

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

# ***NPTE Candidate Handbook***

*For the National Physical Therapy Examinations: PT and PTA*



Setting the Gold Standard for Service and Protection

## Quick Reference Guide

### **Licensing Authorities**

For a directory of licensing authorities, go to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click "Licensing Authority Contact Information" under "Top Resources."

### **Online Registration for the NPTE**

Visit [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) then click the shortcut for "National Exam." Online registration allows you to register and pay online with one simple form.

### **Fixed-Date Testing for PT and PTA Examinations**

Visit [www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting](http://www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting) for the latest information on fixed-date testing for the NPTE.

### **Status of your NPTE Registration – FSBPT Examination Services**

Check the status of your registration online, over the phone, by fax, or by e-mail.

*Online:* Visit [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click "Status of My Request" under "Top Resources."

*Telephone:* 703-739-9420

*Fax:* 703-739-9421

*E-mail:* [examregistration@fsbpt.org](mailto:examregistration@fsbpt.org)

### **Online PEAT**

To learn more about and order PEAT, the FSBPT's Practice Exam and Assessment Tool, visit [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click "Practice Exam & Assessment Tool (PEAT)" under "Top Services."

### **FSBPT Score Transfer**

To transfer your score to another jurisdiction, go to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click "Score Transfer Service" under "Top Services." E-mail [scoretransfer@fsbpt.org](mailto:scoretransfer@fsbpt.org) with any questions.

### **Prometric**

*Online:* Schedule your appointment or find a testing center online at [www.prometric.com/fsbpt](http://www.prometric.com/fsbpt).

*Telephone:*

Prometric Registration Center: 1-800-796-9857

Special Accommodations: 1-800-967-1139

Candidate Cares: 1-800-853-6769

### **FSBPT Offices**

Open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM ET

124 West Street South, Third Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314

*Examination Services:*

*Telephone:* 703-739-9420

*Fax:* 703-739-9421

*Administrative Services:*

*Telephone:* 703-299-3100

*Fax:* 703-299-3110

*Website:* [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org)

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## General Information

### ***The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT)***

The mission of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) is to protect the public by providing service and leadership that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice.

The Federation's vision is that state licensing boards and their Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy will achieve a high level of public protection through a strong foundation of laws and regulatory standards in physical therapy, effective tools and systems to assess entry-level and continuing competence, and public and professional awareness of resources for public protection.

We develop, maintain, and administer the National Physical Therapy Examinations for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants. We continually research and use the best examination methodology available.

### ***Purpose of the Examination Program***

The NPTE program has three purposes: 1) to provide examination services to regulatory authorities charged with the regulation of physical therapists and physical therapist assistants; 2) to provide a common element in the evaluation of candidates so that standards will be comparable from jurisdiction to jurisdiction; and 3) to protect the public interest in having only those persons who have the requisite knowledge of physical therapy be licensed to practice physical therapy.

The Physical Therapist (PT) examination is designed to assess basic entry-level competence of the licensure candidate who has graduated from an accredited program of physical therapy or from an equivalent non-accredited program.

The Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) examination is intended to assess basic entry-level competence of the candidate who has graduated from an accredited program for physical therapist assistants or has met equivalent requirements set by a licensing authority for physical therapist assistants.

The national examination is only one part of the evaluation process used by licensing authorities. In some jurisdictions, the national examination is supplemented by other means of assessing candidates' ability to provide physical therapy.

### ***Examination Development***

The Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant NPTEs are developed by physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who serve as item writers or on one of FSBPT's examination committees: the Examination Development Committee (EDC) and the Item Bank Review Committee (IBRC).

Questions (items) for the examinations are developed by item writers and their item writer coordinators. These volunteers are physical therapists and physical therapist assistants who represent a broad range of practice settings in all parts of the country. Item writers attend workshops and receive instruction to enable them to write high-quality, job-related examination items. Once items have been developed and submitted to FSBPT, the IBRC reviews the items and determines if the item is entry level, tests current content, and contains only one correct answer. The EDC reviews entire test forms and ensures that each item is entry level, tests current content, and does not overlap content or cue the answer for other items on the examination form. Examinations are built based on an examination outline or blueprint. This outline identifies the content areas that must be on the examination and the number of questions to be included from each content area. The outline is developed from a job analysis, which identifies the activities and tasks that comprise the practice of physical therapy at the entry level. The job analysis is based on survey data and expert judgments.

The involvement of a representative group of practicing physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and other professionals during examination development ensures that the examinations are relevant to the current practice of physical therapy. Additionally, staff and technical advisors work to maintain the examinations and ensure compliance with established testing standards.

## **Eligibility**

You must submit a registration form, pay the appropriate examination fee, and meet FSBPT eligibility requirements in order to be registered for the NPTE. Registered candidates will then be submitted to the jurisdiction licensing authority for jurisdiction approval.

To meet current FSBPT eligibility requirements:

- 1) You must be at least 18 years of age.
- 2) Cannot have an open exam registration for the same exam level.
- 3) Cannot have taken the exam more than 3 consecutive times (maximum attempts in any 12-month period per exam level is three)
- 4) Cannot have an open security investigation or sanctions that have not been completed.

Two additional eligibility requirements will be in effect beginning with the January 2016 NPTE administrations.

- 1) Lifetime limit – candidates will be able to take the examination a maximum of six (6) times. An individual can take the NPTE for PTs six times and also take the NPTE for PTAs six times if he or she is otherwise qualified to do so.
- 2) Low score limit – candidates who receive two (2) very low scores on the exam will not be allowed to test again. A very low score is defined as performing at or close to chance level (scale scores 400 and below).

Each licensing authority has established its own criteria for eligibility to sit for the PT and PTA examinations. At a minimum, the licensing authority must require that the candidate is a graduate of or graduating from a PT or a PTA program that meets the accreditation standards of the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) or is deemed substantially equivalent. You should review the materials distributed by the licensing authority to which you intend to apply for licensure or certification, in order to determine if you have met that authority's eligibility requirements. A current examination may be used only for administration to bona fide candidates for initial licensure or certification, relicensure or reactivation, or for candidates who are not currently licensed in a jurisdiction and do not have a qualifying examination score for that jurisdiction. FSBPT is the final authority on access to the NPTE but will not grant access to the NPTE unless a candidate has first been approved by a licensing authority or authorized designee to sit for the examination.

For more information of eligibility requirements, please go to our website at [www.fsbpt.org/eligibility](http://www.fsbpt.org/eligibility).

## **Examination Administration**

The computer-based PT and PTA examinations are administered by FSBPT through Prometric. FSBPT scores your examination and then transmits the score to the licensing authority. FSBPT is the final authority on issuance of scores on the NPTE. One commonality among U.S. licensing authorities is that, effective July 1996, all licensing authorities adopted FSBPT's criterion-referenced passing point, so that the minimum passing score is now the same in all jurisdictions.

NOTE: Individual licensing authorities make all decisions regarding licensure or certification as well as licensure and certification procedures for their jurisdictions.

## **Fixed-Date Testing**

The NPTE-PT and NPTE-PTA are administered on fixed dates throughout the year. To view information on examination dates and deadlines, visit [www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting](http://www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting). Candidates who do not meet a registration deadline or are not approved by the jurisdiction approval deadline must wait until the next fixed-date examination.

