



## **NPTE Quarterly Faculty Newsletter**

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

The NPTE Quarterly Faculty Newsletter is published by the Federation (FSBPT) as one mechanism to communicate with educators in PT and PTA programs. This effort to provide ongoing communication includes current information and updates on the NPTE as well as information on other regulatory issues that might impact or be of interest to program educators.

Please share this newsletter with other PT or PTA educators.

**Subscription to the newsletter is free.** To subscribe, go to our [Faculty Newsletter page](#) and look for "Subscribe now."

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### **NPTE Workshop for Educators at APTA-CSM**

Good news! There will be an abbreviated NPTE Workshop for Educators at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting (CSM). The workshop will be held at the nearby Hyatt Regency hotel in New Orleans, LA on February 20-21, 2018 immediately preceding the APTA-CSM conference.

The two-day workshop is offered at a reduced fee of \$395, and has a maximum enrollment of 40 attendees.

Like the workshops held at the FSBPT offices, expect to receive valuable insights on how the NPTE is developed, how to prepare your students for the NPTE, and hands-on assistance in writing test items similar to those on the NPTE.

More information and registration resources can be found here:

<https://www.fsbpt.org/SecondaryPages/Educators/EducatorsWorkshops.aspx> or Google “NPTE Educators Workshop”.

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### **ACC/AHA Issues New Guidelines for High Blood Pressure: What does this mean for the NPTE?**

In November of 2017, the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association issued new guidelines on the collection and interpretation of blood pressure measurements in adults. FSBPT immediately reviewed NPTE items to be administered in the near future to determine if any items would require a key change based on the new guidelines. For items to be administered in January and April, no NPTE questions will be affected by the new guidelines that would impact a candidate’s score. Therefore, we are recommending that NPTE candidates prepare for the examination by becoming familiar with the criteria described in the November, 2017 guidelines. Questions to be administered following April, 2018 will be written consistent with these new guidelines and terminology.

For more information on the updated guidelines, see the ACC’s website: <http://www.acc.org/latest-in-cardiology/ten-points-to-remember/2017/11/09/11/41/2017-guideline-for-high-blood-pressure-in-adults>.

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### **Importance of Adding Cohorts in a Timely Manner**

When FSBPT implemented the new exam registration process in 2016, we asked schools to add new cohorts to our system by the end of the first year of school for that cohort. Based on feedback we’ve received from program directors, we thought that it was important to share the rationale behind our request.

1. Once the profile creation process is initiated, it exposes your students to various important information about FSBPT and the testing process. This information includes the candidate journey map and the customer dashboard, information about testing dates and deadlines, and the professional integrity that must be affirmed as part of the profile completion process. FSBPT believes that there is significant benefit in exposing students to this information early in the academic process.
  2. Having an estimate of the number of students and their locations assists with our interaction with Prometric when planning for the number of seats to reserve at Prometric centers for each test date.
  3. When completing their profiles, students can indicate if they have previously received testing accommodations during their academic career. For the students that answer “yes”, we can start a dialogue on needed accommodations earlier, especially if what will be requested is outside the standard accommodations.
  4. Since students can opt to not authorize release of their NPTE scores to their schools when they complete their profile, earlier completion of this step allows schools to see how many students (and who) did not authorize release of their scores to the schools. This affords the school an opportunity to explain to students the importance of this information and how it is used by the school.
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### **This Quarter's Question: How can I use the results from the NPTE practice analysis to prepare my students for the NPTE?**

You can find the complete results of the 2018 Practice Analyses here:

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/NPTEDevelopment/EnsuringValidity.aspx>.

Each item on the NPTE has a basis in the activities listed in the PT or PTA list of critical work activities (linked in the grey box on the right side of the screen). Each of those work activities are linked to knowledge areas listed in Appendix E of the full practice analysis report for each exam level. You can also look at the list of non-critical work activities to help focus preparation on knowledge areas that are covered in NPTE questions, as opposed to topics that are not addressed on the NPTE.

It's important to note that some topics not covered by the NPTE were deemed to be not important at entry level, whereas others were deemed to be "not entry level." Your program might teach work activities and techniques that are beyond entry level.

