



State Medical Board Of Ohio

30 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor * Columbus, Ohio 43215-6127 * (614) 466-3934

<http://www.med.ohio.gov>

LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASSAGE THERAPY

Massage is the treatment of disorders of the human body by the manipulation of soft tissue through the systematic external application of massage techniques including touch, stroking, friction, vibration, percussion, kneading, stretching, compression, and joint movements within the normal physiologic range of motion; and adjunctive thereto, the external application of water, heat, cold, topical preparations, and mechanical devices.

Individuals applying for a Massage license must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Preliminary Education
 - a) High school diploma or equivalent.
 - b) Apply for and obtain a certificate of preliminary education from the Board prior to enrollment at an approved school of Massage as required in Rule 4731-1-14, Ohio Administrative Code. Ohio students obtain forms directly from the school. Out of-state applicants may call or write the Board. The fee for the preliminary education certificate is **\$35.00**. The fee is **not** refundable.
- 2) Study of Massage Therapy
 - a) Course of instruction must be for a period of **not** less than nine months and a **minimum** of seven hundred and fifty clock hours at an approved school of Massage Therapy (Rule 4731-1-16).
 - b) Subjects include both Practical and Theoretical instruction as well as Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Ethics, Clinical program and Hygiene; and such other subjects as the Board deems necessary and appropriate to Massage.
- 3) Possess sufficient character and moral standing.
- 4) Pass the Basic Science portion and Limited Branch portion of the examination by a score of seventy-five (75) or above. Test subjects include Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, Bacteriology, Hygiene, Diagnosis, Ethics and law, as appropriate to the limited branch of medicine or surgery as well as a practical application.
- 5) Out-of-State Graduates

Ohio law does not provide for reciprocity or endorsement of an out-of state Massage license. Applicants who attend an out-of-state school may petition the Board to sit for the examination by completing the Request for Application forms and Preliminary Education form available from the Board. Upon receipt of your completed Request for Application forms and Preliminary Education form, your Massage school of graduation will be sent an application for a Certificate of Good Standing. If your school completes the application process and is found to have met the requirements set forth in Rule 4731-1-15 and 4731-1-16, Ohio Administrative Code, at the time of your graduation, you will be eligible to apply for examination. Any application submitted without your school having been approved will be subject to denial; the application fee is neither refundable nor transferable.

- 6) Ohio Students must obtain application forms for the exam from their school. Out-of-state applicants may write the Board at the above address to obtain a Request for Application form and Preliminary Education form or obtain the needed forms from our website.
- 7) The fee for the examination is **\$250.00**. Fees submitted are neither refundable nor transferable to future exams. The fee must be submitted with the application for examination. The exam is given in June and December each year. The application deadline is February 1st for the June exam and August 1st for the December exam, unless otherwise notified.