

**Department of Health  
Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy  
Policy Statements**

**POLICY: EDUCATIONAL EQUIVALENCY FOR FOREIGN TRAINED THERAPISTS**

Rule 1150-1-.04 (3) in pertinent part provides as follows:

*...The evaluation must clearly indicate that the applicant's education is equivalent to the first professional degree in Physical Therapy from a CAPTE approved school in the United States. In no event, however, is the Board bound by the determinations made by credentialing agencies; as the Board is the final arbiter as to whether such education is equivalent. The standards established by the National Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy will also be considered by the board in making these determinations.*

The Tennessee Board of Physical Therapy hereby adopts the following guidelines for determining if foreign trained Physical Therapists meet the education requirements:

1. Proof of proficiency in the English language by passing TOEFL, TWE, or TSE pursuant to Rule 1150-1-.04.
2. Verification of the equivalency of the applicant's education to the following by one of the Board's approved credentialing agencies:
  - A) The minimum shall be 150 semester hours.
  - B) General Educational Requirements:

A minimum of 60 semester hours with a grade of "C" or its equivalent or above. Credits are required in each of the following:

    - Humanities – one course minimum
    - Physical Sciences – one courses in Physics and one courses in Chemistry required
    - Biological Sciences – one semester course in biological sciences
    - Social Sciences – one course minimum
    - Behavioral Sciences – one semester course in psychology
    - Mathematics – one course minimum
  - C) Professional Educational Requirements:

A minimum of 90 semester hours with a grade of "C" or its equivalent or above. Credits are required in each of the following:

    - Basic Sciences – must include one course each:
    - Human Anatomy – specific to physical therapy
    - Human Physiology – specific to physical therapy
    - Neurological Sciences
    - Kinesiology/Functional Anatomy

- Abnormal or developmental psychology
- Pathology
- Clinical Sciences – must include one course each:
  - Neurology
  - Orthopedics
  - Pediatrics
  - Geriatrics
  - Integumentary Assessment and Treatment
  - Musculoskeletal Assessment and Treatment
  - Neuromuscular Assessment and Treatment
  - Cardiopulmonary Assessment and Treatment
  - Metabolic conditions Assessment

D) Clinical Education – two affiliations, total 800 hours minimum

E) Related Professional Courses—must include content in each

- Professional Behaviors
- Administration
- Community Health
- Research
- Educational Techniques
- Medical Terminology
- Communication (related to patient care)
- Ethics and legal Aspects of PT
- Cultural Competency
- Emergency Procedures
- Consultation, Screening, and Delegation

CLEP semester hours or credits shall be accepted for general education hours only.

Adopted by the Committee of Physical Therapy on this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1998.

Ratified by the Board of Physical Therapy on November 14, 2008.

Adopted by the Board of Physical Therapy on August 21, 2009.

For further information, please use the contact information provided below.

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