

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CHANGES TO THE FSBPT'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NPTE EXAM FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS

Please be advised that effective January 1, 2016, the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy ("FSBPT") is implementing two new eligibility requirements (in addition to the current requirements) for the National Physical Therapy Examination ("NPTE") for Physical Therapists ("PTs") and Physical Therapist Assistants ("PTAs").

Please note that the FSBPT's eligibility requirements are not the same as Hawaii's requirements for licensure (pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules §16-110-20), however, in order to meet Hawaii's requirements for licensure, all applicants must provide proof of taking and passing the physical therapist or physical therapist assistant licensure examination.

New Eligibility Requirements (effective January 1, 2016)

Lifetime limit

Candidates will be able to take the exam a maximum of six (6) times. An individual can take the NPTE for PTs six (6) times and also take the NPTE for PTAs six (6) times if he or she is otherwise qualified to do so. Candidates will still be allowed up to three (3) attempts per year but now will have a six (6) time total limit.

As of January 1, 2016, any candidate who has already tested six (6) times will no longer be allowed to test unless a jurisdiction chooses to appeal this policy on a specific candidate's behalf (see "appeals process" below).

There will be no "grandfathering" for candidates who registered prior to this requirement going into effect.

Low score limit

Candidates who receive two (2) very low scores on the exam, currently defined as performing at or close to chance level (scale scores 400 and below), will not be allowed to test again.

Currently, candidates who receive a very low score on the exam are notified that their performance is so far away from the minimal competence level that they need to engage in serious remediation, such as enrolling in another PT educational program,

before attempting the NPTE again and that another score that is very low (400 or below) may result in further action by FSBPT.

Starting January 1, 2016, candidates who receive a score of 400 or less will be sent a letter to indicate that a second score of 400 or less will result in a lifetime ban. No scores prior to January 1, 2016 will be considered, which means all candidates will have a "clean slate" with regard to this eligibility requirement.

Appeals Process

Candidates who are ineligible to register for the NPTE because they do not meet eligibility requirements are able to request that a jurisdiction appeal on their behalf to FSBPT. The only eligibility requirements that can be appealed through this process are 1) six (6) time lifetime limit and 2) the two (2) very low scores policy.

For more information regarding the appeals process and/or to download the FSBPT's *Appeals Form*, please visit the FSBPT's website:

[https://www.fsbpt.org/ExamCandidates/NationalExam\(NPTE\).aspx](https://www.fsbpt.org/ExamCandidates/NationalExam(NPTE).aspx)

Please be advised that any complete "NPTE Appeal Form" request for an appeal must be reviewed at a Hawaii Board of Physical Therapy meeting to determine whether they will submit the appeal to the FSBPT.

Questions

If you have questions about the FSBPT's eligibility policies, please contact the FSBPT directly at: examregistration@fsbpt.org. You may also visit their website at:

<https://www.fsbpt.org/>