



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCBTMB Adopts Distance Education as a Credible Component of Massage Therapy Training

Approves up to 300 Hours of Distance Education

OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois (November 16, 2007) – After a thorough evaluation process, the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) has adopted learning guidelines and policies in approving up to 300 hours of distance education as part of a certifiable program for massage therapy practitioners.

As the primary certification body for practitioners of massage therapy and bodywork, the role of NCBTMB has always been to set standards for the knowledge and skills required to maintain the highest levels of professional practice. In considering distance education as a viable means for the theoretical and non-hands-on portions of massage education, the goal is to ensure that educational parameters meet the same academic standards as programs provided in face-to-face formats.

“Online, virtual classroom and distance learning courses continue to evolve and are becoming increasingly mainstream as credible delivery methods for instruction,” stated Donna Feeley, Chair of NCBTMB. “Major corporations, academic institutions and professional organizations recognize the convenience and benefits afforded by online offerings.” Then she added, “Not only are they highly effective, but in many cases necessary for busy adults who may not have the time to devote to attending fixed facility classes.”

In its statement on distance education policies, the Board has expressed that student outcomes in these programs must be consistent with the stated mission, goals and objectives of the institution’s program; and the institution must assume the responsibility for establishing a means for assessing these results.

NCBTMB has learned from and aligned itself with the policies of other healthcare professions such as nursing, physical therapy and respiratory therapy in recognizing and providing a strict set of guidelines for online or distant education, the fastest growing segment of postsecondary learning today.

“NCBTMB’s goal is to incorporate learning methods that provide the flexibility today’s lifestyles demand, while maintaining the high quality associated with the national credential,” said Chris Laxton, CEO of NCBTMB. “Educators and administrators have recognized for some time that online learning can serve as an integral component of a student’s training. This new set of policies gives massage and bodywork instructors a more diverse range of options in the delivery methods used to educate their students.”

For the past 15 years, NCBTMB has administered its national credentialing program, consisting of regular, scientifically rigorous job task analyses, standards of practice, a code of ethics and a recertification component espousing professional development through continuing education and hands-on practice. The organization continues to build and strengthen a number of strategic objectives involving its school outreach programs, recertification processes, customer service initiatives and distance learning.

ABOUT NCBTMB

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) was established in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of therapeutic massage and bodywork through a recognized credentialing program. NCBTMB examinations are currently utilized or recognized in statute or rule by 32 states plus the District of Columbia. There are currently 87,000 professionals with NCBTMB certification. NCBTMB has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1993.

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