massage therapy for the two most recent years prior to making application.~~The applicant has a massage license in good standing as verified by the appropriate jurisdiction; and~~

~~(c) If there is a gap in practice of three or more years immediately prior to applying for a license by endorsement, the applicant must provide documentation of twenty four hours of hands on continuing education of massage therapy for the two most recent years prior to making application.~~

(24) If an applicant does not meet the requirements of this section, then the applicant may fulfill the remaining education and training requirements as outlined in WAC 246-830-037.

(35) The applicant must have successfully passed one of the following examinations:

(a) Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards massage and bodywork licensing examination (MBLEx);

(b) National certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork; or

(c) A board-approved examination.

(46) The applicant must satisfy the requirements in WAC 246-830-020 (1)(a) through (4g).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-035, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-035, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-830-035, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1). WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-035, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94.]

WAC 246-830-035 Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state

applicants. (1) The education of all massage therapy applicants seeking licensure by endorsement will be evaluated with the state's or foreign jurisdiction's education requirement for a massage license. The hours earned in the massage education and training program completed by the applicant will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation.

(2) A massage therapist applicant who holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license in another state or foreign jurisdiction may be granted a Washington massage license if:

(a) The state or foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure a minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training from a massage school or massage program that is approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; or

(b) The state or foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure less than six hundred and twenty-

five hours of massage therapy education and training from a massage school or massage program that is approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation, and the applicant can substantiate the following:



(i) At least two years of massage therapy practice within the three years prior to making application; and

(ii) Completion of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education related to the practice of massage therapy within two years prior to making application.

(3) All massage therapy applicants applying through licensure by endorsement who have not practiced for three or more years prior to making application must provide documentation of twenty-four hours of hands on continuing education of massage therapy for the two most recent years prior to making application.

(4) If an applicant does not meet the requirements of this section, then the applicant may fulfill the remaining education and training requirements as outlined in WAC 246-830-037.

(5) The applicant must have successfully passed one of the following examinations:

(a) Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards massage and bodywork licensing examination (MBLEx);

(b) National certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork; or

(c) A board-approved examination.

(6) The applicant must satisfy the requirements in WAC 246-830-020 (1)(a) through (g).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-035, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-035, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-830-035, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1). WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-035, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94.]

WAC 246-830-035 Licensing by endorsement for out-of-state applicants.

Licensure by endorsement current language	Licensure by endorsement – proposed draft
	(1) The education of all massage therapy applicants seeking licensure by endorsement will be evaluated with the state's or foreign jurisdiction's education requirement for a massage license. The hours earned in the massage education and training program completed by the applicant will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation.
(1) A massage therapist applicant holding a massage license in another state or foreign jurisdiction may be granted a Washington massage license if:	(2) A massage therapist applicant who holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license in another state or foreign jurisdiction may be granted a Washington massage license if:
(a) The board determines the other state's, territory's, or foreign jurisdiction's education and training requirements are substantially equivalent to Washington's. Substantial equivalency means a course of study at a massage school or massage program that requires:	
(i) A minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training, to be completed in no fewer than twenty-four weeks and approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state, territory, or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; or	(a) The state or foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure a minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training from a massage school or massage program that is approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation; or
(ii) A minimum of five hundred hours of education and training, and approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state, territory, or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation, at least two years of experience, and documentation of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education within two years prior to making application.	(b) The state or foreign jurisdiction in which the applicant holds an active and unrestricted massage therapy license requires for licensure less than six hundred and twenty-five hours of massage therapy education and training from a massage school or massage program that is approved by the equivalent licensing agency or agencies in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which it is located at the time of applicant's graduation, and the applicant can substantiate the following:
	(i) At least two years of massage therapy practice within the three years prior to making application; and
	(ii) Completion of at least twenty-four hours of continuing education related to the practice of massage therapy within two years prior to making application.
(b) The applicant has a massage license in good standing as verified by the appropriate jurisdiction; and	
(c) If there is a gap in practice of three or more years immediately prior to applying for a license by endorsement, the applicant must provide documentation	(3) All massage therapy applicants applying through licensure by endorsement who have not practiced for three or more years prior to making application must