# Examination Security

## ***Protect Your Reputation and Career***

Passing the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) is a big step toward receiving your license to practice physical therapy. Understandably, you want to take advantage of all available resources when preparing for this important examination. In the past, when you have prepared for examinations at school, you may have considered fellow students to be good resources for learning about questions that were on those tests. **This should not be the case when preparing for the NPTE.**

The NPTE is the property of the FSBPT and is protected by contract, trade secret, and federal copyright laws. It is a violation of those laws, and thus illegal, to share any information whatsoever about any NPTE question. In particular, sharing information about an NPTE question recalled from memory or asking someone who has taken the NPTE to share such information is illegal. It is also unethical to share or to solicit someone else to share information about an NPTE question.

### ***Do You Mean It's Illegal to Recall Questions?***

YES! The FSBPT aggressively protects the integrity of the NPTE. Such protection is important to safeguarding the public from persons who do not have the requisite knowledge about physical therapy and therefore are not qualified to practice physical therapy. Any person for whom the FSBPT has a reasonable suspicion of sharing or soliciting information about any NPTE question may be prohibited from sitting for the NPTE unless and until they are determined after full investigation not to have shared or solicited such information.

*Items from the examination are not to be shared with any person for any purpose!*

### ***Why is it Unethical to Ask Someone Else for Recalled Questions?***

Soliciting recalled questions from candidates who have previously taken the examination is unethical for several reasons. The first is obvious; you are expected to pass the test based on your own merit without assistance. The members of the public who will entrust you with their well-being expect that you are a trustworthy and competent individual. Secondly, the purpose of the NPTE is to protect the public by ensuring that candidates for licensure have achieved entry-level competence. By asking previous test takers to share questions with you, you are committing an illegal act and are undermining the very purpose of the examination. Lastly, by soliciting questions from previous test takers, you are encouraging such persons to commit illegal acts.

*Items from the examination are not to be solicited for any purpose!*

### ***What Happens If I Do Share or Solicit Recalled Questions?***

Any person for whom the FSBPT has a reasonable suspicion of sharing or soliciting information about any NPTE question may be prohibited from sitting for the NPTE unless and until they are determined after full investigation not to have shared or solicited such information.

The FSBPT has and will continue to actively prosecute individuals to the full extent of the law who share or solicit others to share any information whatsoever about any NPTE question.

The FSBPT will also report any incidents of candidates requesting questions or sharing questions to their licensing jurisdiction.

Candidates who are determined to be guilty of soliciting or sharing questions will severely damage their chances of ever being licensed in any jurisdiction.

## ***Examination Security During Testing***

Candidates are required to provide two currently valid forms of identification to be able to sit for the examination. Before entering the testing room, the Prometric staff will take your photograph, scan you with a metal detector wand, and take a digital image of your fingerprint. You will need to give a fingerprint scan each time you enter or leave the testing room. Additionally, Prometric records all testing sessions on video.

You can review Prometric's Testing Center Regulations and also view a video outlining what to expect on test day

on Prometric's website, [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).

If you give or receive assistance during the examination, you can be required to stop testing immediately and leave the room. Your examination will not be scored. Prometric and FSBPT monitor all candidates and will statistically analyze scores for purposes of detecting and verifying cheating. If FSBPT determines that your score is unable to be validated due to an unlikely response pattern, we will cancel your score and notify the licensing authority.

### ***Examination Security After Testing***

FSBPT conducts additional validation and screening analyses following testing. In some cases, examination records are selected for additional validation analyses. Examinations are selected if the scores are very low, show a high score gain from previous administrations, are very similar to other examination records, or the pattern of responses indicates a possible security concern.

Candidates whose examinations are held for additional validation will be contacted through e-mail by FSBPT staff. Candidates will be required to give some additional information about how they prepared for the NPTE. FSBPT will not release these candidates' scores until they complete this additional investigation, or if the candidates provide inaccurate information. Candidates who do not complete the investigation within 90 days of testing are subject to having their scores canceled.

### ***Additional Security Information***

If you have questions regarding examination security or know of a person or people who have violated examination security, it is your responsibility to e-mail [security@fsbpt.org](mailto:security@fsbpt.org).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***Preparing for the Examination***

### ***How can I prepare for the examination?***

Preparation should involve review of the specific content areas within the content outline. The content outline is provided online at <http://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/NPTEDevelopment.aspx>, within the “NPTE Content” area.

Since the examination is multiple choice and computerized, candidates should make sure they are comfortable taking multiple-choice, computerized examinations. FSBPT offers an online practice exam & assessment tool (PEAT). PEAT is a timed practice exam that looks and feels like the real thing. For more information on PEAT please go to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click on “Our Services.”

## ***Arranging to Take the NPTE***

### ***What are the steps for taking the examination?***

- Obtain application materials from the licensing authority of the jurisdiction in which you are seeking licensure.
- Register and pay for the examination on FSBPT’s website at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org).
- If you have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you may request testing accommodations for the examination. For details, contact the licensing authority in the jurisdiction in which you are seeking licensure. You must request testing accommodations at the time you register.
- The jurisdiction licensing authority will approve your eligibility and notify FSBPT. Please note that your jurisdiction cannot approve your eligibility until your examination registration and payment has been received by FSBPT.
- FSBPT will send you an “Authorization to Test” (ATT) letter containing instructions on how to schedule an appointment with Prometric. You will receive your ATT letter by email at the email address you provided during registration. You may also access your ATT letter on the FSBPT website under “Status of My Request.” Questions regarding registration processing may be directed to [examregistration@fsbpt.org](mailto:examregistration@fsbpt.org).
- Schedule an appointment for the examination with Prometric. You may schedule your appointment with Prometric online at [www.prometric.com/fsbpt](http://www.prometric.com/fsbpt) or by calling the number given in your ATT letter.
- Sit for the examination at your chosen Prometric testing site. You must sit for the examination on the date indicated on the ATT letter provided by FSBPT. If you do not sit for the examination or withdraw your registration within your eligibility, you will be removed from the eligibility list and will be required to begin the registration process again.

### ***May I sit for the examination prior to graduation?***

FSBPT will allow candidates to sit for an examination no more than 90 days prior to their graduation date.

Jurisdictions may have more restrictive rules regarding testing prior to graduation. You should contact the jurisdiction in which you are seeking licensure to determine their policy on testing prior to graduation. For an overview of jurisdiction rules and requirements, go to the “Licensure Reference Guide” under “Top Resources.”

### ***Am I required to sit for the examination in the jurisdiction in which I am seeking licensure?***

No. You may sit for the examination at any of the approximately 360 testing centers in the United States and Canada. You are not required to sit for the examination within the jurisdiction in which you are seeking licensure.

### ***May I register to take the examination with more than one jurisdiction at the same time?***

No. You may not register to take the examination through more than one jurisdiction at the same time. If you do not pass the examination, you may register with the same jurisdiction or a different jurisdiction. However, as before, you may register through only one jurisdiction to retake the examination.

### ***May I register for more than one fixed-date administration at the same time?***

No. You may register for only one fixed-date administration for a given examination level at a time.



