Foreign-Educated Physical Therapist Applicants

Foreign-educated individuals - Anyone educated outside the United States

West Virginia does not consider licensure for anyone from a foreign country who alleges to have the equivalent of a PTA degree. It is not possible for a foreign-educated person who does not prove equivalency towards a PT degree to then qualify as a PTA. Only applicants who believe that they have the equivalent of a PT degree should apply.

If you have a BS degree from a foreign country and then graduate from a US PT program, the degree you are working towards or have received must be "Entry-Level Master’s" and NOT "Advanced". The advanced PT master’s degree is not accredited and not recognized by any state PT board in the United States.

PRIOR to submitting an application to our board, you must meet the following requirements:

- **Criminal History Background Check**
  - Pursuant to W. Va. Code §30-20-8a and W. Va. Code §30-20A-4.6, applicants seeking initial licensure (not renewal or reinstatement) by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy are required to request and submit to the Board the results of a fingerprint-based state and national/federal criminal history record check. Please be aware that criminal history record checks may take several weeks to process and cannot be expedited for any reason. **Applicants should not request and submit to the Board the results of a criminal history record check until after they have completed a licensure application and paid the appropriate licensure fees.**
  - You must schedule your background check via the link provided within the PT/PTA tab.

- **Credentials Evaluation**
  - This board only accepts credentialing evaluations sent directly to our office from the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT). Visit www.fccpt.org for more information.

- **English Proficiency Test**
  - You must obtain passing scores in each section on one test of the iBT TOEFL- Test of English as a Foreign Language. (TOEFL code for WV is 9959. Use this on answer and report forms.)
    - Reading – 21
    - Listening – 18
    - Speaking – 26
    - Writing – 24
    - Total Score - 89
  - Score results must be sent directly from the education service to our office. This board will only accept TOEFL scores older than two years for foreign-trained ENDORSEMENT applicants. Older scores must be received directly from FCCPT or a physical therapy state board.
  - You may be exempt from this requirement if you have been awarded a bachelor’s degree or higher from the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, or Canada (except Quebec). If this exemption applies, your school must submit an official transcript showing that the degree was awarded and the date of conferral.
AFTER the previously stated requirements have been met, you must submit the following:

- **Form 2 from the forms page of WVBOPT.com**
  - Licensure Application (notarized, with photo)
  - NOT acceptable via fax or email

And, if taking the NPTE through West Virginia:
- **Form 3A from the forms page of WVBOPT.com**
  - Exam Application
  - NOT acceptable via fax or email

And, if special testing accommodations are needed:
- **Form 3B from the forms page of WVBOPT.com**
  - Exam Special Accommodations Request Form
  - You must include documentation requirements as stated on form.

- **Social Security Number**
  - You may test without a SSN if all other requirements are completed.

- **United States Address**
  - You may test without a US address if all other requirements are completed.

- **Fees via cashier’s check, business check, or money order**
  - Endorsement - $245.00; Examination - $270.00
  - Our office cannot accept cash or personal checks.
  - Please make fees payable to WV Board of Physical Therapy.
  - All fees are non-refundable.

- **Passing NPTE score report**
  - If you tested and passed through another state, request a score transfer from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy at www.fsbpt.org.
  - If you are applying to test through WV, FSBPT will automatically report your score to our board after the exam.

- **Licensure verification (FOR ENDORSEMENT APPLICANTS ONLY)**
  - Request verification from any US state you are or have ever been licensed (active or not) as a PT.
  - Verification must be sent directly from the licensing board to our office via mail or official electronic verification system. (NOT acceptable from applicant or via fax)
Application for licensure expires one year from the signature date. If you have not received a license within one year of this date, you must submit a new licensure application with the $25.00 application processing fee.

Type or print in ink. Do not omit any information. If not known or not applicable, mark N/A (not applicable).

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<tr>
<th>LICENSE TYPE (CHOOSE ONE)</th>
<th>PT</th>
<th>PTA</th>
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<tr>
<td>LICENSING VIA (CHOOSE ONE)</td>
<td>EXAMINATION</td>
<td>ENDORSEMENT</td>
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If not licensed in another state, have you previously taken the NPTE, or are you registered to take the NPTE through another state?

- YES  
- NO

If yes, list state(s) and date(s) tested.

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<th>State</th>
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If licensed in another state, list exam taken for licensure.

- FSBPT: _____  
- PES: _____  
- ASI: _____  
- OTHER: ____________________________

Date of Exam:  
State:  

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<th>COMPANY (If applicable)</th>
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PREFERRED CONTACT INFORMATION – The records of this Board are considered public record. If you do not wish to disclose your home address, phone or email, please provide alternate information where you can reliably receive mail pertaining to your license.

IS IT OK TO USE YOUR HOME ADDRESS?  
- YES, IT IS OK TO USE MY HOME ADDRESS.  
- NO, USE THE INFORMATION LISTED BELOW.

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PREFERRED STREET ADDRESS  
CITY  
STATE OR PROVINCE  
ZIP CODE  
COUNTY  

EDUCATION—Use additional paper if necessary.

