

IOWA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY

Draft Pre-Notice Rule Changes

Prior to starting formal rulemaking action, the Iowa Board of Massage Therapy is seeking input from the public on draft changes to the Board's continuing education, licensure, renewal, and reactivation rules. The Iowa Board of Massage Therapy is requesting comments be submitted by November 13, 2015.

Comments may be submitted via mail, email, or fax.

Tony Alden
Iowa Board of Massage Therapy
Bureau of Professional Licensure
321 E 12th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0075

E-Mail: Tony.Alden@idph.iowa.gov

Fax: 515-281-3121

The potential changes remove the requirement for CPR and First aid as a condition of initial licensure or renewal, reduce the hours of continuing education required for renewal, increase the number of hours that can be completed online or through distance learning, and replaces category A and B with various categories of continuing education that are acceptable.

CHAPTER 133

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR MASSAGE THERAPISTS

[Prior to 6/26/02, see 645-Ch 132]

645—133.1(152C) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“Active license” means a license that is current and has not expired.

“Approved program/activity” means a continuing education program/activity meeting the standards set forth in these rules.

“Audit” means the selection of licensees for verification of satisfactory completion of continuing education requirements during a specified time period or the selection of providers for verification of adherence to continuing education provider requirements during a specified time period.

“Board” means the board of massage therapy.

“Continuing education” means planned, organized learning acts acquired during initial licensure designed to maintain, improve, or expand a licensee’s knowledge and skills in order for the licensee to develop new knowledge and skills relevant to the enhancement of practice, education, or theory development to improve the safety and welfare of the public.

“Hands-on training” means learning techniques that manipulate the soft tissue of the body.

“Hour of continuing education” means at least 50 minutes spent by a licensee in actual attendance at and completion of an approved continuing education activity.

“Inactive license” means a license that has expired because it was not renewed by the end of the grace period. The category of “inactive license” may include licenses formerly known as lapsed, inactive, delinquent, closed, or retired.

“Independent study” means a subject/program/activity that a person pursues autonomously that meets standards for approval criteria in the rules and includes a posttest.

“License” means license to practice.

“Licensee” means any person licensed to practice as a massage therapist in the state of Iowa.

“Presenter” means person(s)/instructor(s) providing continuing education training.

645—133.2(152C) Continuing education requirements. Each biennium, each person who is licensed to practice as a massage therapist in this state shall be required to complete a minimum of 24 16 hours of continuing education. A biennium is a two-year period beginning with the date the license was granted.

133.2(1) The biennial continuing education compliance period shall run concurrently with each two-year renewal period. The renewal period begins on the date the initial license is granted and ends two years later on the day before the anniversary date of that initial license.

133.2(2) Requirements for new licensees. Those persons licensed for the first time shall not be required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of their licenses. Continuing education hours acquired anytime from the initial licensing until the second license renewal period may be used.

133.2(3) Hours of continuing education credit may be obtained by attending and participating in a continuing education activity meeting the requirements of this chapter. These hours must be in accordance with these rules.

133.2(4) No hours of continuing education shall be carried over into the next renewal period. A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance

period may use continuing education earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation.

133.2(5) The cost of continuing education is the responsibility of each licensee.

645—133.3(152C,272C) Continuing education criteria.

133.3(1) General criteria. A continuing education activity which meets all of the following criteria is appropriate for continuing education credit if the continuing education activity:

- a. Constitutes an organized program of learning which contributes directly to the professional competency of the licensee;
- b. Pertains to subject matters which integrally relate to the practice of the profession;
- c. Is conducted by individuals who have specialized education, training and experience by reason of which said individuals should be considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program.

At the time of audit, the board may request the qualifications of presenters:

- d. Fulfills stated program goals, objectives, or both; and
- e. Provides proof of attendance to licensees in attendance, including:
 - (1) Date, location, course title, presenter(s);
 - (2) Number of program contact hours; and
 - (3) Certificate of completion or evidence of successful completion of the course from the course sponsor.