***Are there registration deadlines?***

Yes! For all fixed-date PT and PTA administrations there are strict deadlines for both registration and jurisdiction approval. Go to [www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting](http://www.fsbpt.org/FixedDateTesting) for all applicable deadline information. Registration opens approximately six months prior to the examination date. It is highly recommended that you register as early as possible.

***What are my licensure and examination registration fees?***

To determine licensure fees, you will need to consult the materials provided by the licensing authority, as fees vary from state to state. The fee for the NPTE is \$400. The NPTE fee is payable by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) only.

***The NPTE registration form asks for a Social Security Number and I do not have one. What do I do?***

We require a unique identification number in order for you to sit for the examination. This should be your Social Security Number. If you do not have a Social Security Number, you can obtain one from the Social Security Administration at <http://www.ssa.gov/> or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

In rare cases where a candidate cannot obtain a Social Security Number, an "Alternate Identification Number" (AIN) may be obtained from FSBPT by application. You may print an application for an AIN from the FSBPT website, [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org), by clicking "Our Services," then "Alternate Identification Number." Your registration will not be processed without either a Social Security Number or an Alternate Identification Number.

The issuance of an AIN is solely for the purpose of registering for examinations or services through the FSBPT when a candidate cannot obtain a Social Security Number. The AIN is not a substitute for a Social Security Number for any other purpose.

Applicants should retain their AIN and utilize it concerning all correspondence, inquiries, or requests relating to their licensure examination. AIN applications will be processed within five business days of receipt. Candidates will be notified of their assigned number by email upon issuance.

NOTE: If you are issued an AIN and then later are issued an SSN by the Social Security Administration, you must notify FSBPT so that your record can be updated.

***Can individuals with disabilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act receive testing accommodations?***

At the time that you submit your initial application materials, you must submit appropriate documentation of your request for testing accommodations to the licensing authority of the jurisdiction in which you are seeking licensure. Only those candidates who have been granted approval from their licensing authority will receive accommodations during testing. For information about how to request testing accommodations, you must contact the jurisdiction licensing authority in which you are seeking licensure prior to registering to take the examination. All Prometric testing centers are fully accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

***Making a Testing Appointment***

***What is Prometric?***

Prometric is the name of the company that provides FSBPT's computer-based testing services. You may visit their website at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) for more information.

***When may I take my examination?***

You must sit for the examination on the date indicated on your "Authorization to Test" (ATT) letter provided by FSBPT.

You are strongly encouraged to call Prometric to make an appointment as soon as you receive notification (your ATT letter) from FSBPT that you are eligible. Test sites fill up quickly and scheduling is done on a first-come, first-served basis. Testing will be scheduled at the location of your choosing, if available. If not available, alternate locations will be offered.

***What information must I provide when I schedule my examination with Prometric?***

- Name of the examination (Physical Therapist NPTE, Physical Therapist Assistant NPTE)

- Where and when you would like to test (location of Prometric Center and approved test date)
- Your name
- Social Security Number or Alternate Identification Number
- Daytime telephone number
- Type of payment: credit card or direct debit

Prometric will always endeavor to accommodate your scheduling preferences as closely as possible. Please keep in mind that it is in your best interest to schedule as early as possible.

***What is the Prometric fee for my examination?***

The Prometric fee for the Physical Therapist NPTE is \$85. The Prometric fee for the Physical Therapist Assistant NPTE is \$70.

***What are the acceptable forms of payment for the Prometric test center fee?***

Payment for the Prometric test center fee may be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or by direct debit to a checking account. Payment information must be provided at the time you schedule your examination. It is not possible to pay at the testing center. The Prometric testing fee is payable to Prometric and therefore can only be refunded by Prometric.

***Should I reconfirm my appointment before my testing date?***

Yes. It is an excellent idea to confirm your appointment. If you schedule online with Prometric at [www.prometric.com/fsbpt](http://www.prometric.com/fsbpt) you will automatically receive an e-mail confirmation with your appointment information. Otherwise, you can check online at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com) or call Prometric at 1-800-796-9857. When you call, you will need the confirmation number provided when your appointment was scheduled. You can reconfirm the date, time, and location of your appointment using Prometric's automated system.

***How can I find my local Prometric Testing Center?***

There are three ways to get directions to your local Prometric Testing Center: 1) you may access directions through Prometric's Registration Center at 1-800-796-9857, 2) you may call a local Prometric Center and ask for directions, or 3) you may obtain test center directions via the Internet at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com). On the Prometric website, click "Find a Test Center," and then choose "Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy" from the drop-down menu. Choose the state in which you want to test, and you will be provided with a current list of test centers.

***Is the NPTE available at all Prometric test centers?***

No. The NPTE is not offered at all Prometric test centers in the United States. It is offered in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Canada in selected test centers. For a complete list of Prometric sites that do offer the NPTE, visit Prometric's website at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).

***What if I cannot test at my preferred location because it is full?***

Some sites will fill up quickly and travel may be required in order to test on a specific date. If you want to take the NPTE on a specific date you should schedule your appointment at a test site where you would be willing to travel. You can continue to check Prometric's website through their seat availability tool to see if seating opens at a more desirable site.

If you cannot schedule your examination at a testing site within 250 miles of your desired location, please contact FSBPT Examination Services for assistance. If we are unable to find you a seat within a 250-mile radius, you have the option to withdraw your registration and we will waive the standard processing fee.

Keep in mind that you are not required to sit for the examination in the state in which you are seeking licensure.

***Rescheduling, Canceling, No-Shows, and Refunds***

***If I cancel my examination, do I receive a refund of the sitting fee I paid to Prometric?***

You must contact Prometric in order to receive a refund of your sitting fee.

You may cancel or reschedule your examination 30 or more days prior to your appointment at no charge by calling

the number for Prometric as provided in your “Authorization to Test” letter.

If you cancel or reschedule your appointment 5 to 29 days prior to your examination date, you will be charged a reschedule fee of \$50 by Prometric.

If you cancel or reschedule your examination less than 5 days before your appointment, fail to appear for your scheduled examination, or arrive late and are refused admission, you will forfeit the entire Prometric sitting fee.

<b>Cancelation/Reschedule Period</b>	<b>Cancelation/Rescheduling Fee</b>
30 or more days before examination date	No charge
Between 5 and 29 days before scheduled examination date	\$50 per cancelation/reschedule (to be collected by Prometric)
Less than 5 days before the examination date, no-show for examination date, or arrive more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time and are refused admission	The full Prometric Sitting Fee for the canceled/rescheduled examination

This section applies to the Prometric sitting fee only. To receive a refund of your FSBPT examination fee please see the information on withdrawing your registration.

***Are refunds available for no-shows?***

A refund of your examination fee, less the processing fee, is available if you do not show up for your examination, as long as the refund is requested by your examination date. See the information below on withdrawing your registration.

***If I apply for the examination, but do not take it, will I receive a refund?***

If you are unable to take your scheduled examination for any reason, you can withdraw your registration. You will receive a refund only if you withdraw your registration from the FSBPT any time up to the day of your fixed-administration. The refund will be less a processing fee.

**If you fail to withdraw your registration by your test date, you will forfeit your examination fee and will be required to register and pay again to schedule another test date.**

***How do I withdraw if I decide I do not want to or cannot take the examination?***

If you wish to withdraw your registration, you must notify FSBPT by completing the online Withdrawal Request. To withdraw your registration, please go to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and select “Our Services” and then “Withdrawal Request.”

