My app't. calendar has been on my smart phone; what is an acceptable format to verify my 250 hours of work experience?

You can email it to yourself and upload it. If you work for someone we will accept a letter from the employer.

Hello, I am currently finishing courses so I can transfer into a B.S. program. My question is, will these credentials uphold with the standards of being Board Certified? Second, in the upcoming semester I will be taking a psychology class. Applicable?

Yes, we will accept your massage therapy education from an NCBTMB approved school and the courses from your B.S. degree.

The new renewal continuing education criteria states those 3 hours must be in research. Please explain. Does this mean doing research, reading research? How is this criteria satisfied?

The research requirement is to ensure that therapists know that the information they receive is from a legitimate resource. This course must be taken from an Approved Provider and should include information about how to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate information. Please see the Massage Therapy Foundation's website for research courses.

Applicable time frame for the 250 hours of hands-on experience: entire career or since when I became nationally certified?

The 250 hours of hands-on work experience begins when you began practicing legally.

Is there a grace period during which you can remain active (with a pending status of your re-certification) if you are unable to complete the required number of additional CEU hours prior to the expiration of your certification?

Please email your specific situation to info@ncbtmb.org.
Is it really necessary to be fingerprinted and have a background check if your state already requires it? What's the deal with a mandatory research class? What happens to my NCTMB Certification that I have maintained for 20 years?

You do not have to be fingerprinted for our background check. It is part of the application and fee. The research requirement was implemented because we are realizing that some of the information that passed on throughout the years is not accurate. As a Board Certificate we want to ensure that information you receive is legitimate. To do so our therapists must ensure that they know how to decipher between legitimate and illegitimate information. The research course should teach massage therapists this information. Please go to The Massage Therapy Foundation’s website for information about classes. Once your recertify, you will move into the Board Certification credential.

Do I need to resubmit my transcripts if they are already on file?

Yes, we are verifying everyone's transcripts.

Do the hours worked during school count toward the 500 required 6-months post-graduation? For example, if a student participated in federal work study.

No, the hands on professional work experience must be completed after you graduated and began working legally on your own or for someone.

Good Day, does my teaching exp. dating back to 2008, coupled with sustaining licensure as both a CMT/LMT since 2005, creating new courses through research and in the field exp. and close to 10k hrs. massaging qualify me not to take the test?

If you are currently not certified and want to become Board Certified you will have to take the Board Certification test, but with your experience I don't believe that will be a problem for you.

Are there online or published study guides available for the Board Certification exam?

The practice exam will be coming out this year.

I work with students who are interested in Board Certification. One of the main questions they have is if they can begin accumulating paid work hours prior to graduation (our program is 900 hours in length and they often begin working around 750hrs)

If you live within a state that requires licensure they must become licensed before they begin practicing legally.
With the board certification continuing education requirement in research, will we as practitioners take on the role of conducting our own primary research, or more likely attend a course that seeks to evaluate and apply new findings?

The research requirement is to ensure that therapists know that the information they receive is from a legitimate resource. This course must be taken from an Approved Provider and should include information about how to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate information. Please go to The Massage Therapy Foundation's website for great courses.

**If I don't practice massage but I am an instructor can I become board certified?**

Yes because I'm sure that you practiced professionally at one time in your life. We will accept hours from when you graduated and began practicing.

**My school had 720 hours. Will my CE's count towards the 750 hours need?**

Yes

**How much does the board certification cost and do you have to pay a renewal fee every year?**

The Board Certification test costs $250 but anyone who has ever taken one of NCBTMB's tests for licensure receives a $25 discount. Recertification is $85 every 2 years.

**For the CPR certification, please specify who/what providers we need to receive this from, if there are any requirements?**

You don't need to receive CPR from an Approved Provider. You can get it from anyone that is certified to teach CPR.

**It sounds like taking continuing ed. classes just is not going to matter anymore...True or False?**

As in all other medical professions, the only way massage therapy will move forward or be taken seriously is if we continue to educate ourselves. Continuing Education is a very important piece of Certification. To answer your question, False, you should always continue to educate yourself and take classes that matter. Don’t ever just take classes to fill requirements.

**I am NY State licensed, and had over 1200 hrs. to meet that requirement. How do the changes affect me, since I have over double the 500 hr. requirement?**

Having 1200 hours of education is great. You have the educational requirement to become certified.
My students about to graduate are under the impression that they have only 6 months to accumulate 250 additional hours plus have documented client sessions. They are not taking the NCTMB test for that reason. Would you explain?

First, the NCETMB is our licensure test. They need no hands on work experience to take this test or to become licensed. Second, to receive the Board Certification credential a recent graduate must be working for no less than 6 months. They can take the test at any time but must fulfill the requirements to obtain the credential.

Is a Feldenkrais Certification (800 hours) acceptable for fulfilling the board certification requirement?

If you've graduated from an NCBTMB approved school you can definitely use Feldenkrais for additional hours.

I graduated from a program which provided 730 official hours but which was still within the scope of licensure for WA State. Am I ineligible for the Board certification which appears to require a certificate from a school providing 750 or more hours?

No, you only have to get an additional 20 hours from CE's or we will accept courses that you've taken from any accredited college or university.

I read earlier that I have to finish 250 clients in my first 6 myths. It took 4 mtns to get license and business is slow. Do I have to retest?

You don't have to do any hands on massage to become licensed. The only things you need to do is graduate from an NCBTMB assigned school, pass the licensure test and submit the state licensure application. You can find the state licensure application on your state's website.

Will there be a BCMTB or just a BCMT?

The only Board Certification credential is BCTMB.

If I become Board Certified does my National Certification go away? Can you still be Nationally Certified and not Board Certified after your current certification expires?

No, the only credential that will be available is Board Certification. This credential is higher than National Certification.
Do I have to go back to school for additional hours AND have the requisite ceu credits or does the "education hours" mean ceu credits?

You can submit CEUs that you have taken from an NCBTMB Approved Provider.

I am an RN and I come in under portfolio review. Do I qualify?

We would have to see your transcripts.

I understand you need a minimum of 750 to become Board Certified. I plan on taking another 49 hours in continuing ed. to meet that requirement. My question is, do those hours need to be certain courses such as 6 hours of ethics?

No, as long as they are taught by an NCBTMB Approved Provider or taken at an accredited college or university we will accept them.

The Cortiva Institute Hoboken 1080 hour program grads have 200 hours of hands-on clinical experience in their education - does that qualify for the hands-on experience required to take the exam?

No, the hands on portion of the requirements must be professional hands on massage or bodywork, either working for yourself or another organization.

I am NCTMB credentialed since 1998, I went to a COMPTA accredited 500 hour program. Why am I going to lose this credential?

You can use all of the hours that you used to recertify each time and also any courses that you’ve taken from an accredited college or university to meet the educational requirement.

If I’m a student and have 750 hours which is the required hours of education to take the board certification exam but don't have the 200 hrs. of experience that is required, can I still take the exam?

You can definitely still take the exam. When you reach the 250 hours of professional hands on work experience in 6 or more months you will get the credential.

I wasn’t able to get my certification renewed when it expired, but I would like to get it once again? Do I need to take exam again, or would there be fees I need to pay?

Please email info@ncbtmb.org and explain you specific issue. We are happy to help you.