NAVIGATING THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINATION (NPTE)

Tips and Tricks of the NPTE and Licensing in West Virginia
WHAT ARE THE INITIAL WV LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS?

- Graduation from an CAPTE accredited physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program
- Passing scores on National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE)
- Good Moral Character
- 18 Years of Age
WHAT IS THE NPTE?
NATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINATION

• Physical Therapist
  • 250 multiple-choice questions
  • Five hours
  • Five sections of 50 questions
  • One 15-minute break after section 2 has been submitted
  • 50 of these questions do not count toward the passing score

• Physical Therapist Assistant
  • 200 multiple-choice questions
  • Four hours
  • Four sections of 50 questions
  • One 15-minute break after section 2 has been submitted
  • 50 of these questions do not count toward the passing score

• The Test is administered by computer.
• Each form of the exam is put on a scale from 200 (0 questions correct) to 800 (all questions correct), with a passing score of 600 being the minimal standard for passing.
HOW DO I APPLY TO TAKE THE NPTE?

- **Two-Step Process:**
  1. **Apply for your licensure with the jurisdiction where you intend to work**
     - Jurisdiction sets the requirements for licensure
     - Jurisdiction approves the candidate to sit for the exam
     - Information on the FSBPT website
  2. **Register to sit for the NPTE with the FSBPT**
WHAT DOES IT COST TO TAKE THE NPTE?

- $370 for both the physical therapist and physical therapist assistant exam
- Computer-based testing fee to Prometric
  - $70.60 – PT
  - $55.60 – PTA
- Additional application fees for each state
  - WV Exam Application Fee - $25
WHEN CAN I TAKE THE NPTE?

• Tests are administered on specific test dates
  • The NPTE is offered 4 times per year
  • Fixed-date testing is the only option that maintains the validity of the NPTE in light of current security risks.
• Candidates must register at least 30 days prior to the test date
• Test dates are published at [http://www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org)
WHAT IS A TEST CENTER?

- Authorization to Test letter (ATT)
  - Score will be sent to only one jurisdiction
- Prometric Test Center
  - Over 300 test centers in the United States
  - Online scheduling described in ATT letter
  - Candidate may take the exam at any test center that offers the exam irrespective of the jurisdiction to which the candidate applied
  - In certain areas, availability of testing seats may be limited. Students should schedule as early as possible to get their preferred location.
WHAT IF I DON’T KNOW WHAT STATE I WILL BE WORKING IN?

• Take the exam in the state you most likely will be working in
• If you get a job in another state, you can transfer your score to the other state
  • $80 FSBPT fee for the first time & $55 for additional transfers
  • State Application fees in addition
    • In WV, the Application for licensure fees are:
      • $245 for PT
      • $165 for PTA
WHEN WILL I RECEIVE MY RESULTS?

- FSBPT reports the results to the jurisdiction within 5 business days of the test date.
- WV Board will notify you in writing within 1-7 business days after receiving your results from FSBPT.
- Do NOT call the board asking for your scores!
  - NPTE results cannot be given over the phone. In order to get your results, you must wait until you receive a letter from us in the mail. If you have a temporary license and you fail the test, your company will be notified that you failed the test the day we get the results.

  We will not make any exceptions.
WHAT IF I FAIL?

- In WV, you may retake the NPTE 2 additional times within 12 months of your first attempt
  - A new Exam Application and $25 application fee is required before you are eligible to retest.
- You will see different test questions on each attempt
- If you have a WV Temporary Permit and fail, your permit will null and void.
ARE THERE RESOURCES TO HELP ME??

• ONLINE PEAT (PRACTICE EXAM AND ASSESSMENT TOOL)
  • The Practice Exam and Assessment Tool is as similar to the real NPTE as possible so that you'll be able to identify your strengths and potential pitfall areas.
  • You can have access to Online PEAT for 30 days when you have paid the $90.00 access fee. If you decide you need additional time, you can extend your access time for 15 days by paying an additional $45.00.

• PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK REPORT
  • Detailed Performance Feedback Report from FSBPT which is a descriptive diagnostic score report available to all PT and PTA candidates. You will be provided with two reports. The fee for this service is $90.00.

• EXAMINATION SCORE VERIFICATION
  • You may request verification of your examination score by submitting an Examination Score Verification form to FSBPT. This form is available on the FSBPT website and the fee for this service is $150.00.
WHAT ARE SOME HELPFUL HINTS ON TAKING THE NPTE?

• Carefully and thoroughly read the NPTE Candidate Handbook
  • All the information you need to know about the exam is included
• To review the Candidate Handbook, go to www.fsbpt.org
• Plan Ahead
• Schedule your test early or you may not get the test center you desire
• Make sure your name on your ID exactly matches the name on your Authorization To Test (ATT) Letter
• Don’t party the night before
• Give yourself plenty of time to arrive
• Pace yourself
  • If you spend an average of about 50 to 60 seconds per question, you should have adequate time to finish.
WHAT IS THE TEST SECURITY?

- Candidates must provide two valid IDs
- All candidates will be thumb printed and photographed at the testing center
- All testing sessions are videotaped
- Test Center Administrators will walk through the testing area
- All examination and score reports are encrypted during transmission
Cheating: The “illicit sharing of memorized or recalled questions from the NPTE” includes, but is not limited to the following behavior:

- The knowing, reckless or intentional provision, in writing or verbal form, of any questions memorized or copied from any version of the NPTE to any other person through any means.
- The memorization or copying of any questions from any version of the NPTE...
- The knowing, reckless or intentional receipt, in written or verbal form of any questions memorized or copied from any version of the NPTE to any other person through any means.
- The knowing, reckless or intentional solicitation or encouragement of another person to provide, in written or verbal form, any questions memorized or copied from any version of the NPTE from any other person through any means.
WELCOME TO WEST VIRGINIA PHYSICAL THERAPY!