The Withdrawal Request must be submitted online to FSBPT no later than your test date shown on your “Authorization to Test” letter. During the withdrawal process you will have two options:

1. Withdraw from your current exam and receive a refund. You will receive a refund of your examination fee, less a processing fee, back to the credit card you used when registering for the examination.
2. Register for another examination date. You can withdraw from one examination and register for another examination date in one step. A processing fee will apply.

<b>Withdrawal Period</b>	<b>NPTE Withdrawal Processing Fee</b>
30 or more days before examination date	\$50
Less than 30 days before examination date	\$100

***What happens if I have registered and paid for the examination through FSBPT but the licensing authority does not approve my registration?***

In cases where you are deemed ineligible by a jurisdiction licensing authority or are not made eligible by the jurisdiction approval deadline for your chosen examination, FSBPT will refund its portion of the examination fee, less a processing fee of \$50.

NOTE: The total amount you pay to apply for licensure with your jurisdiction may include fees not related to

testing. Individual licensing authorities establish these additional fees. FSBPT does not receive these fees and thus cannot refund them. FSBPT also cannot refund any fees paid to Prometric.

### ***Taking the Examination***

#### ***What are the requirements for admission to the testing center?***

You must arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment with two forms of acceptable identification (ID). Acceptable ID is a currently valid, government-issued photo ID (passport, driver's license, etc.), and another piece of identification pre-printed with your name and containing your signature, such as a credit card. Your signature must match your pre-printed name on both forms of ID. **A Social Security card is not an acceptable form of identification.** As part of your identification processing, the driver's license/passport will be swiped in order to retain scanned information.

**Your first and last name on both forms of ID must exactly match the first and last name on your "Authorization to Test" letter issued by FSBPT.** If you are denied admittance to the examination due to any problem with your identification, you will forfeit your Prometric fee and will be required to register for another fixed-date administration.

#### ***Will I be thumb-printed or photographed at the Prometric testing center?***

Yes. A digital image of your fingerprint will be taken, you will be scanned with a metal detector wand, and you will be photographed at the testing center. Another fingerprint will be taken each time you leave or re-enter the testing room during your exam. Additionally, all testing sessions will be videotaped.

#### ***How much time will I have for the examination?***

You are allowed 5 hours for the PT examination and 4 hours for the PTA examination. There are 250 items (questions) on the PT examination and 200 items on the PTA examination.

#### ***Why is my appointment time longer than the examination?***

For the PT examination the appointment time is 5 ½ hours even though the examination itself is only 5 hours. For the PTA examination the appointment time is 4 ½ hours even though the examination itself is only 4 hours. The extra half hour is to allow for the scheduled 15-minute break as well as the pre-examination tutorial and post-examination survey.

#### ***Are all questions scored?***

No. Pretest questions are included on each examination. Your scores will only be based on scored items. Pretest questions are included to determine if the questions meet rigorous psychometric (testing) standards. If the questions meet standards, they can be used as scored items in future examinations. All scored PT or PTA items on the examination you will be taking were included as pretest items in previous versions of the examination. Item pretesting also reduces delays in sending score reports to candidates when new examination forms are introduced.

#### ***Will I be able to tell which questions are pretest items?***

No. Pretest items will be distributed randomly within each examination and cannot be identified. Therefore, you should answer each question as if it were a scored item. However, as stated above, your score will only be based on scored items.

#### ***What is a section?***

The examination is delivered in sections, or blocks, of 50 questions. Each section is a "mini exam" in that it will follow the same basic content outline as the larger examination and contain both scored and pretest items. The PT examination has five sections. The PTA examination has four sections. Once you have completed a section you cannot return to the section to review or change your answers.

#### ***Will there be a penalty for items answered incorrectly?***

Examination scores are based on the number of questions answered correctly. You should consider the answers to each question carefully and select the correct or best option. There is only one correct or best answer to each question. Because there is no additional penalty for incorrect answers, it is to your advantage to answer every question, even when you are unsure of the correct or best option.

***Will there be other candidates testing at my test center?***

There may be other candidates testing for a number of different examinations. All candidates will be separated by modular testing booths that allow privacy and ample workspace.

***What will the temperature be in the testing center?***

The temperature in the Prometric centers varies, and people perceive temperature differently. You should dress in layers that can be removed if you become uncomfortable. Any jacket or sweater that you are not wearing must be stored in the lockers at the test center. For security reasons, Prometric does not allow bulky jackets to be worn.

***Can I take a break during the examination?***

Yes. There are two kinds of breaks during the examination: scheduled and unscheduled. Both the PT and PTA examinations have one scheduled 15-minute break after section two has been completed. The PT examination also has three unscheduled breaks. The PTA examination has two unscheduled breaks.

The scheduled break has been added for candidate convenience. During the scheduled break, after section two of the examination has been completed, the examination timer is paused for up to 15 minutes. If candidates do not want to take the scheduled break or want to take a shorter break, they can end the break by following the directions on the computer screen.

An unscheduled break can be taken between sections when the “Unscheduled Break” screen is showing on the computer. During an unscheduled break, the examination timer continues to elapse. This means time spent on an unscheduled break is time that you are choosing to not spend on the examination.

Candidates may leave the examination only when either a scheduled break or an unscheduled break screen is showing on their computer. If a candidate leaves the testing room while not on a specified break screen, the test center administrator will report to the FSBPT that an examination irregularity occurred during the candidate’s examination administration.

***Can I access study materials or a cell phone during my break(s)?***

No. No study materials of any kind can be accessed at any point during the examination. You may not leave the testing center on a break to access materials or individuals for assistance. You may not bring study materials of any kind into the testing center. In addition, you may not access your cell phone while on a break.

***Is computer knowledge necessary?***

No. Computer knowledge is not required to take a computerized examination. Before the examination begins, a simple introductory lesson (tutorial) is presented that explains the process of selecting answers and moving from question to question. The time you spend on the tutorial does not count against the time allotted for the examination. Most candidates take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete the tutorial and may repeat it, if desired. You may select your answers using either the keyboard or the mouse.

***Can I “mark items” for later review?***

Yes. The testing software allows you to “mark” questions that you want to review before ending a section. Any question can be “marked,” regardless of whether it has been left blank or answered. It is not necessary to “unmark” a question in order for it to be scored at the end of the examination. After you finish a section, you cannot return for additional review.

***While taking the examination, can I move back and forth between questions?***

Yes. While taking the computerized examination, you can skip forward or backward through the section you are currently in and review questions, whether the questions are “marked” or “unmarked.” After you finish a section, you cannot return for additional review.

***Can I use “scratch paper” when taking the examination?***

Yes. You are allowed to use “scratch paper” that is supplied at the testing center. The “scratch paper” will be an erasable note board. You are not allowed to bring in your own “scratch paper.” Testing center staff will collect the erasable note board at the completion of the examination.

***What items are prohibited while taking the examination?***

Candidates are not permitted to bring anything into the testing room other than their identification and locker key. Food and beverages are not permitted in the testing room. Lockers are provided to candidates in order to store personal items while testing.

