

206. Licensure by Endorsement for Physical Therapists

The purpose of this rule is to delineate the requirements for licensure by endorsement for physical therapists pursuant to section 12-41-109, C.R.S. In order to be qualified for licensure by endorsement, an applicant is required to demonstrate that he/she does not currently have a revoked, suspended, restricted, or conditional license to practice as a physical therapist, or is currently pending disciplinary action against such license in another state or territory of the United States. An applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- A. Graduated from an accredited physical therapy program within the past 2 years and passed the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).
- B. Practiced in the United States as a licensed physical therapist for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application.
- C. If an applicant has not practiced as a licensed physical therapist for at least 2 of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application, then he/she is required to have passed the NPTE, or its equivalent, and may demonstrate competency through successful completion of 1 of the following:
 1. Complete 60 points of Professional Development Activities (PDA) pursuant to Rule 213(C)(2)(a-c) during the 2 years immediately preceding the application.
 - a. An applicant seeking to demonstrate competency through this pathway shall:
 - i. Complete the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's (FSBPT) online continuing education competence learning and assessment tool (oPTion) or a comparable objective third-party assessment that compares a licensee's knowledge, skills, and abilities to the standards for entry-level practice accepted by the Board; and
 - ii. Successfully complete 60 Category I points, directly related to the physical therapist's clinical practice and address any areas of deficiencies identified in the objective third-party assessment.
 - b. The applicant must submit the results of the objective third-party assessment and the corresponding 60 Category I points for Board consideration within 1 year of completing the objective third-party assessment.
 2. Successfully complete a Board authorized internship.
 - a. An applicant seeking to demonstrate competency through an internship shall:
 - i. Arrange for a Colorado-licensed, practicing physical therapist (the "supervising physical therapist") to supervise the internship; and
 - ii. Ensure that the supervising physical therapist immediately notifies the Board in writing of the establishment of the internship and submits for the Board's approval a plan for supervision using the most current version of the "Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument" (CPI) or a comparable objective third-party assessment that compares a licensee's knowledge, skills, and abilities to standards for entry-level practice accepted by the Board.

b. The internship shall not commence without the Board's written approval of the supervising physical therapist's plan for supervision specified in subparagraph (2)(c) of this rule.

c. The internship shall consist of:

i. The applicant's actual practice of physical therapy as defined in section 12-41-103(6), C.R.S.;

ii. Supervision of the applicant at all times by any Colorado-licensed, practicing physical therapist on the premises where physical therapy services are being rendered; and

iii. A minimum of 240 hours clinical practice within a consecutive 6-month period commencing from the Board's written approval of the plan for supervision.

d. The applicant shall ensure that the supervising physical therapist files a written report at the completion of the internship. This report must indicate whether the applicant demonstrates entry-level performance in all skills assessed by the CPI or comparable objective third-party assessment. Hard copy or electronic copies of the CPI or comparable objective third-party assessment are acceptable.

D. An applicant who is unable to demonstrate competency under sections A, B, or C of this rule may request to demonstrate competency by any other means. The Board shall consider such a request on a case-by-case basis. The decision to approve such a request shall be at the sole discretion of the Board. In considering whether to approve such a request, the Board shall consider public safety, the particular circumstances and hardships faced by the applicant, and such other factors as the Board deems appropriate. If the Board grants a license under this section D, the Board may subject said license to such lawful conditions as the Board finds are necessary to protect the public.

E. On or after January 1, 2019, applicant must submit fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Colorado Bureau of Investigation responsible for retaining the state's criminal records set forth in Section 24-60-3702 (3) (B).