133.3(2) Specific criteria. A licensee shall obtain a minimum of ~~24~~16 hours of continuing education credit every two years. A maximum of 12 hours of the 16 hours may independent study. Licensees may obtain continuing education hours of credit by: ~~Twelve hours must be obtained in Category A and 12 hours may be in either Category A or B. A licensee may choose to obtain all 24 hours in Category A.~~

~~a. Category A specific continuing education requirements.~~

~~(1) A minimum of 12 hours of the 24 hours shall be:~~

- ~~1. Direct, hands-on training attended personally by the licensee;~~
- ~~2. Related to the actual practice of massage/bodywork therapy;~~
- ~~3. Sponsored by a local, state, national or international professional organization or chapter of massage/bodywork therapy, or a professional, hands-on school of massage/bodywork therapy that meets or exceeds the standards set forth in 645-Chapter 132;~~
- ~~4. Presented by a massage/bodywork therapist with a minimum of five years of clinical experience in massage/bodywork therapy. The individuals presenting the continuing education activity must have specialized education, training and experience by reason of which said individuals are considered qualified concerning the subject matter of the program.~~

~~(2) Excluded content areas for continuing education in Category A are any massage/bodywork techniques that do not directly make physical contact with the body and that are outside the scope of practice in accordance with the definition of massage therapy set forth in rule 645-131.1(152C), including but not limited to: Reiki, Barbara Brennan Healing Sciences, reflexology, bloodletting, and ear candling.~~

~~b. Category B specific continuing education requirements.~~

~~(1) A maximum of 12 hours of the 24 hours may be in either of the following:~~

- ~~1. Content areas that are programs of learning which contribute directly to professional competency and enhance the practice of the licensee.~~
- ~~2. Content areas that are hands-on training programs.~~

~~(2) Programs that are taken in Category B do not have to be sponsored by organizations noted in 133.3(2)“a”(1) “3” and instructors do not have to have a minimum of five years of clinical experience in massage/bodywork therapy.~~

~~(3) A licensee may receive credit on a one-time basis, not to exceed two hours of continuing education credit every two years, for delivery of course(s) in a massage school setting, if the following criteria are met:~~

~~1. The course(s) is part of a curriculum approved by the board as outlined in 645=132.4(152C);~~

~~2. The licensee is qualified to teach the course(s) as outlined in 645=132.3(152C);~~

~~3. The school provides an official written statement that verifies the following:~~

~~● Course title and number of credit hours;~~

~~● Inclusive dates the course was taught by the licensee;~~

~~● Teaching qualifications of the licensee.~~

~~(4) A maximum of six hours may be obtained in independent study courses in the areas of massage/bodywork techniques, ethics, mandatory reporter training, and practice management.~~

~~(5) A licensee shall obtain two hours of credit in CPR for every two-year renewal period.~~

~~(6) Only the number of hours obtained during the two-year renewal period to meet mandatory reporter training requirements may be utilized in the renewal period. No hours shall be carried over into the next biennium.~~

~~(7) Excluded content areas for continuing education in Category B include, but are not limited to, any program or training that is outside the scope of practice of massage therapy in accordance with the definition of massage therapy set forth in rule 645=131.1(152C) or that does not enhance professional competency relating to the field of massage/bodywork therapy. Bloodletting and ear candling are excluded content areas.~~

(1) Attending workshops, conferences, or symposiums.

(2) Accessing online training, such as viewing interactive conferences, attending webinars, or completing online training courses.

(3) Presenting professional continuing education programs that meet the criteria listed in this rule. Two hours of credit will be awarded for each hour of presentation for the first offering of the course. A course schedule or brochure must be maintained for audit.

(4) Teaching curriculum at a school of massage therapy. Two hours of credit will be awarded for each hour of instruction. This applies only to the first offering of the course. A school catalog must be maintained for audit.

(5) Completing academic courses that directly relate to the professional competency of the licensee. Official transcripts indicating successful completion of academic courses that apply to the field of massage therapy will be necessary in order for the licensee to receive the following continuing education credits:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic clock hour = 1 continuing education hour of credit

(6) Teaching in an approved college, university, or graduate school. The licensee may receive the following continuing education credits on a one-time basis for the first offering of a course:

1 academic semester hour = 15 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic trimester hour = 12 continuing education hours of credit

1 academic quarter hour = 10 continuing education hours of credit

(7) Authoring research or other activities, the results of which are published in a recognized professional publication. The licensee shall receive 5 hours of credit per page.

(8) Courses directly beneficial to business practices necessary for operating a massage practice. Content areas include, but are not limited to, Business Management, Financial Management, Accounting, Tax Preparation, Marketing, Human Relations, Communication Skills, Business Ethics, and Massage Ethics.

(9) Personal skills topics, such as career burnout, communication skills, human relations, and other like topics.