***Can I use earplugs when taking the examination?***

Yes. You may bring soft ear plugs to use at the test site. The ear plugs will be inspected by Prometric staff prior to entering the testing room. The Prometric testing center will also supply headphones to help dampen noise. Candidates should expect that there will be some background noise during their examination. There may be candidates in surrounding cubicles taking typing-intensive examinations. There may be other candidates entering and leaving the testing room during the course of your examination. The headphones will help to dampen noise that you may find distracting.

***What can I do if there is glare on the computer screen?***

As a first step, you should reposition the computer monitor to eliminate the glare. If the glare persists despite attempts to adjust the position of the monitor and you still have difficulty seeing the computer screen, you should notify Prometric staff immediately of the problem.

***What can I do if I experience a delay in starting my examination?***

You should note that your appointment time is not necessarily your starting time. You will have to be checked-in before taking the examination (i.e., sign in, present the appropriate identification, be thumb-printed and photographed). The check-in process may take time if many candidates have the same appointment time. Typically this process takes 30 minutes but it's possible that it could take longer. This will not affect your total testing time. If the delay is more than 60 minutes after your scheduled appointment, you have the option of rescheduling your examination for another date as soon as possible.

***What can I do if the computer malfunctions while taking the examination?***

If you experience technical difficulties while taking the examination, you must alert Prometric staff immediately. If Prometric staff cannot remedy the situation within 60 minutes, you have the option of rescheduling your examination for another date as soon as possible. The time Prometric spends remedying a problem does not count as part of your examination time. You should contact both the licensing authority from which you are seeking licensure and FSBPT to notify them of the technical difficulties.

***What happens if there is a fire drill, evacuation, or another unexpected event during my examination?***

If the disruption lasts for less than 60 minutes you will be expected to complete your examination. If the disruption is longer than 60 minutes, you have the option to reschedule your examination for another date as soon as possible. If the disruption cannot be resolved, FSBPT will reschedule your examination for another day as soon as possible.

***What should I do if I experience other disruptions not covered here while taking my examination?***

You should alert Prometric staff immediately to disruptions occurring within the testing room. The sooner the testing center staff is aware of a problem, the sooner steps can be taken to reduce or eliminate the disruption.

If you are unable to test on the date that you were scheduled due to a problem with the Prometric testing center (power outage, closure due to weather, etc.) you will be rescheduled for another date as soon as possible.

**Please inform FSBPT of any delays or problems encountered while at the Prometric testing center.**

***Can I make comments concerning the examination administration?***

Yes. You are given the opportunity to complete a survey after finishing your examination. The survey is presented on the computer and consists of questions about the examination administration.

***What is the FSBPT policy regarding examination security?***

The FSBPT policy is that you must act to protect the integrity of the NPTE at all times, i.e., before, during, and after you take the NPTE. The NPTE is the property of the FSBPT and is protected by trade secret, contract, and federal copyright laws. The FSBPT strictly prohibits any sharing of any information whatsoever about any question contained within any past or present NPTE. The FSBPT warns that it is a violation of FSBPT's property rights in the NPTE and is illegal to share questions that are on the NPTE or to ask any person who has taken the NPTE about any NPTE question. The FSBPT also warns persons who have registered to take the NPTE that their

sharing or soliciting others to share information about any question contained within any past or present NPTE may be a breach of their registration contract and further result in their being liable for consequential damages and attorneys' fees.

The FSBPT will prosecute all persons who solicit questions or share information about NPTE questions. Persons for whom the FSBPT has a reasonable suspicion of sharing or soliciting information about any NPTE question may be prohibited from sitting for the NPTE unless and until they are determined after a full investigation not to have shared or solicited such information.

If you give or receive assistance during the examination, you can be required to stop testing immediately and leave the room. Your examination will not be scored. The performance of all candidates is monitored and may be analyzed statistically for purposes of detecting and verifying cheating. If FSBPT is unable to validate your score due to an unlikely response pattern, we will cancel your score and notify the licensing authority. If evidence of cheating is discovered after you have been licensed, you may be unable to transfer your score to another jurisdiction.

For purposes of examination security, each candidate who wishes to take the NPTE is required to enter into the following agreement as part of the registration and examination-taking processes:

***NPTE Security Agreement and General Terms of Use***

*Before you continue with the examination, you must agree to each of the following statements. Each of these statements reflects a requirement that has previously been communicated to you in the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) Candidate Handbook, which describes NPTE testing policies. Adherence to these policies is necessary in order to maintain a fair and secure testing process for you and for other candidates.*

*If you do not agree to these terms you will not be permitted to test, and your Prometric testing fee will not be refunded.*

*I certify that I am the person whose name appears on the two forms of identification I presented prior to admission to the testing room. I am taking the NPTE solely for the purpose of seeking licensure in a U.S. jurisdiction, OR, if I am taking the examination for any other purpose, I have applied for and received special permission to take the NPTE from the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).*

*I have read and agree to the terms set forth in the NPTE Candidate Handbook and the Prometric Testing Center Regulations, including but not limited to, the rules and regulations concerning test-day procedures; procedures for candidates in the event of disruptions or errors in test delivery or administration; and the ban on bringing study materials or other prohibited items into the testing room and on other prohibited conduct before, during, or after examination administration.*

*I am aware that all NPTE test materials, including my answers, are the property of FSBPT. I understand that the NPTE is a confidential and secure examination, protected by U.S. and international copyright and trade secret laws, and that its contents are being disclosed to me today in a limited context to permit me to test and for no other purpose.*

*I agree that I will not discuss or disclose NPTE content with anyone, whether it be orally, in writing, on the Internet, or through any other medium. I agree that I will not copy, reproduce, adapt, disclose, or transmit any examination question or answer, in whole or in part, or assist anyone else in doing the same. I further agree that I will not reconstruct examination content from memory, by dictation or by any other means, for any purpose, including but not limited to the purpose of sharing that information with any other individual or entity.*

*Examples of prohibited acts include, but are not limited to: describing questions or graphics from the examination; discussing examination questions on web "chat rooms," message boards, or forums, or through email accounts or any social media; identifying terms or concepts contained in examination questions; sharing answers to questions; referring others to information seen on the examination; or reconstructing a list of topics tested.*

*Furthermore, I agree not to disclose the content of any other product owned by FSBPT, including its*

*Practice Examination and Assessment Tool (PEAT), laws and rules examinations, or any other examinations.*

*I understand and agree that FSBPT has the right to cancel my scores if it finds any evidence of any irregularities whatsoever or if I fail to cooperate with an FSBPT investigation or request for information. FSBPT is the final authority that determines whether I have the privilege of sitting for the NPTE and whether the score I receive is transferred to any licensing jurisdiction.*

*I am aware that if I provide false information or if I violate this Agreement, any of the NPTE rules or procedures, or any other terms or conditions stated in the NPTE Candidate Handbook or Prometric Testing Center Regulations, I may be subject to any or all of the following consequences:*

- o The Test Administrator may immediately dismiss me from the test session;*
- o My scores may be canceled, without a refund, and the jurisdiction receiving my scores may be informed of the reason for the cancellation;*
- o I may be banned from taking the NPTE;*
- o I may face a lawsuit that may result in my paying monetary damages or in my receiving other court-enforced penalties;*
- o I may face criminal prosecution;*
- o I may incur monetary fines and disciplinary action by FSBPT and/or the jurisdiction in which I am applying for licensure.*

*I have read, understand, and agree to the foregoing statements.*

In order to safeguard the public welfare and the integrity of the NPTE, FSBPT reserves the right to prohibit any person from taking the NPTE who has not accepted the terms and conditions of the foregoing Security Agreement.

