

**TITLE 16        OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**  
**CHAPTER 20    PHYSICAL THERAPISTS**  
**PART 9        EDUCATION CRITERIA FOR FOREIGN-EDUCATED APPLICANTS**

**16.20.9.7        DEFINITIONS:**

**A.**        “**Foreign-educated applicant**” means a physical therapist that graduated from any physical therapy educational program outside the fifty states, [~~Puerto Rico,~~] District of Columbia, [~~or~~] U.S. territories, or Canadian Province recognized by FCCPT.

**B.**        “**Substantially equivalent**” means the applicant meets criteria as set forth in 16.20.9.8 NMAC. [Rn, 16 NMAC 20.10, 12/15/1997; 16.20.9.7 NMAC - Rn, 16 NMAC 20.9.7, 08/31/2000]

**16.20.9.8        EQUIVALENT:** The foreign-educated applicant must have graduated from a physical therapist educational program that prepares the applicant to practice without restriction in the United States. This includes coursework in those elements of practice that are necessary for autonomous practice such as determining a patient’s diagnosis for physical therapy and managing a patient’s care within healthcare systems found in the United States. The coursework content should be substantially equivalent to coursework completed by graduates of accredited programs in the United States. Substantially equivalent means the applicant has satisfied or exceeded the minimum number of credits required in general and professional education needed for a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy. Substantial equivalency in coursework content, as well as, required semester credits is determined by a board-sanctioned credentials review using the latest edition of the [appropriate] coursework evaluation tool (CWT) ~~[adopted by the federation of state boards of physical therapy (FSBPT). The appropriate CWT means the latest edition CWT that applies to the time the foreign-educated physical therapist graduated from his or her physical therapy program].~~  
[03/29/1983; 02/19/1988; 01/28/1993; 06/30/1994; Rn, 16 NMAC 20.10, 12/15/1997; 16.20.9.8 NMAC - Rn & A, 16 NMAC 20.9.8, 08/31/2000; A, 02/15/2004; A, 01/12/2008; A, 09/30/1914]

**16.20.9.9        CREDENTIAL EVALUATION:** Foreign-educated applicants must submit a credential evaluation from an educational credentialing evaluation service that uses a course work evaluation tool approved by the board.

**A.**        The minimum educational credentials of a foreign-educated physical therapist should be a degree in physical therapy with all credits being earned at an institution of higher learning.

**B.**        The board will accept final credential reports only from the credentialing service and only if the credential evaluation has been prepared within one year prior to the application date.

**C.**        The credentialing agency must identify and list those courses which would not transfer to the U.S. as a “C” or above or “pass” or “credit” in accordance with the most current version of the *national association for foreign student affairs handbook on the placement of foreign graduate students*. The agency must omit any of these courses that are required physical therapy courses when evaluating the equivalency of the credentials to a U.S. degree in physical therapy.

**D.**        Should the foreign-educated applicant’s credential evaluation fail to demonstrate equivalency according to standards of accredited physical therapy programs in the United States, upon a request by the applicant for reconsideration, the board will reconsider whether the applicant has substantially met the requirements of 16.20.9.8 NMAC.

**E.**        Applicant must pass the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) prior to final approval, and will be granted full licensure if requirements are met, as outlined in 16.20.3.8 NMAC.

[03/29/1983; 08/01/1989; 05/08/1991; 09/30/1995; Rn & A, 16 NMAC 20.10.11, 12/15/1997; 16.20.9.9 NMAC - Rn, 16 NMAC 20.9.9, 08/31/2000; A, 02/15/2004; A, 1/12/2008]

**16.20.9.10        CURRENT LICENSE:**

**A.**        Foreign-educated applicants must show evidence of an active, valid license in good standing, without limitation, or other current authorization to practice physical therapy from an appropriate authority in the country where the foreign-educated applicant was educated or eligible for licensure. Original documentation must be sent directly to the board by the licensure authority in the country of education (documents handled by a courier service or third party will not be accepted). All documentation must be in English or accompanied by a certified English translation.

**B.** Foreign-educated applicants who have been licensed and have practiced in good standing for a minimum of one year in another state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territory, Canadian Province recognized by FCCPT, will not be required to provide proof of a license from their country of education. Proof of licensure will be required from each state in which the applicant has been licensed. Such proof of licensure must be received by the New Mexico board directly from the state boards where currently and previously licensed. [1/28/1993; 06/03/1994; 09/30/1995; 11/30/1995; Rn & A, 16 NMAC 20.10, 12/15/1997; 16.20.9.10 NMAC - Rn, 16 NMAC 20.9.10, 08/31/2000; A, 03/02/2006; A, 09/30/2014]

**16.20.9.14 CERTIFICATION:** The documentation required in 16.20.9.8 NMAC through 16.20.9.12 NMAC may ~~does~~ not have to be submitted if the applicant provides a notarized copy of a type I comprehensive credential evaluation certificate for the physical therapist from the Foreign Credentialing Commission of Physical Therapy ~~[foreign-credentialing-commission-of-physical-therapy]~~ (FCCPT) that is required for all applicants who received their education outside the United States to verify that the applicant's education is substantially equivalent to a US degree in physical therapy, that the applicant satisfies the FCCPT's English proficiency requirements, and that the license or authority to practice obtained in the applicant's country of education is unencumbered. To apply for full licensure, an applicant must have a Type I comprehensive credential evaluation certificate, proof of a passing score on the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) and must submit to a state criminal history background check, as outlined in 16.20.3.8(C) NMAC. The board may request further documentation from 16.20.9.8 NMAC through 16.20.9.12 NMAC prior approval.

[03/29/1983; R, 12/15/1997; 16.20.9.14 NMAC - Rn & N, 16 NMAC 20.9.14, 08/31/2000]