of twenty-four hours of hands on continuing education of massage therapy for the two most recent years prior to making application.	provide documentation of twenty-four hours of hands on continuing education of massage therapy for the two most recent years prior to making application.
(2) If an applicant does not meet the requirements of this section, then the applicant may fulfill the remaining education and training requirements as outlined in WAC 246-830-037.	(4) If an applicant does not meet the requirements of this section, then the applicant may fulfill the remaining education and training requirements as outlined in WAC 246-830-037.
<p>(3) The applicant must have successfully passed one of the following examinations:</p> <p>(a) Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards massage and bodywork licensing examination;</p> <p>(b) National certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork; or</p> <p>(c) A board-approved examination.</p>	<p>(5) The applicant must have successfully passed one of the following examinations:</p> <p>(a) Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards massage and bodywork licensing examination (MBLEx);</p> <p>(b) National certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork; or</p> <p>(c) A board-approved examination.</p>
(4) The applicant must satisfy the requirements in WAC 246-830-020 (1)(a) through (h).	(6) The applicant must satisfy the requirements in WAC 246-830-020 (1)(a) through (g)



PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

CR-101 (October 2017)
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)

Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: May 24, 2023

TIME: 1:32 PM

WSR 23-12-002

Agency: Board of Massage and the Department of Health

Subject of possible rule making: WAC 246-830-430 Education and training. The Board of Massage (board) in coordination with the Department of Health (department) is considering amendments to the education and training rule to include parameters on online and virtual education and adding health equity awareness training to initial licensure requirements for new massage licensees.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 18.108.025 and 18.108.085

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish: To address the difficulties related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic that impacted massage therapy schools, in March 2020, the board allowed all massage programs to continue to operate their board-approved program in a distance learning format upon approval by and in accordance with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board's requirements. Hybrid massage programs continue to operate, but no rules exist to guide a school on what topics or how many hours may be in a virtual/online/remote format versus what must be in person.

In 2021, the legislature passed Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5229 concerning health equity continuing education for health care professionals codified as RCW 43.70.613 which directs the rule-making authority for each health profession licensed under Title 18 RCW subject to continuing education to adopt rules requiring a licensee to complete health equity continuing education training at least once every four years. The board is addressing this in a current rules project initiated under a notice filed as WSR 23-01-132. In addition to requiring health equity courses for continuing education, the board would also like to consider adding health equity awareness to initial education and training requirements for licensure.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies: None.

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):

- ☐ Negotiated rule making
- ☐ Pilot rule making
- ☐ Agency study
- ☒ Other (describe) Collaborative Rule Making

Interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication by contacting:

Name: Megan Maxey
Address: PO Box 47852
Olympia, WA 98504-7852
Phone: 360-236-4945
Fax: 360-236-2901
TTY: 711
Email: megan.maxey@doh.wa.gov

(If necessary)

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:

Web site: www.doh.wa.gov/massage
Other: massage.therapy@doh.wa.gov

Web site:
Other:

Additional comments: Interested parties can participate in the drafting of the proposed rules. Rules workshops will be conducted with interested parties and subject matter experts. Existing GovDelivery lists and other known contact information will be used to inform interested parties of opportunities to provide input on proposed rule language. To find out more information about our rulemaking, visit www.doh.wa.gov. To subscribe to GovDelivery, please visit www.doh.wa.gov, and select the "Subscribe" button at the bottom of the page. After signing in, please click open the box labeled "Health Systems Quality Assurance." Next click open the box labeled "Health Professions" and then click on "Board of Massage" You may also check the box next to one or more of the other professions listed to receive information related to that specific profession.

Date: May 24, 2023

Name: Heidi Williams, LMT | Kristin Peterson, JD for
Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH

Title: Board of Massage Chairperson | DOH Chief of
Policy for Secretary of Health

Signature:

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Heidi Williams' and the second, on the right, is 'Kristin Peterson'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

WAC 246-830-430 Education and training. (1) A massage school, massage program, transfer program, or apprenticeship program education and training must have a curriculum and system of education and training consistent with its particular area of practice. The education and training in massage therapy will consist of a minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours. An hour of education and training is defined as fifty minutes of actual instructional time. Certification in American Red Cross first aid and American Heart Association CPR or the equivalent is required. CPR training must be in person. This requirement is in addition to the six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training in massage therapy. These six hundred twenty-five hours are to be completed in no fewer than twenty-four weeks and must consist of the following minimum requirements:

(a) Ninety hours of anatomy and physiology, to include orientation to the human body, and the integumentary, skeletal, fascial, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular and other body systems.