### **Examination Results and Scoring**

#### **How will I get my examination results?**

After the administration of the examination, your examination will be scored by FSBPT. The results will then be transmitted to the licensing authority and a free score report will be made available to candidates.

Scores are reported to jurisdictions approximately 5 business days after the examination date. While every effort is made to report scores in 5 business days, circumstances beyond our control may require that this date shift.

Free score reports are provided to candidates 10 business days after the examination. Free score reports can be viewed and downloaded by going to “Status of My Request” on the website [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org). Free score reports will remain viewable for 30 days. After 30 days, reports may be purchased at the standard fee for an Individual Score Report.

#### **What are scale scores and what is the passing score?**

The NPTE uses sophisticated procedures to ensure test forms are equally difficult across administrations. Scale scores are an important part of making sure test scores are comparable.

As forms (versions) of the NPTE may vary slightly in their level of difficulty, raw scores (the number of questions a candidate answers correctly) are converted to scale scores. The scaled scores represent equivalent levels of achievement regardless of the examination form taken, ensuring that scores on all forms of the examination are comparable. The NPTE scale score is a mathematical conversion of raw scores to a scale that ranges from 200 to 800. Because of the conversion, a score of 800 does not equal a perfect score—it is only the highest score that FSBPT reports.

All jurisdiction licensing authorities have adopted the same criterion-referenced passing standard for the NPTE. Although FSBPT reports scores ranging from 200 to 800, the NPTE is a pass/fail examination. The examination is not designed to distinguish between many levels of competence, only to distinguish whether a candidate has at least the minimum level of competence required to practice as an entry-level PT or PTA. The passing standard is a scale score of 600; therefore, any score of 600 or higher is a passing score, and any score below 600 is a failing score. The number of questions that have to be answered correctly to achieve a score of 600 can change from form to form,



but is generally within a 1-2 question range.

If a form of the examination is slightly easier than the form on which the passing score was set, an examinee would have to answer more questions correctly to obtain a scale score of 600. If the form of the examination is slightly harder, an examinee would have to answer fewer questions correctly to pass the examination. This process ensures that we apply the same standard of difficulty regardless of whether the items are a little easier or a little harder than those on another form.

### ***Retaking the Examination***

#### ***How do I register to take the NPTE again?***

If a retake is necessary due to failure on an examination, you must register with a jurisdiction licensing authority following the steps indicated in the section of this book entitled, "Arranging to Take the NPTE."

#### ***How often can I take the examination?***

Retake policies vary by jurisdiction. However, FSBPT will only allow you to take the examination a maximum of three times in any 12-month period.

Two additional eligibility requirements will be in effect beginning with the January 2016 NPTE administrations.

- 1) Lifetime limit – candidates will be able to take the examination a maximum of six (6) times. An individual can take the NPTE for PTs six times and also take the NPTE for PTAs six times if he or she is otherwise qualified to do so.
- 2) Low score limit – candidates who receive two (2) very low scores on the exam will not be allowed to test again. A very low score is defined as performing at or close to chance level (scale scores 400 and below).

#### ***Do I need to wait a specified period of time between examinations?***

Candidates must wait until the next available scheduled test date.

### ***Additional Questions***

#### ***What services are available online?***

The following services are available at <http://www.fsbpt.org>:

- Register for examinations
- Check the status of your registration
- Update your profile
- Add a payment to a requested service
- Apply for a score transfer
- Contact information for Licensing Authorities
- Listing of school codes

#### ***Whom should I call if I have additional questions about the NPTE Program?***

You may call FSBPT at 703-739-9420 to obtain general information about the NPTE program, the status of your registration, "Authorization to Test" letter, or the score report that is transmitted to your jurisdiction licensing authority.

#### ***Can I make comments on the examination?***

If you wish to provide comments on the examination, you may do so by mail or e-mail. The Examination Development Committee (EDC) reviews these comments for consideration in future examination development. However, submission of comments will not alter your examination score.

By e-mail: [npte@fsbpt.org](mailto:npte@fsbpt.org).

By mail:

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
124 West Street South, Third Floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314

#### ***Is there a way to appeal a policy related to the National Physical Therapy Examination?***

The FSBPT Board of Directors routinely reviews the policies that govern the development and administration of the National Physical Therapy Examination. These policies are then shared with the licensing authority for each U.S. jurisdiction. Careful consideration is given when developing policies to ensure that they are in line with the Federation's mission of public protection.

If you wish to appeal a specific policy related to the National Physical Therapy Examination, the first step is to discuss the issue with a Federation staff person. The staff may be able to provide a better understanding of the policy and explain how the policy relates to the Federation's mission. If you still choose to appeal a policy, you will need to submit a request in writing to the FSBPT Board of Directors. Requests for appeals must be submitted by the candidate within 60 days of his/her most recent examination. The request must include the rationale for the exception to the policy and any steps already taken to resolve this problem with FSBPT staff.

When reviewing appeals, the FSBPT Board of Directors will consider what effect granting the appeal would have on other candidates, the role of the examination in providing a measure of minimal entry-level competence, the security of the NPTE, and any impact the decision might create for the jurisdiction in which the candidate is applying or any other jurisdiction. Candidate appeals will be responded to in writing by the President of the FSBPT Board of Directors within 60 days.

## Content Outlines

The examinations consist of objective, multiple-choice questions covering the major areas of physical therapy. The PT examination consists of 250 items and the PTA examination consists of 200 items. An overview of the content outlines is included in this handbook. For the complete content outlines, go to <http://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/NPTEDevelopment.aspx> and click "NPTE content."

## National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) Test Content Outline – Physical Therapist

*This test is designed to measure whether or not an examinee has the requisite knowledge required of entry-level physical therapist practitioners. The focus is on the **clinical application** of knowledge, concepts and principles necessary for the provision of **safe and effective patient care**. Provision of safe patient care includes consideration of **current best evidence** from clinically relevant research regarding the safety and efficacy of therapeutic, rehabilitative, and preventive physical therapy services.*

<b>Content Area Description (# Items)</b>	<b># Items (acceptable range)</b>	<b>% Items</b>
<b>Physical Therapy Examination</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (9-10) Musculoskeletal System (21-23) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (16-17) Other Systems* (4-6)	<b>53 (50-56)</b>	<b>26.5%</b>
<b>Foundations for Evaluation, Differential Diagnosis, &amp; Prognosis</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (11-13) Musculoskeletal System (17-18) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (15-16) Other Systems* (18-23)	<b>65 (60-70)</b>	<b>32.5%</b>
<b>Interventions</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (11-12) Musculoskeletal System (21-22) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (17-19) Other Systems* (8-11)	<b>57 (56-64)</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
<b>Non-Systems Domains</b> Equipment & Devices; Therapeutic Modalities Equipment & Devices (5-6) Therapeutic Modalities (6-8) Safety & Protection; Professional Responsibilities; Research Safety & Protection (4-5) Professional Responsibilities (3-4) Research & Evidence-Based Practice (4-5)	<b>25 (22-28)</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Other Systems include one or more of the following: Integumentary, Metabolic & Endocrine, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, and Systems Interactions.

