

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 6506, 6507, and 6734 of the Education Law.

1. The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education are amended, effective August 17, 2012, by the addition of a new section 52.41 to read as follows:

52.41 Physical therapy.

(a) Definitions. As used in this section:

(1) "Basic health sciences content area" shall mean coursework which includes, but is not limited to, the following curricular areas:

(i) human anatomy specific to physical therapy;

(ii) human physiology specific to physical therapy;

(iii) neuroscience;

(iv) kinesiology or functional anatomy; and

(v) pathology.

(2) "Medical sciences content area" shall mean coursework in clinical medicine pertinent to physical therapy which includes, but is not limited to, the following curricular areas:

(i) neurology;

(ii) orthopedics;

(iii) pediatrics;

(iv) geriatrics;

(v) cardiopulmonary;

(vi) pharmacology; and

(vii) general medical/surgical metabolic conditions.

(3) “Clinical sciences: examination and evaluation content area” shall mean coursework in examination and evaluation which includes, but is not limited to, the following curricular areas:

- (i) integumentary system;
- (ii) musculoskeletal system;
- (iii) neuromuscular system;
- (iv) cardiopulmonary system; and
- (v) metabolic problems.

(4) “Clinical sciences: interventions content area” shall mean coursework in interventions which includes, but is not limited to, the following curricular areas:

- (i) integumentary interventions;
- (ii) musculoskeletal interventions;
- (iii) neuromuscular interventions; and
- (iv) cardiopulmonary interventions.
- (v) airway clearance techniques;
- (vi) debridement and wound care;
- (vii) electrotherapeutic modalities;
- (viii) functional training in community and work, job, school, or play reintegration, including instrumental activities of daily living, work hardening, and work conditioning;
- (ix) functional training in self-care and home management, including activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living;
- (x) manual therapy techniques;
- (xi) patient-related instruction;
- (xii) physical agents and mechanical modalities;

(xiii) prescription, application, and, as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and equipment; and

(xiv) therapeutic exercise, including aerobic conditioning.

(5) "Related professional content area" shall mean coursework which includes, but is not limited to, the following curricular areas:

(i) professional behaviors;

(ii) administration;

(iii) community health;

(iv) research and clinical decision making;

(v) educational techniques;

(vi) medical terminology;

(vii) communication related to client/patient care;

(viii) legal and ethical aspects of physical therapy practice;

(ix) psychosocial aspects in physical therapy practice;

(x) emergency procedures;

(xi) cultural competency; and

(xii) consultation, screening and delegation.

(6) "Clinical education content area" shall mean clinical practice experiences under the following conditions:

(i) Such clinical practice experiences shall consist of no less than 800 total hours of clinical education supervised by a physical therapist that include at least 560 hours of full-time clinical internships. For purposes of this subparagraph full-time shall mean no less than 35 hours per week.

(ii) Clinical education shall include physical therapist-supervised application of physical therapy theory, examination, evaluation, and intervention.

(b) Curriculum. In addition to meeting all applicable provisions of this Part, to be registered as a program leading to licensure in physical therapy which meets the requirements of section 77.1 of this Chapter, the program shall result in a master's or higher degree, or its equivalent, and shall require the student to have completed at least 150 semester credit hours or its equivalent of postsecondary study, including a total of at least 90 semester credit hours, or their equivalent, in the following content areas:

(1) basic health sciences;

(2) medical sciences;

(3) clinical sciences: examination and evaluation;

(4) clinical sciences: interventions;

(5) related professional; and

(6) clinical education.

2. Section 77.1 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective August 17, 2012, as follows:

77.1 Professional study of physical therapy.

(a) As used in this section, acceptable accrediting agency shall mean an organization accepted by the department as a reliable authority for the purpose of accrediting physical therapy programs, having accreditation standards that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for programs registered as leading to licensure in physical therapy pursuant to section 52.41 of this Title, and applying its criteria for granting accreditation of programs in a fair, consistent, and nondiscriminatory

manner, such as an agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education.

(b) To meet the professional education requirement for licensure in this State, the applicant shall present evidence of:

[(a)] (1) a [bachelor's] master's or higher degree in physical therapy from a program registered by the department or accredited by [a national accreditation] an acceptable accrediting agency [which is satisfactory to the department]; or

[(b)] a certificate in physical therapy from a program registered by the department or accredited by a national accreditation agency which is satisfactory to the department following the completion of a bachelor's degree from an institution acceptable to the department; or]

[(c)] (2) completion of a program satisfactory to the department [of not less than four years of postsecondary study which includes the professional study of physical therapy] which is substantially equivalent to a [certificate] master's degree program in physical therapy registered by the department and which culminates in the degree or diploma accepted by the civil authorities of the country in which the studies were completed as [preparation in] satisfying the educational requirements for the practice of physical therapy in that country.

3. The Regulations of the Commissioner of Education are amended, effective August 17, 2012, by the addition of a new section 77.11, to read as follows:

77.11 Endorsement.

An applicant for endorsement of a license to practice physical therapy issued by another jurisdiction shall satisfy all requirements of section 59.6 of this Title, except as herein provided.

(a) The applicant shall present evidence satisfactory to the State Board for Physical Therapy of at least three years of professional practice of physical therapy acceptable to the State Board for Physical Therapy following initial licensure and within the seven years immediately preceding application for licensure by endorsement; and

(b) In lieu of the professional study requirements set forth in section 77.1 of this Part, the applicant shall have completed an education that meets standards acceptable to the Department, which may include the standards of an acceptable accrediting agency, as defined in section 77.1(a) of this Part, in effect at the time the applicant graduated from his or her physical therapy program.