(b) Sixty hours of kinesiology to include muscle identification and palpation, location and attachment(s), actions, range of motion, and joint classification and function.

(c) Seventy hours of pathology to include general terminology and classification of diseases, the indications, contraindications, cautions and common adaptations to massage including, but not limited to, arthritis, bursitis, cancer, headaches, skin cancer and other skin conditions, diabetes, fasciitis, sprain, strain, tendinopathy, nerve compression syndromes, osteoporosis, stress, fibromyalgia and other chronic pain syndromes, common neurological diseases, autoimmune disorders, bloodborne pathogens, common cardiovascular diseases, reproductive systems, pregnancy, and any other health care issues as they relate to the practice of massage as defined in RCW 18.108.010.

(d) Two hundred sixty hours of theory, principles, and practice of massage to include history of massage, benefits and effects, techniques and strokes, body mechanics of the therapist, application methods and styles, concepts of basic research, session planning and the adaptation of techniques

appropriate to stages of healing, to include the safe use of superficial heat, cold, lubricants and salts, and considerations relevant to special populations.

(e) Fifty hours of mandatory student clinic to be directly supervised as defined in WAC 246-830-005(9) and in accordance with WAC 246-830-420 (1)(d), with a ratio of no less than one instructor to no more than six students who are actively performing massage. For those education and training programs beyond six hundred twenty-five hours, in no case may the number of student clinic hours exceed seventy-five hours.

(f) Fifty-five hours of clinical/business practices, at a minimum to include hygiene, sanitation, draping, recordkeeping, billing and insurance concepts, medical terminology, business models and management, and laws and rules relevant to massage and massage businesses.

(g) Forty hours of professional ethics to include the therapeutic relationship of the massage therapist and client or patient, human behavior, communication skills, professional boundaries, standards of ethical practice, and state laws and rules related to massage and health care ethics.

(2) To receive credit in an apprenticeship program for previous education and training, this education and training must have been completed within the five-year period prior to enrollment in the apprenticeship program.

(3) Only a board approved transfer program may exempt a student from curriculum requirements and grant credit or clock hours when the student's successful performance on an examination that the transfer program or apprenticeship program administers demonstrates that the student has attained competency in that subject area as a result of prior postsecondary learning or training. Any credits or clock hours granted pursuant to this subsection must be documented and retained in the student's record.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-430, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-430, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1). WSR 95-11-108, § 246-830-430, filed 5/23/95, effective 6/23/95; WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-430, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025. WSR 92-15-153 (Order 291B),

§ 246-830-430, filed 7/22/92, effective 8/22/92; WSR 91-01-077 (Order 102B), recodified as § 246-830-430, filed 12/17/90, effective 1/31/91; WSR 88-13-038 (Order PM 739), § 308-51A-040, filed 6/9/88.]



Permitted Online Education

(as of 12/29/2022)

Jurisdiction	Initial Hours Required	Amount of Online Education Permitted for Initial Education	Amount of Online Education Permitted for CE
Alabama	650	No Online Education Permitted	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations
Alaska	625	80% Online Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Arizona	700	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted (going back to 50% in 2023)
Arkansas	500	No Online Education Permitted	6 of 18 Hours Permitted Online
California	500	190/500 Hours Permitted Online	CE Not Required
Colorado	500	No Limit to Online Hours in Regulations	CE Not Required
Connecticut	750	No Online Education Permitted	25% Online Permitted
Delaware	500	No Online Education Permitted	50% Online Permitted
District of Columbia	500	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Florida	500	40% Online Education Permitted	50% Online Permitted
Georgia	500	No Online Education Permitted	50% Online Permitted
Hawaii	570	150/570 Hours Permitted Online	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations
Idaho	500	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Illinois	600	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations
Indiana	625	No Online Education is Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Iowa	600	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	50% Online Permitted
Kansas	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	Not Regulated
Kentucky	600	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations
Louisiana	500	No Online Education Permitted for the 500 Required Hours (any over 500 may be online)	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations

