

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULES,  
490-2-.02 LICENSURE: EXAMINATION.,  
490-4.02 CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS., AND  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING.**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter "Board") proposes amendments to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy Rules, Chapter 490-2 and Chapter 490-4 (hereinafter "proposed amendments").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed amendments and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments, is being mailed to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a mailing list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendments may 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. These documents will also be available for review on the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy's web page at [www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pt](http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/pt). Copies may also be requested by contacting the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 4, 2010 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendments. At 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 should be concise and will be limited to 5 minutes per person. Additional comments should be presented in writing. Written comments are welcome. To ensure their consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 27, 2010. Written comments should be addressed to Randall D. Vaughn, Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, and 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. FAX: 866-888-1308

The proposed rule amendments will be considered for adoption by the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:35 a.m. on May 4, 2010 at the Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Georgia Board of Physical Therapy has the authority to adopt the proposed rule amendment to these rules pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-1, 43-1-3, 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-16, 43-33-17, and 43-33-18.

At its meeting on March 9, 2010, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of these amendments do not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes

the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ §§ 43-1-1, 43-1-3, 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-16, 43-33-17, and 43-33-18.

Additionally, at its meeting March 9, 2010 the Board considered whether it is legal or feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ §§ 43-1-1, 43-1-3, 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-16, 43-33-17, and 43-33-18 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a) (3) (A), (B), (C) and (D). The Board will consider whether the formulation and adoption of this proposed rule amendment will impact every licensee in the same manner when small businesses are independently owned and operated and not dominant in their respective fields of licensure. The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed, owned and operated and dominant in the field of physical therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at 478-207-2440.

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

This 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

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Randall D. Vaughn  
Division Director  
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: March 10, 2010

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE  
490-2-.02 LICENSURE: EXAMINATION.**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to outline the requirements for proof of graduation necessary to be considered for Georgia licensure.

Main Feature: The main feature of the proposed rule amendment outlines the requirements for proof of graduation necessary to be considered for Georgia licensure.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE.  
490-2-.02 LICENSURE: EXAMINATION.**

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

**490-2-.02 Licensure: Examination.**

(1) All physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are required to submit a completed application, the appropriate fee, and pass an examination for licensure to practice the profession in Georgia except as provided for in O.C.G.A. Sec. 43-33-15. The Board may at its discretion grant a license to an applicant who has previously taken and completed, within the requirements as set by the Board, the examination required.

(a) All applicants who are graduates of Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) accredited schools and are applying for licensure must submit:

1. passing scores from the national licensing examination; and
2. passing scores from examination on the laws governing the practice of physical therapy in Georgia and the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy; and
3. ~~official transcript~~ official proof of graduation directly from the institution granting the entry level degree in physical therapy or physical therapist assistant indicating the date of graduation.

(b) Verification of licensure in all states in which the licensure candidate holds a license or has ever held a license may be conducted by board staff.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-1, 43-1-3, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10 to 43-33-14, 43-33-17, and 43-33-18.

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE FOR  
490-4-.02 CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

Purpose: Provides additional clarification on acceptable continuing competency requirements.

Main Feature: Provides additional clarification on acceptable continuing competency requirements.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED  
AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE.  
490-4-.02 CONTINUING COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS.**

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

**490-4-.02 Continuing Competence Requirements.**

(1) The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy requires each licensed physical therapist and physical therapist assistant to participate in a minimum number of thirty (30) clock hours of experience per licensure period to promote continuing competence. The Board has defined the requirements for competence as planned learning experiences which the licensee can show is intended to increase their present skill level and that the content is beyond the licensees' present level of knowledge and competence, which may be subject to audit by the board. Content of the experience must relate to patient care in physical therapy whether the subject is research, treatment, documentation, education, management, or some other content area. The purpose of this requirement is to assist in assuring safe and effective practices in the provision of physical therapy services to the citizens of Georgia. In the event that a licensee does not meet this requirement, the license will not be renewed.

(a) Continuing competence requirements may be met through the mechanisms identified in the categories, Class I and Class II.

(b) The thirty (30) hours of continuing competence requirements per biennium include a minimum of four (4) contact hours specifically in ethics and jurisprudence as defined in the Georgia Physical Therapy Act or by passage of the Georgia Jurisprudence Examination. Passage of the examination is equivalent to the four (4) hour requirement.

(c) The total hours required biennially for continuing competence may be distributed between Class I and Class II activities. A maximum of 10 hours may be obtained through Class II activities. All required hours may be met through Class I activities. Competence credit is the clock hours spent in an activity except as noted below. Any Class I activity without a stated maximum number of hours may be used to accrue all required hours.

(d) A maximum of ten (10) continuing competence credit hours will be accepted per calendar day.

(e) Additional information pertaining to continuing competency requirements may be found on the Board's current policies.

(f) On-line/web-based classes can be Class I or Class II dependent upon course content.

(2) Class I and Class II acceptable continuing competence credit shall be awarded to programs sponsored by Continuing Competence providers as noted in the board by policy, provided that the content is beyond the licensee's present level of knowledge and competence which may be subject to audit by the Board.

(3) Unacceptable activities for continuing competence include, **but are not limited to:**

(a) Orientation and in-service programs;

(b) Meetings for purposes of policy decisions;

(c) Non-educational meeting at annual association, chapter or organization meetings;

(d) Entertainment or recreational meeting or activities;

(e) Committee meetings, holdings of offices, serving as an organization delegate;

(f) Visiting exhibits;

(g) CPR.

(4) Continuing competence requirements shall apply within the first biennium that a physical therapist/physical therapist assistant is licensed in Georgia. However, licensees who have graduated during the current renewal biennium and who have passed the National Physical Therapy Examination are exempt from the continuing competence requirement during the biennium in which they have graduated and successfully passed the exam.

(5) Individuals licensed during the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period will not be required to meet continuing competence requirements for that biennium.

(6) Individuals who have been reinstated within the last six (6) months of a biennium renewal period may use the continuing competence coursework used for reinstatement, thereby making them exempt from the requirement for that biennium renewal period.

(7) Those licensees selected for audit shall submit the Verification of Continuing Competence form and documentation of compliance upon receipt of notice. Acceptable documentation shall include:

(a) An official program or outline of the course attended or taught or a copy of the publication which clearly shows that the objectives and content were related to patient care in physical therapy and shows the number of contact hours, as appropriate. The information also should clearly identify the licensee's responsibility in teaching or authorship; and,

(b) A certificate or verification of completion of home study which identifies the sponsoring entity or maintain a copy of the final grade report in the case of a University credit course(s), or specialization certificate, or proof of attendance with a copy of the program for the other acceptable activities, or documentation of self-instruction or reading professional literature; or,

(c) Verification of a peer review of practice with verification of acceptable practice by a recognized entity. An example of a recognized entity is the American Physical Therapy Association Board Policy (See APTA Policy G03-05-15-40).

(8) Responsibilities of the Licensee:

(a) To maintain the documents identified in number (5) above for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period. These records should be maintained in the licensee's personal files for no less than three (3) years from the beginning date of the licensure period through the even numbered year after the license is renewed.

(b) To submit a properly completed and notarized "Verification of Competence Education" form to the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, if audited.

(c) To complete all steps necessary to meet the relicensure requirements on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the odd numbered years.

(d) To provide the Board with information requested during an audit.

(e) To keep a current mailing address on file with the Licensing Board Office at all times.

Authority O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-10, 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-10, 43-33-14, 43-33-16, and 43-33-18.