(10) Completing programs which enhance a supplemental or complimentary skill set directly related to promoting the public health while providing massage therapy. Content areas include, but are not limited to CPR, First-Aid, Mandatory Reporter Training, Contraindication Training, and Geriatric Care. "

~~(2) Excluded content areas for continuing education are any massage/bodywork techniques that do not directly make physical contact with the body and that are outside the scope of practice in accordance with the definition of massage therapy set forth in rule 645-131.1(152C)." "Massage therapy" means performance for compensation of massage, myotherapy, massotherapy, bodywork, bodywork therapy, or therapeutic massage including hydrotherapy, superficial hot and cold applications, vibration and topical applications, or other therapy which involves manipulation of the muscle and connective tissue of the body, excluding osseous tissue, to treat the muscle tonus system for the purpose of enhancing health, providing muscle relaxation, increasing range of motion, reducing stress, relieving pain, or improving circulation.", including but not limited to: Reiki, Barbara Brennan Healing Sciences, reflexology, bloodletting, and ear candling.~~

11. Passing the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) within the biennial continuing education compliance period. A copy of the applicants official notification may be used by the board as verification.

645—133.4(152C,272C) Audit of continuing education report. Rescinded IAB 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08.

645—133.5(152C,272C) Automatic exemption. Rescinded IAB 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08.

645—133.6(152C,272C) Continuing education exemption for disability or illness. Rescinded IAB 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08.

645—133.7(152C,272C) Grounds for disciplinary action. Rescinded IAB 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 21, 147, 152C and 272C.

[Filed 9/15/00, Notice 6/28/00—published 10/4/00, effective 11/8/00]

[Filed 6/5/02, Notice 1/23/02—published 6/26/02, effective 7/31/02]

[Filed 7/3/03, Notice 4/16/03—published 7/23/03, effective 8/27/03]

[Filed 6/15/05, Notice 4/27/05—published 7/6/05, effective 8/10/05]◊

[Filed 12/9/05, Notice 9/28/05—published 1/4/06, effective 2/8/06]

[Filed 3/14/07, Notice 1/3/07—published 4/11/07, effective 5/16/07]

[Filed 9/7/07, Notice 7/4/07—published 9/26/07, effective 10/31/07]

[Filed 9/19/08, Notice 8/13/08—published 10/8/08, effective 11/12/08]

◊ Two or more ARCs

645—131.2(152C) Requirements for licensure. All persons acting or serving in the capacity of a massage therapist shall hold a massage therapist's license issued by the board. The following criteria shall apply to licensure:

131.2(1) The applicant shall complete a board-approved application packet. Application forms may be obtained from the board's Web site (<http://www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure>) or directly from the board office. All applications shall be sent to Board of Massage Therapy, Professional Licensure Division, Fifth Floor, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

131.2(2) The applicant shall complete the application form according to the instructions contained in the application. If the application is not completed according to the instructions, the application will not be reviewed by the board.

131.2(3) Each application shall be accompanied by the appropriate fees payable by check or money order to the Board of Massage Therapy. The fees are nonrefundable.

131.2(4) The applicant shall have official copies of academic transcripts sent directly from the board-approved school to the board of massage therapy. If a school has closed and is no longer operational, the board will accept an official transcript provided by the student.

131.2(5) The board may consider applications on a case-by-case basis which do not appear on their face to meet requirements if the requirements may be alternatively satisfied by demonstrated equivalency. The burden shall be on the applicant to document that the applicant's education and experience are substantially equivalent to the requirements which may be alternatively satisfied.

~~**131.2(6)** The applicant shall submit proof of completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course and a first-aid course that were certified by the American Red Cross, by the American Heart Association, or by the National Safety Council. One of the following shall be required:~~

~~a. Official transcript documenting completion of a CPR class and a first-aid class within one year prior to submitting the application for licensure; or~~

~~b. Copy of the current certification card(s) or renewal card(s).~~

131.2(7) The applicant shall provide proof of passing any National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) examination or the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx). Proof of passing shall be sent directly from the testing service to the board of massage therapy. The applicant may submit a copy of the official notification from the testing service of the applicant's passing a board-approved examination. The copy of the applicant's official notification may be used by the board as proof of passage of a board-approved examination until the official proof of passage is received directly from the testing service. Submission of the applicant's copy of the official notification from the testing service shall not be allowed in lieu of the applicant's arranging for and the board's receiving the official record of proof of passage sent directly from the testing service. The examination score must be received from the testing service within 60 days of issuance of the license. The passing score on the written examination shall be the passing point criterion established by the national testing authority at the time the test was administered.