Jurisdiction	Initial Hours Required	Amount of Online Education Permitted for Initial Education	Amount of Online Education Permitted for CE
Maine	500	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations (100 Hours of Hands-On Education Required, But This is Not Defined)	CE Not Required
Maryland	600	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	100% Online Permitted
Massachusetts	650	50% Online Permitted	CE Not Required
Michigan	625	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	100% Online Permitted
Minnesota	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	Not Regulated
Mississippi	500	Theory Classes Allowed Online	100% Online Permitted
Missouri	500	Online Education Accepted (amount not specified in rules/regulations)	Online Education Accepted (amount not specified in rules/regulations)
Montana	500	60% Online Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Nebraska	1,000	Online Education Accepted (amount not specified in rules/regulations)	50% Online Permitted
Nevada	550	205/550 Hours Permitted Online	100% Online Permitted
New Hampshire	750	Online Education Accepted (amount not specified in rules/regulations)	100% Online Permitted
New Jersey	500	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations (says hours need to be in-class study, but this is not defined)	6/20 Hours Permitted Online
New Mexico	650	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations (says small amount of hours can be via a CE provider, which can be partially online)	50% Online Permitted
New York	1,000	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted
North Carolina	500	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted Until 2024
North Dakota	750	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	10/24 Hours Permitted Online
Ohio	600	50% Online Permitted	CE Not Required
Oklahoma	500	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	100% Online Permitted

Jurisdiction	Initial Hours Required	Amount of Online Education Permitted for Initial Education	Amount of Online Education Permitted for CE
Oregon	625	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations (says all hours must be “contact” hours, but this is not defined)	100% Online Permitted
Pennsylvania	600	No Online Education Permitted	8/24 Hours Permitted Online
Rhode Island	500	No Online Education Permitted	Not Specified In Rules/Regulations
South Carolina	500	No Online Education Permitted	100% Online Permitted
South Dakota	500	60% Online Permitted	100% Online Permitted
Tennessee	500	No Online Education Permitted	8/24 Hours Permitted Online
Texas	500	250 Theory Hours Allowed Online	Online Education Accepted (amount not specified in rules/regulations)
Utah	600	A minimum of 200 hours must be in-person, and the rest appear to be permitted online	CE Not Required
Vermont	Registration Only	N/A	N/A
Virginia	500	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	Appears to Allow for 100% Online
Washington	625	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations	16/24 Hours Permitted Online
West Virginia	500	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations (says supervised hours, but does not define this)	Not Specified in Rules/Regulations
Wisconsin	600	Not Specified in Rules/Regulation (says classroom hours, but this is not defined)	100% Online Permitted
Wyoming	Not Regulated	Not Regulated	Not Regulated

****Methodology:**

This information is based on (1) a review of each jurisdiction’s statutes and regulations, and (2) information FSMTB received from the jurisdiction’s massage therapy board.

“Not Specified” indicates that the jurisdictions did not have specified limitations in statutes or regulations and/or from which FSMTB did not receive a response from the massage therapy board.



Resolution 2023-

Title of Resolution: Successful Completion of an Approved Massage Therapy Education Program as a prerequisite for eligibility to take the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination

Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution: Washington State Board of Massage

WHEREAS, the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) is a not-for-profit organization whose membership is comprised of the government boards statutorily created and delegated with the authority to regulate the profession of massage therapy in the interest of public protection; and

WHEREAS, FSMTB provides programs and services designed to promote uniformity and lessen burdens on the member boards while respecting the rights of each jurisdiction to regulate the profession; and

WHEREAS, FSMTB develops, administers, scores, and maintains a uniform entry-level competence assessment program known as the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) and owns the intellectual property rights in the MBLEx; and

WHEREAS, the MBLEx is statistically validated and consistent with industry standards in assessing entry-level competence; and

WHEREAS, the MBLEx is an essential assessment examination used as part of massage therapy licensure requirements and it is vital that the MBLEx be subject to rigorous security and eligibility criteria that protect the examination from exposure to candidates that do not otherwise meet the licensure requirements set forth by the relevant laws; and

WHEREAS, on top of additional criteria, applicants for licensure as massage therapists are required to successfully complete an approved massage therapy education program and pass the MBLEx; and

WHEREAS, eligibility to take the MBLEx under FSMTB policies is currently premised upon an attestation of enrollment in and completion of coursework in all subject areas of the MBLEx Content Outline or graduation from an Approved Massage Therapy Education Program; and