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<th>SCHOOL NAME</th>
<th>CITY/STATE</th>
<th>DATES ATTENDED</th>
<th>MAJOR</th>
<th>DEGREE/Certificate</th>
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QUESTIONS - If you answer yes to any of the questions below, you must include a typed letter of full explanation and official notarized copies of the charge(s) and conviction(s), including penalty with your licensure application and fees. Answering yes to any of these questions is not necessarily a reason for the Board to deny licensure, but may lead to further inquiry or investigation. Applications with yes answers are placed on hold for Board review and consideration at the next scheduled Board meeting.

1. Do you currently have any physical or mental condition which may impair your ability to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

2. Does your current use of alcohol or chemical substance(s), including, but not limited to, prescription medication(s), in any way impair or limit your ability to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant with reasonable skill and safety? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

3. Have you ever been denied the right to take an examination for licensure as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in any jurisdiction that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

4. Have you ever held or do you currently hold a restricted license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in any other jurisdiction that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

5. Are you currently under investigation by any state licensing board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

6. Have you ever had a complaint filed against you as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant in any other jurisdiction that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

7. Have you ever surrendered your license to practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant as a result of pending disciplinary action or in settlement of disciplinary action in any jurisdiction that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

8. Have you ever been disciplined, including, but not limited to, revocation, suspension, probation or reprimand, as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant by any state licensing board that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, please explain. Yes__No__

9. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, give particulars, including the date of conduct and state and local jurisdiction in which the charges were filed. Yes__No__

10. Have you ever been convicted of a felony that has not previously been reported to this Board? If so, give particulars, including the date of conduct and state and local jurisdiction in which the charges were filed. Yes__No__
Pursuant to West Virginia Code §48-15-303, each applicant for licensure must answer the following questions and certify, under penalty of false swearing, that these answers are true and correct.

1. Do you have a child support obligation?  
   Yes ___  No ___

2. If the answer to question 1, above, is yes, are you in arrearage?  
   Yes ___  No ___

3. If the answer to question 2, above, is yes, does your arrearage equal or exceed the amount of child support payment for six (6) months?  
   Yes ___  No ___

4. Are you the subject of a child support related subpoena or warrant?  
   Yes ___  No ___

If you make a false statement concerning any question on this application, you may be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, immediate revocation or suspension of your license.

THIS APPLICATION MUST BE NOTARIZED.

Read the following, then, in the presence of a notary, sign and date.

I, ____________________________, affirm that this application contains no willful misrepresentation or falsifications, and that this information given by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I am aware that, should investigation at any time disclose any such misrepresentation or falsification, my application for licensure via examination or endorsement by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy will be rejected. I am also aware that, should investigation at any time disclose any such misrepresentation or falsification after my application for licensure via examination or endorsement by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy has been approved, my West Virginia license may be subject to disciplinary action and/or revocation.

I certify that I have not, am not, and will not practice or hold myself out as being able to practice physical therapy in the state of West Virginia until authorization to do so has been granted by the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy.

I hereby authorize any of my employers or associates to give to the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy any information concerning statements herein.

_________________________________________  _______________________
Signature of Applicant                       Date

State of ____________________________ County of ____________________________

Signed and sworn before me this _____________ day of ____________________________, in the year of ________.

_________________________________________
Signature of Notary:

Printed Name: ____________________________

My commission expires ____________________________.

Mail application and fees **(NO PERSONAL CHECKS OR CASH)** to:
West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy
2 Players Club Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311
Phone: (304) 558-0367
Fax: (304) 558-0369
E-mail: wvbopt@wv.gov Web: www.wvbopt.com
WHAT INFORMATION WE COLLECT AND WHY WE COLLECT IT

- We collect your personal and non-personal information to obtain required data to issue a Physical Therapist license, Physical Therapist Assistant license, or Athletic Trainer registration.
- We collect your name, address, telephone numbers, email address, date of birth, social security number, signature, photo, employment, and criminal information.
  - Date of birth and social security numbers are only collected for board use and only shared with the Federation of State Boards (FSBPT).

HOW WE USE YOUR INFORMATION

We share your personal information with or for the following reasons:
- Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)
- Mailing List
- Verifications
- Office of the Inspector General (OIG)
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Biennium Report that is required by the Legislature
- Healthcare Practitioner Data Bank (HPDB-HIPDB)
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Disciplinary actions are posted on our website.
- As a state agency, we may have to give your information to authorities after receiving a legal request or a court order or subpoena.
- Documents that contain your personal and non-personal information are scanned and stored in a computer server and manually filed in secured filing cabinets.
- We use an encrypted security program to protect your personal information.
- Any document, correspondence, or records submitted in connection with your application may be open to public inspection.

REVIEWING AND CORRECTING YOUR RECORD – INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

- You have the right to review your information. If you find something is not accurate, contact us in writing to request a correction.
- To make a name change to your license or registration, you must complete the appropriate forms and provide evidence of change.
- To change your contact and company information, you must send a request in writing.

PREFERRED CONTACT INFORMATION

- If you do not wish to disclose your home address or phone number, you should provide an alternative address and phone number where you can reliably be contacted. You may enter the alternative address on our applications/renewals under “Preferred Address” or you may contact our Board in writing with your preferred address, phone number, and email address.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit our website at www.wvbopt.com or email our office at wvbopt@wv.gov.