

4755-23-12

Requirements for foreign educated applicants.

- (A) A "foreign-educated applicant" is a person whose education in physical therapy was obtained in a program not accredited by the commission on accreditation of physical therapy education.
- (B) All foreign-educated applicants must show an educational background deemed by the physical therapy section to be reasonably equivalent to the requirements established in section 4755.42 of the Revised Code, division (A)(4) of section 4755.45 of the Revised Code, and paragraph (A) of rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code.
- (C) All foreign-educated applicants must submit to the section an evaluation of education credentials prepared by a professional education evaluating service approved by the section.
- (1) Evaluations of the applicant's foreign education coursework content and required semester credits shall be completed utilizing the appropriate coursework evaluation tool adopted by the federation of state boards of physical therapy. The appropriate coursework evaluation tool means the latest edition coursework evaluation tool that applies to the period when the applicant was initially licensed as a physical therapist in the initial country or state of license.
- (2) A list of approved professional education evaluating services shall be available on the board's website (<http://otptat.ohio.gov>).
- (D) To be considered reasonably equivalent to the requirements established in rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code, the applicant's foreign education must contain evidence of coursework in:
- (1) Humanities;
- (2) Physical sciences, including two one-semester courses in chemistry with laboratory and two one-semester courses in physics with laboratory;
- (3) Biological sciences;
- (4) Social sciences;
- (5) Behavioral sciences; and
- (6) Mathematics.
- (E) The distribution of the coursework listed in paragraphs (D)(1) to (D)(6) of this rule shall be reasonably equivalent to the distribution of the same coursework completed in a commission on accreditation of physical therapy education accredited physical therapist program in Ohio.

(F) The general education requirements established in rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code may be satisfied by credits earned through successful completion of college level examination program (CLEP) or advanced placement (AP) credits.

(1) CLEP or AP credits are limited to a total of fifteen academic semester credit hours or the equivalent, with a maximum of six academic semester credit hours in any one of the general education categories listed in paragraphs (D)(1) to (D)(6) of this rule.

(2) CLEP or AP credits shall not be used to meet the professional education requirements established in rule 4755-23-02 of the Administrative Code.

(G) Evaluations prepared pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule reflect only the findings and conclusions of the evaluating service and shall not be binding upon the physical therapy section. In accordance with division (B) of section 4755.45 of the Revised Code, if the physical therapy section determines that an applicant's education is not reasonably equivalent to the educational requirements that were in force for license in Ohio on the date of the applicant's initial license or registration in another state or foreign country, the physical therapy section shall send written notice via certified mail stating the reasons why the applicant's education is not reasonably equivalent.

(H) All foreign-educated applicants shall demonstrate that the individual met the requirements to practice physical therapy in the country of education, including passage of the country's physical therapy examination and evidence of eligible licensure in that country. Applicants seeking to waive the requirements of this paragraph shall submit a written waiver request.

(I) All foreign-educated applicants shall demonstrate a working knowledge of English by obtaining:

(1) Scores of at least:

(a) 4.5 on the test of written English (TWE);

(b) 50 on the test of spoken English (TSE); and

(c) 220 on the computer based test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) or 560 on the paper based TOEFL; or

(2) Scores on the TOEFL iBT of at least:

(a) 24 on the writing section;

(b) 26 on the speaking section;

(c) 18 on the reading comprehension section;

(d) 21 on the listening comprehension section; and

(e) 89 on the overall examination.

(3) A foreign-educated applicant whose native language is English and who graduated from a physical therapy education program located in Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, or the United Kingdom shall not be required to demonstrate a working knowledge of English.

(J) An applicant who submits either of the following meets the requirements of paragraphs (H) and (I) of this rule.

(1) A notarized copy of a type I comprehensive credentials evaluation, prepared for the applicant by the foreign credentialing commission on physical therapy (FCCPT); or

(2) A notarized copy of a visascreen certificate, prepared for the applicant by the international commission on healthcare professions (CGFNS/ICHP).

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