WHEREAS, the current FSMTB policies create challenging issues related to determining eligibility to take the MBLEx including untimely verifications from education programs, inconsistent documentation, untruthful submissions, and fraud; and

WHEREAS, the current FSMTB policies unnecessarily expose the MBLEx to persons who may not otherwise qualify for licensure thus constituting a security risk; and

WHEREAS there has been an increased number of transcripts submitted for licensure that do not coincide with the education program identified by the applicant on the MBLEx score report; and

WHEREAS, allowing candidates who have registered for the MBLEx and who untruthfully identify their massage therapy education program adversely affects the pass/fail and retest rates credited to the identified school.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) amend its policies to require successful completion of an Approved Massage Therapy Education Program as a prerequisite for eligibility to take the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the FSMTB further amend its policies and require Approved Massage Therapy Education Programs to timely submit evidence to FSMTB of successful completion of the Approved Massage Therapy Education Program on behalf of candidates seeking access to the MBLEx and provide for methods of enforcement up to and including denial of access to the MBLEx: and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Member Boards of the FSMTB direct that these modifications become effective as soon as practicable but no later than the 2024 FSMTB Annual Meeting and also acknowledges the flexibility needed for the Board of Directors to reasonably transition to these requirements.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

See attached Current and Proposed Massage Education Policy.

FSMTB should communicate this policy change as soon as practicable to massage therapy schools, programs, and MBLEx applicants via the FSMTB website, the MBLEx Candidate Handbook, and as otherwise appropriate.

FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED, IF NECESSARY

No significant financial resources are needed to implement this policy change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: As soon as practicable but no later than the 2024 FSMTB Annual Meeting



CURRENT

FSMTB Massage Education Policy

Effective July 1, 2017, candidates seeking access to the MBLEx are required to substantiate either:

a. enrollment in and having received education and training in all subject areas of the MBLEx Content Outline from an approved massage therapy education program; or

b. graduation from an approved massage therapy education program.

Substantiation documentation must be submitted to FSMTB directly from the education program.

An approved massage therapy education program is one that is approved or recognized by the state board or agency authorized to regulate massage therapy in the state in which the school is located.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, shall apply. In the event of a conflict between the state board/agency and department of education, the approval or recognition of the massage therapy board/agency shall prevail.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, and there is no approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, the massage therapy education program must obtain approval from FSMTB.

In states that do not require the MBLEx, eligibility for examination is determined by FSMTB.



CURRENT~~PROPOSED~~ **FSMTB Massage Education Policy**

Effective _____, ~~2024~~July 1, 2017, candidates seeking access to the MBLEx® are required to substantiate ~~either~~ successful completion of an approved massage therapy education program as a prerequisite for eligibility to take the MBLEx.

~~a. enrollment in and having received education and training in all subject areas of the MBLEx Content Outline from an approved massage therapy education program; or~~

~~— b. graduation from an approved massage therapy education program.~~ Substantiation documentation, such as a transcript, must be submitted to FSMTB directly from the massage therapy education program.

An approved massage therapy education program is one that is approved or recognized by the state board or agency authorized to regulate massage therapy in the state in which the school is located.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, shall apply. In the event of a conflict between the state board/agency and department of education, the approval or recognition of the massage therapy board/agency shall prevail.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, and there is no approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, the massage therapy education program must obtain approval from FSMTB.

In states that do not require the MBLEx, eligibility for examination is determined by FSMTB.



PROPOSED FSMTB Massage Education Policy

Effective _____, 2024, candidates seeking access to the MBLEx® are required to substantiate successful completion of an approved massage therapy education program as a prerequisite for eligibility to take the MBLEx.

Substantiation documentation, such as a transcript, must be submitted to FSMTB directly from the massage therapy education program.

An approved massage therapy education program is one that is approved or recognized by the state board or agency authorized to regulate massage therapy in the state in which the school is located.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, shall apply. In the event of a conflict between the state board/agency and department of education, the approval or recognition of the massage therapy board/agency shall prevail.

In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, and there is no approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state in which the school is located, the massage therapy education program must obtain approval from FSMTB.

In states that do not require the MBLEx, eligibility for examination is determined by FSMTB.