### System Specific Specifications - Physical Therapist

<b>Body System</b>	<b>Target # Items (acceptable range)</b>	<b>Target % of Examination</b>
Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems	33 (32-35)	16.5%
Musculoskeletal System	61 (59-63)	30.5%
Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems	50 (48-52)	25.0%
Other Systems*	31 (28-40)	15.5%

\* Other Systems include one or more of the following: Integumentary, Metabolic & Endocrine, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, and Systems Interactions.

## National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) Test Content Outline – Physical Therapist Assistant

*This test is designed to measure whether or not an examinee has the requisite knowledge required of entry-level physical therapist assistants working under the supervision of a physical therapist. The focus is on the **clinical application** of knowledge, concepts and principles necessary for the provision of **safe and effective patient care** consistent with the principles of **best practice**.*

<b>Content Area Description (# Items)</b>	<b># Items (acceptable range)</b>	<b>% Items</b>
<b>Physical Therapy Data Collection</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (6-7) Musculoskeletal System (12-13) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (8-10) Other Systems* (2-3)	<b>31 (28-33)</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<b>Diseases/Conditions that Impact Effective Treatment</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (7-8) Musculoskeletal System (10-11) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (10-11) Other Systems* (12-18)	<b>42 (39-48)</b>	<b>28.0%</b>
<b>Interventions</b> Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems (10-11) Musculoskeletal System (15-17) Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems (13-14) Other Systems* (5-9)	<b>46 (43-51)</b>	<b>30.7%</b>
<b>Non-Systems Domains</b> Equipment & Devices; Therapeutic Modalities Equipment & Devices (9-11) Therapeutic Modalities (11-13) Safety & Protection; Professional Responsibilities; Research Safety & Protection (3-4) Professional Responsibilities (2-3) Research & Evidence-Based Practice (2-3)	<b>31 (27-34)</b>	<b>20.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Other Systems include one or more of the following: Integumentary, Metabolic & Endocrine, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, and Systems Interactions.

### System Specific Specifications - Physical Therapist Assistant

<b>Body System</b>	<b>Target # Items (acceptable range)</b>	<b>Target % of Examination</b>
Cardiovascular/Pulmonary & Lymphatic Systems	25 (23-26)	16.7%
Musculoskeletal System	39 (37-41)	26.0%
Neuromuscular & Nervous Systems	33 (31-35)	22.0%
Other Systems*	22 (19-30)	14.7%

\* Other Systems include one or more of the following: Integumentary, Metabolic & Endocrine, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, and Systems Interactions.

## Abbreviations

The abbreviations that follow have been approved for use on the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant examinations. Approved abbreviations may be used in place of the term or phrase they represent.

ACE inhibitor	angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor
ADH	antidiuretic hormone
ASIA Impairment Scale	American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale
BMI	body mass index
Bpm	beats per minute
C <sub>1</sub> , C <sub>2</sub> , C <sub>3</sub> , C <sub>4</sub> , C <sub>5</sub> , C <sub>6</sub> , C <sub>7</sub> , C <sub>8</sub>	cervical spinal column levels/nerve root positions
Cm	centimeter
CN	cranial nerve
CVA	cerebrovascular accident
Df	degrees of freedom (statistical concept)
DIP joint	distal interphalangeal joint
FEV <sub>1</sub>	forced expiratory volume in 1 second
Ft	foot
G	gram
HCO <sup>3-</sup>	bicarbonate
In	inch
Kg	kilogram
L <sub>1</sub> , L <sub>2</sub> , L <sub>3</sub> , L <sub>4</sub> , L <sub>5</sub>	lumbar spinal column levels/nerve root positions
Lb	pound
M	meter
mA-min	milliampere-minute
MCP joint	metacarpophalangeal joint
METS	metabolic equivalents
mg/dL	milligrams/deciliter
MHz	megahertz
Min	minute
mL	milliliter
Mm	millimeter
mm Hg	millimeters of mercury
mmol/L	millimoles/liter
MTP	metatarsophalangeal
Oz	ounce
p value	probability value
PaCO <sub>2</sub>	partial pressure of arterial carbon dioxide
PaO <sub>2</sub>	partial pressure of arterial oxygen
PIP joint	proximal interphalangeal joint
PNF	proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation
Pps	pulses per second
Q angle	quadriceps angle
R	correlation coefficient (statistical concept)
Rep	repetition
ROM	range of motion
S <sub>1</sub> , S <sub>2</sub> , S <sub>3</sub> , S <sub>4</sub>	first heart sound, second heart sound, third heart sound, fourth heart sound
S <sub>1</sub> , S <sub>2</sub> , S <sub>3</sub> , S <sub>4</sub> , S <sub>5</sub>	sacral spinal column levels/nerve root positions
SACH foot	solid ankle cushion heel foot

SaO <sub>2</sub>	oxygen saturation
Sec	second
SOAP note	subjective, objective, assessment, and plan note
T <sub>1</sub> , T <sub>2</sub> , T <sub>3</sub> , T <sub>4</sub> , T <sub>5</sub> , T <sub>6</sub> , T <sub>7</sub> , T <sub>8</sub> , T <sub>9</sub> , T <sub>10</sub> , T <sub>11</sub> , T <sub>12</sub>	thoracic spinal column levels/nerve root positions
THR	total hip replacement
VO <sub>2</sub> assessment	volume of oxygen assessment
W	watt

# Medication Terminology

Medications referenced in both the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant examinations follow nomenclature used in the United States. When appropriate, both generic and trade names will be given.

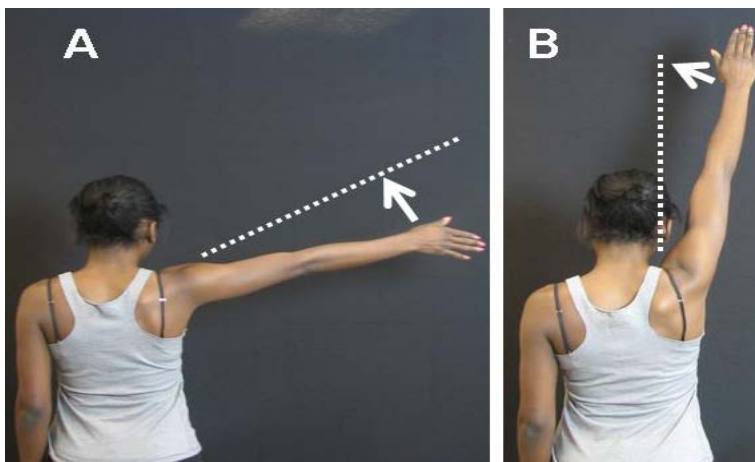


## Sample Questions

The sample questions that follow are illustrative of the type found on the Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant examinations.