131.2(8) Licensees who were issued their licenses within six months prior to the renewal shall not be required to renew their licenses until the renewal month two years later.

131.2(9) Incomplete applications that have been on file in the board office for more than two years shall be considered invalid and shall be destroyed.

131.2(10) The applicant shall provide verification of license(s) from every state in which the applicant has been licensed as a massage therapist, sent directly from the state(s) to the board office.

645—131.5(152C) Temporary licensure of a licensee from another state.

131.5(1) A temporary license may be issued to an applicant who holds a current license from another state with lower licensure requirements than those in Iowa. The applicant shall:

a. Submit to the board a completed application;

b. Pay the licensure fee;

~~c. Provide proof of completion of a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course and a first-aid course that were certified by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or the National Safety Council. One of the following shall be required:~~

~~(1) An official transcript documenting completion of a CPR class and a first-aid class within one year prior to submitting the application for licensure; or~~

~~(2) A copy of the current certification card(s) or renewal card(s);~~

d. Provide proof of passing any NCBTMB examination or the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx), to be sent directly from the testing service to the board office, if applicable;

e. Provide official verification of license(s) from every state in which the applicant has been licensed, to be sent directly from the state(s) to the board office;

f. Submit a plan for meeting the board's requirements for licensure within one year of the issuance of the temporary permit. Such plan shall include proof of enrollment in a school of massage therapy whose curriculum has been approved by the board, the date of enrollment, and the expected date of graduation.

131.5(2) A temporary license shall be valid for a period of up to one year and shall not be renewed.

131.5(3) The applicant shall be issued a permanent license upon receipt of a transcript of completion from a board-approved school sent directly from the school, and proof of passing any board-approved examination sent directly from the testing service to the board office.

131.5(4) There is no additional fee for converting a temporary license to a permanent license.

645—131.8(152C) License renewal.

131.8(1) The biennial license renewal period for a license to practice massage therapy shall begin on the sixteenth day of the anniversary month and end on the fifteenth day of the anniversary month two years later. The licensee is responsible for renewing the license prior to its expiration. Failure of the licensee to receive notice from the board does not relieve the licensee of the responsibility for renewing the license.

131.8(2) An individual who was issued a license within six months of the license renewal date will not be required to renew the license until the subsequent renewal date two years later. Those persons licensed for the first time shall not be required to complete continuing education as a prerequisite for the first renewal of their licenses.

131.8(3) A licensee seeking renewal shall:

a. Meet the continuing education requirements of rule 645-133.2(152C) and the mandatory reporting requirements of subrule 131.8(4). A licensee whose license was reactivated during the current renewal compliance period may use continuing education credit earned during the compliance period for the first renewal following reactivation; and

b. Submit the completed renewal application and renewal fee before the license expiration date; and

~~c. Submit evidence of current certification in CPR.~~

645—131.14(17A,147,272C) License reactivation. To apply for reactivation of an inactive license, a licensee shall:

131.14(1) Submit a reactivation application on a form provided by the board.

131.14(2) Pay the reactivation fee that is due as specified in 645-Chapter 5.

131.14(3) Provide verification of current competence to practice as a massage therapist by satisfying one of the following criteria:

a. If the license has been on inactive status for five years or less, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of ~~12 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation or, beginning August 15, 2006, for a licensee whose license is inactive, verification of completion of 24~~ 16 hours of continuing education within two years of application.

b. If the license has been on inactive status for more than five years, an applicant must provide the following:

(1) Verification of the license(s) from every jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has been licensed and is or has been practicing during the time period the Iowa license was inactive, sent directly from the jurisdiction(s) to the board office. Web-based verification may be substituted for verification from a jurisdiction's board office if the verification includes:

1. Licensee's name;
2. Date of initial licensure;
3. Current licensure status; and
4. Any disciplinary action taken against the license; and

(2) Verification of completion of ~~12 hours of continuing education within two years of application for reactivation or, for a licensee whose license expires August 15, 2006, or thereafter, verification of~~

~~completion of 24~~ 16 hours of continuing education within two years of application; and

(3) Verification of passing one of the following examinations offered by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB) or the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) within two years immediately prior to the submission of the completed reactivation application. If the applicant can provide proof of two years of active practice in another state as a licensed massage therapist, the applicant is not required to provide proof of passing one of these examinations. The two years of active practice must have occurred immediately prior to the submission of the completed reactivation application.

1. The National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage (NCETM); or
2. The National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB); or
3. The National Examination for States Licensing (NELS) option; or
4. The Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx).