



Review of Rule 4731-1-16

Rule 4731-1-16, OAC, is the rule that sets forth the massage therapy curriculum requirements. Upon review of the current rule, the Medical Board proposes the following amendment:

1. Paragraph (A)(1) is clarified by breaking out the requirements based on class enrollment date into outline form.

When this rule was last reviewed, it was put on hold after the public hearing because various massage therapy schools were in disagreement with the use of “clock hours” instead of quarters and semesters for the hours of education required. There was no compromise that could be reached.

Input on the question was recently solicited via the Council of Massage Therapy Schools. Although there are still schools that advocate a change to quarters and semesters instead of clock hours, the majority of comments supported the continued use of clock hours. Moreover, the national standard for massage therapy curriculum is to use clock hours.

Deadline for submitting comments: **January 14, 2016**

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4731-1-16

Massage therapy curriculum requirements.

(A) To qualify to receive a certificate of good standing for a course of instruction in massage therapy, a school's course of instruction shall:

(1) Consist of both practical and theoretical instruction meeting one of the following requirements: covering a period of not less than one year and a minimum of six hundred clock hours. Beginning December 31, 2005, the course of instruction for classes enrolling on or after that date shall include a minimum of seven hundred fifty clock hours covering a period of not less than nine months;

(a) For classes enrolling no later than December 30, 2005, a period of not less than one year and a minimum of six hundred clock hours; or

(b) For classes enrolling on and after December 31, 2005, a minimum of seven hundred fifty clock hours covering a period of not less than nine months;

(2) Beginning with classes enrolling on or after December 31, 2005, teach at least the minimum required hours in the following subjects in dedicated clock hours, as appropriate to massage therapy:

(a) Anatomy and physiology; pathology: three hundred twenty-five clock hours;

(b) Massage theory and practical, including hygiene: three hundred twenty-five clock hours;

(c) Ethics: twenty-five clock hours, at least ten of which shall be in a class dedicated exclusively to ethics. For purposes of this rule, "ethics" shall be defined to include sexual boundary issues and impairment and chemical dependency issues;

(d) Business and law: twenty-five hours; and

(e) Such other subjects as the board deems necessary and appropriate to massage therapy: fifty clock hours; and

(3) Require that each student, prior to completing the course of instruction, perform, on a licensed massage therapist, at least one therapeutic massage. The school shall ensure that the student massage is evaluated as to whether the student demonstrates at least minimally acceptable competency.

- (B) Educational objectives shall be clearly defined and simply stated and shall indicate what the educational program can do for reasonably diligent students.
- (C) The course of instruction shall be outlined in detail showing major subjects and clock hours devoted to each subject, entrance requirements and occupational objectives.
- (D) A limited branch school shall submit for approval on an appropriate form its daily or weekly schedule of instruction. The approved schedule shall be made available whenever requested by the board.
- (E) Students may be given credit for off-site clinical activities. Such credit may not exceed ten per cent of the required clock hours in the theory and practical category of the program. The off-site clinical activities shall be conducted under the direction and on-site supervision of an appropriately licensed practitioner. The school shall be required to enter into a written affiliation agreement with a representative of the facility where the off-site clinical activities are being provided. The student participating in off-site clinical activities shall identify him or herself as a massage therapy student and shall obtain signed acknowledgement of receipt of that notice from the patient.