### Physical Therapist Examination

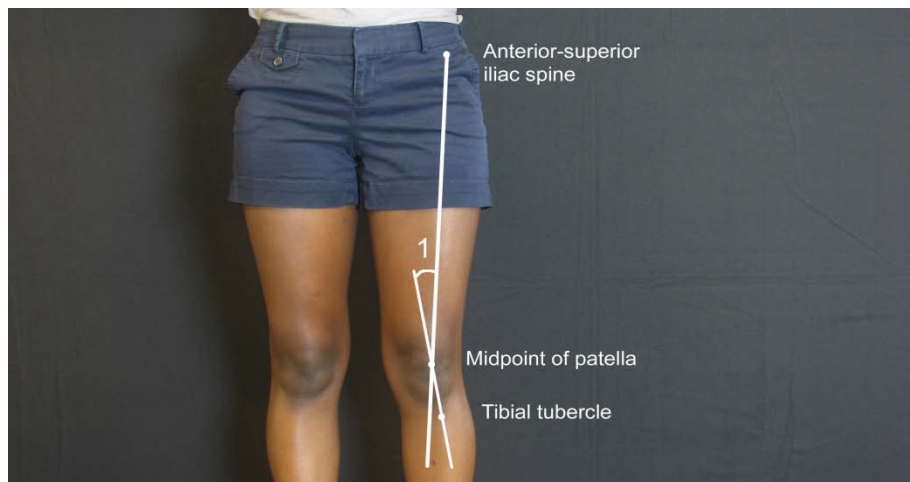
1. After sitting at a computer station for 2-3 hours, an individual reports experiencing a sharp, localized pain in the left arm. When asked to show the location of the pain, the individual points to the area of the insertion of the deltoid. The pain disappears when the individual stands up and walks around briefly. Which of the following interventions is **MOST** likely to correct the problem?
  - a. Isometric strengthening of the deltoid
  - b. Lumbar extension exercises in prone position
  - c. Instruction in correct postural alignment in sitting position
  - d. Instruction in shoulder active range of motion exercises
2. A patient with a medullary-level vascular lesion has increased vagal nerve activity. Which of the following descriptions **BEST** represents the cardiovascular effects that occur when the patient transitions from supine to standing position?
  - a. Rise in blood pressure and no change in heart rate
  - b. Drop in blood pressure and no change in heart rate
  - c. Rise in blood pressure and an increase in heart rate
  - d. Drop in blood pressure and an increase in heart rate
3. A patient has used crutches with a partial weight-bearing toe touch gait for the past 3 months. When progressed to full weight-bearing, the patient is unable to demonstrate a heel-toe gait sequence with the involved extremity. Which of the following disorders is the **MOST** likely origin of the gait abnormality?
  - a. Plantar fasciitis
  - b. Fibular (peroneal) nerve palsy
  - c. Heel cord tightness
  - d. Hammertoe
4. While abducting the shoulder, the patient in the photograph denies pain while moving the arm through the range indicated in photograph A, but reports increasing pain severity as the arm moves into the range indicated by photograph B. Which of the following disorders is **MOST** likely present?
  - a. Acromioclavicular joint lesion
  - b. Subacromial bursitis
  - c. Infraspinatus tendinopathy
  - d. Partial tear of the supraspinatus



Answers to sample questions: 1.c; 2.b; 3.c; 4.a

### **Physical Therapist Assistant Examination**

1. During a physical therapy evaluation, a patient with a sprain of the deltoid ligament of the ankle reported pain with palpation of the affected area and with ankle motion that stressed the ligament. To determine any change in the patient's pain level during subsequent treatment, a physical therapist assistant should palpate which of the following areas?
  - a. Anterior to the lateral malleolus while the patient's ankle is passively plantar flexed
  - b. Inferior to the medial malleolus while the patient's ankle is passively everted
  - c. Over the sinus tarsi while the patient's ankle is passively inverted
  - d. Deep to the Achilles tendon while the patient's ankle is passively dorsiflexed
2. Which of the following instructions would be **MOST** appropriate to give a patient who is learning pursed-lip breathing?
  - a. Exhale through pursed lips while contracting abdominal muscles.
  - b. Exhale by blowing air out forcefully between pursed lips.
  - c. Exhale by relaxing air out through pursed lips.
  - d. Exhale in quick short puffs through pursed lips.
3. A patient with impaired kinesthesia who is performing active range of motion exercises of the upper extremities will **MOST** likely require which of the following supplemental interventions?
  - a. Visual cues while performing the exercises
  - b. Pain-relieving modalities prior to performing the exercises
  - c. Trunk stabilization while performing the exercises
  - d. Stretching prior to performing the exercises
4. If angle 1 in the photograph is greater than  $20^\circ$ , which of the following complications is the patient **MOST** likely to develop?
  - a. Patellofemoral tracking disorder
  - b. Genu recurvatum
  - c. Lateral collateral ligament sprain
  - d. Medial meniscal lesion



Answers to sample questions: 1.b; 2.c; 3.a; 4.a

## Additional Services

Any fees noted below are subject to change without notice. Please check online at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) for current prices.

### ***Score Transfer Service***

The FSBPT Score Transfer Service was established to facilitate the endorsement of licenses from one jurisdiction to another. Your participation in this service is entirely voluntary. In offering this service, FSBPT makes no guarantees that any licensing authority will accept a score transfer in lieu of other jurisdiction requirements for the purposes of licensure.

Transfer of your scores on the National Physical Therapy Examination may be requested any time after taking the examination. Your scores are automatically reported to the jurisdiction licensing authority in which you are seeking licensure. There is a reporting fee only when you transfer your scores to other jurisdictions.

Transfers can be requested by going to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and clicking “Score Transfer Service” under “Top Services.” The fee for this service is \$80.

### ***Performance Feedback Report***

Candidates who want additional information about their score on the examination may want to purchase a detailed Performance Feedback Report (PFR) from FSBPT. The PFR is a descriptive diagnostic score report available to all PT and PTA candidates.

The PFR includes details about your examination score, broken out by each Content Area and Body System. For each Content Area or Body System, the PFR will include the scale score for that section, a score range describing how an examinee might be expected to do on a different form, the raw score and percentage correct, and a raw score and percentage correct needed to get a scale score of 600 in each Content Area or Body System (note that a candidate cannot pass or fail an individual Content Area or Body System). The PFR also includes raw scores by section, so a candidate can see whether he or she did poorly at the beginning or end of the examination. The PFRs include additional example items with answers and rationales, and a copy of the Content Outline.

Reports can be requested by going to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and clicking “Our Services.” The fee for this service is \$90.00.

### ***Examination Score Verification***

You may request verification of your examination score by going to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and clicking “Our Services.” The fee for this service is \$150.00. Requests will be processed by FSBPT within 5 days of receipt. In deciding whether to have your score verified, please consider that examinations are scored electronically with a high degree of accuracy. It is therefore highly unlikely that verification will alter your original score.

### ***Online PEAT (Practice Exam and Assessment Tool)***

The Online PEAT (Practice Exam and Assessment Tool) is as similar to the real NPTE as possible so that you will be able to identify your strengths and potential pitfall areas. FSBPT's Online PEAT offers:

- The same format and type of questions as the actual NPTE
- Immediate and automatic scoring for your online practice examination
- A detailed performance report by content area and system
- Explanations and rationales behind correct answers
- References to help you increase your knowledge

You can have access to Online PEAT for 60 days when you have paid the \$99.00 access fee. If you decide you need additional time, you can extend your access period one time for 15 days by paying an additional \$50.00. The extension must be requested within 30 days of the expiration of your 60-day access period. To order Online PEAT, please go to [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) and click “Our Services.”