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### **What Students Need to Know: Can you pass the NPTE by passing each content area section on different testing dates?**

You cannot pass the NPTE by passing each content area on different testing dates. Some credentialing exams do allow candidates to pass by demonstrating minimal competence in different sections of the exam. Typically these exams span multiple days, so re-administering the entire test is impractical. The NPTE is designed to be taken in one sitting. Allowing candidates to pass the NPTE based on multiple attempts would have a negative effect on the reliability of the NPTE.

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### **Get Involved!**

Learn how to become an NPTE item writer or a member of an exam committee.

#### **Exam Committees**

One of the best mechanisms for understanding and providing input into the NPTE development process is to volunteer on the exam committees. Over 50% of the participants on the NPTE development committees are educators and over 60% of the item writers are educators. While educator representation on the committees must be balanced with other practice settings, we welcome your participation.

To qualify to be on an NPTE committee, you generally need prior item writing experience. You also should be able to work as a team and understand and support the mission of FSBPT.

#### **Volunteer opportunities**

You'll find the opportunity to become an item writer for the National Physical Therapy Exam at [www.fsbpt.org/Volunteer](http://www.fsbpt.org/Volunteer).

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## Useful Pages

Visit the [FSBPT website](#) for information on a range of topics.

- **Candidate Handbook:** [www.fsbpt.org/NPTE/Handbook](http://www.fsbpt.org/NPTE/Handbook)
  - **Educator's page:** Look for the "Educators" link in the blue ribbon
  - **Exam Candidates page:** Look for the "Exam Candidates" link in the blue ribbon
  - **Licensing Authorities:** Scroll down to "Top Resources" and click "Licensing Authorities Contact Information"
  - **Licensure Reference Guide:** Scroll down to "Top Resources" and click "Licensure Reference Guide"
  - **NPTE Content Outline:** Click on "Free Resources" in the black ribbon at the top of the page, go to "NPTE Development" and look for "NPTE content"
  - **Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT):** [www.fsbpt.org/PEAT](http://www.fsbpt.org/PEAT)
  - **Performance Feedback Report (PFR):** Click on "Our Services," then "Candidate Services" and look for "NPTE Performance Feedback Report" in the left hand table of contents
  - **Preparing Students for the NPTE:** Scroll down for the link on the right hand column
  - **School Interface:** Look for "Educators Login" in the top right corner
  - **Score reports (free):** Click "Customer Login," in the top right corner. Go to "Reports" and click "View All Reports" to view a free exam score report (available for 30 days starting 10 days after the exam date).
  - **Top Services:** Scroll down to "Top Services" to find links for "Status of My Request," "Practice Exam & Assessment Tool (PEAT)," "Score Transfer Service" and "Exam Withdrawal Request."
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### Board Liaisons to Jurisdictions

Members of the board of directors serve as liaisons to multiple jurisdictions. New liaison relationships are listed here for your reference.

Jurisdictions	Board Liaison
Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia	 Ron Barbato
Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah	 Charles Brown
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas	 Tom Caldwell
Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska	 Natalie Harms
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Washington	 Joni Kalis
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Vermont, Virgin Islands	 Nancy Kirsch
Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming	 David Relling

## Staff

<b>If you have questions, challenges or ideas, we want to hear from you!</b>		
FSBPT (703) 299-3100   FCCPT (703) 684-8406 (Call FSBPT unless otherwise noted after name)		
<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Topics</b>
William A. Hatherill	Chief Executive Officer	FSBPT Issues
Mark Lane Susan Layton	Vice President Chief Operating Officer	General questions and feedback; research questions
Lorin Mueller, PhD	Managing Director of Assessment	Psychometrics, test development and construction
Christine Sousa	Managing Director of Exam Services	Exam administration issues, ADA
Susan K. Lindeblad, PhD, PT, FCCPT	Managing Director of the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT)	Foreign educated graduates
Rhonda Collins	Administrative Assistant	School reports: <a href="mailto:schoolreports@fsbpt.org">schoolreports@fsbpt.org</a>  Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT): <a href="mailto:peat@fsbpt.org">peat@fsbpt.org</a>