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WHAT FEES DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT?

**Physical Therapist**
- Application for Licensure: $25.00
- License: $220.00
- Application for Examination: $25.00
- Temporary Permit: $35.00
- Lapsed License: $250.00
- Biennial Renewal: $120.00

**Physical Therapist Assistant**
- Application for Licensure: $25.00
- License: $140.00
- Application for Examination: $25.00
- Temporary Permit: $20.00
- Lapsed License: $170.00
- Biennial Renewal: $80.00
WHAT IS THE WV APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE PROCESS?

• Complete in full the Application for licensure found on our website at www.wvbopt.com.

• Include an approximately 2 ½ x 3” color photo of your head and shoulders taken within the year you are applying for Licensure.
  • No group shots
  • Digital Photos Must be on Good quality photo paper
  • PRINT and SIGN the lower back of your photo
  • Attach the photo to your application with a paperclip. Do not attach with staples or tape
  • Application must be notarized. Please sign and date.
  • All fees must be included with your application. Fees must be paid with cash, money order, cashier’s check or business check.

• Application is valid for 1 year from date of signature. After that, you will need to reapply.
WHAT IS THE EXAM APPLICATION?

- An Application for Examination and $25.00 fee is required to be submitted to the Board EVERY time you wish to test (or retest) for licensure.
  - Unless you are also applying for a WV license, you cannot be approved by the WV Board to sit for the exam.
- If you fail the NPTE and want to retest in WV, you must resubmit a NEW application and $25.00 fee for each time you wish to take the NPTE.
WHAT DEGREE DO I NEED TO HAVE?

• Physical Therapist
  • Bachelor’s, Master’s or Doctorate Degree in Physical Therapy
  • Program must be from a CAPTE accredited school
  • Cannot be a Degree “____ in Health Sciences”

• Physical Therapist Assistant
  • Associate’s Degree in Physical Therapy Assistant
  • Program must be from a CAPTE accredited school
  • Cannot be a Degree “____ in Health Science” or “____ in Allied Health”
CAN I TEST BEFORE I GRADUATE?

• **YES** you can test before you graduate!
  • You can test less than 90 days prior to your graduation
  • You must submit a BONA FIDE CANDIDATE letter from your school addition to regularly required documentation
    • This letter must be on school letterhead and be mailed directly from the college/university to the WV Board

HOWEVER, before you can be licensed in WV,

• You must submit a Completion of Program letter from the school
  • This letter must be on school letterhead and be mailed directly from the college/university to the WV Board
• You must submit a Official School Transcript from the school.
  • The transcripts must be mailed directly from the college/university
WHAT IS A TEMPORARY PERMIT AND HOW DO I GET IT?

• A temporary permit issued by the WV Board, allows the permittee to practice physical therapy or act as a physical therapist assistant in the state of West Virginia under the on-site supervision of a physical therapist.

• Temporary permits can be issued to:
  • Pending examinations, to any physical therapist or physical therapist assistant applicant who is a new graduate of a CAPTE accredited program
  • A person who possesses an unencumbered license in another jurisdiction and is a graduate of a CAPTE accredited program

• The temporary permit is only valid for a period of 90 consecutive days and the permit shall not be renewed.

• You cannot apply for a temporary permit if you have previously failed the NPTE in any jurisdiction whether taken before or after graduation.

• You MUST have employment arrangements already in place.
WHERE CAN I FIND THE WV FORMS?

All forms can be found on the WV Board of Physical Therapy website: [www.wvbopt.com](http://www.wvbopt.com) under the ‘FORMS’ section

- PT / PTA Application
  - Application to become a licensed PT or PTA in WV.

- New Grad / Exam Application Checklist & Application for Licensure
  - Exam Checklist and Application. Includes a list of forms to download and what to submit for licensure, exam, and temporary permit

- Exam Application Instructions and Exam Application
  - Instructions for the exam application and copy of the application

- Exam Applicant – Special Accommodations Request Forms
  - Complete this form if you have any needs for special accommodations for the exam

- Temporary Application
  - A position as a PT/PTA in WV is required before requesting a Temporary License Permit
WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AFTER I AM LICENSED?

• LICENSE EXPIRATION

  • WV Licenses are renewed on a Biennial schedule
  • If you are licensed between January 1 – September 30, your license will expire December 31st of the following year.
    • Example: Licensed July 1, 2012 Expires: December 31, 2013
  • If you are licensed between October 1 – December 31, your license will expire December 31st, 2 years from then.
    • Example: Licensed November 1, 2012 Expires: December 31, 2014

• CE REQUIREMENTS

  • 24 units of board approved continuing education within the 2 year licensing period is required.
    • A new graduate does not need CE hours for the current year of graduation. If licensed the year of graduation, 12 CE hours will be counted for the year of graduation.
    • An additional 12 board approved CE hours are required before the end of the licensing period to make a total of 24 CE hours.

• TEST SCORES TRANSFERRED

  • If you wish to become licensed in another state as well, you should contact the FSBPT and arrange to transfer your NPTE test scores.
WHAT ARE CE’S AND HOW MANY DO I NEED?

• All licensees desiring to remain “active” and in good standing must complete 24 units of board approved Continuing Education within the 2 year licensing period.
  • A “unit” is 1 clock hour spent in a continuing education activity.

• All CE courses taken for the WV license must be Board approved except for courses sponsored by the following:
  • CAPTE College/University
  • American Physical Therapy Association
  • West Virginia Physical Therapy Association

• The full list of continuing education guidelines can be found at: http://www.wvbopt.com/page.cfm?section=3