

303. Certification by Examination for Physical Therapist Assistants

The purpose of this rule is to delineate the requirements for certification by examination for physical therapist assistants pursuant to section 12-41-205, C.R.S.

- A. An applicant is required to demonstrate that he/she has successfully completed a physical therapy program pursuant to Rule 204 or a physical therapist assistant program that is either:
 - 1. Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency pursuant to Rule 103; or
 - 2. Substantially equivalent pursuant to Rule 304.
- B. If applying to take the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE), an applicant:
 - 1. Must have successfully completed a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program, or be eligible to graduate within 90 days of a program pursuant to section A of this rule; and
 - 2. Must meet the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's (FSBPT) current eligibility requirements in effect at the time of registering for the NPTE, including any exam retake or low score limit policies.
- C. An applicant for certification by examination must graduate from a physical therapy or physical therapist assistant program pursuant to section A of this rule and pass the NPTE within the 2 years immediately preceding the date of the application.
- D. An applicant who is unable to meet the requirements under section 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 certification under this section D, the Board may subject said certification 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), C.R.S.