



# **FSBPT Coursework Tool For Foreign Educated Physical Therapists**

## **CWT 6**

**For implementation beginning January 1, 2017**

**Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy**  
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**COURSEWORK TOOL 6**  
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## INTRODUCTION

The Coursework Tools for Foreign Educated Physical Therapists (CWT) were developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) in response to the needs of its member jurisdictions for a standardized method to evaluate the educational equivalence of foreign educated physical therapists. Each CWT reflects the minimum general and professional educational requirements for substantial equivalence at the time of graduation with respect to a US first professional degree in physical therapy. Adoption of the tools would allow the same mobility of foreign educated physical therapists as that afforded to US educated graduates. Coursework Tools should not be interpreted as the sole determinant of an individual's educational preparation or competence to practice. CWT 6 is based upon the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) *Evaluative Criteria for PT Programs* August 2014, which will be implemented by FSBPT on January 1, 2017.

The CWT that reflects current standards may be used to determine qualifications for an applicant to sit for the NPTE, for first-time licensure in US jurisdictions and prescreening certification for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Per the following motion passed by the 2014 Delegate Assembly, CWTs that reflect previous standards may be used to determine qualifications for licensure through endorsement of a foreign educated PT or PTA who is already licensed, certified or registered in another US jurisdiction.

### **DEL-14-02**

The credentials of a foreign educated physical therapist (FEPT) who is currently licensed in a jurisdiction, and is seeking licensure through endorsement in another jurisdiction should be evaluated using the version of the FSBPT Coursework Tool retro tool that covers the date the applicant graduated from their respective physical therapy education program.

This process should be used for those seeking licensure through endorsement only. First-time licensure candidates should be evaluated using the current Coursework Tool.

In addition, rescind Delegate Assembly motion DEL-05-10.

They are also designed to be used by credentialing organizations and education programs. In addition, the CWTs may be used as a self-evaluation method to guide foreign educated physical therapists in comparing their education to US standards.

## OVERVIEW

### Summary

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The applicant must meet the requirement of not less than 170 semester credit hours as a prerequisite. The minimum coursework requirements, in and of themselves, do not necessarily satisfy the requirements of the first professional degree. The applicant must have completed sufficient credit to satisfy the requirement for at minimum a post-baccalaureate degree. The applicant must also meet any jurisdiction-specific requirements.

### General Education

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General education in the areas of communications and humanities, physical science, biological science, social and behavioral science, and mathematics, must be identified. A minimum of a one course must be successfully completed in each area of general education unless otherwise noted.

**Note:** Some jurisdictions may require a specific number of semester credits. The applicant must meet the specific requirements in the jurisdiction where they are seeking licensure.

#### 1. Communication and Humanities

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| a. English                                       | e. Native Language |
| b. English composition                           | f. Literature      |
| c. Speech or oral communication                  | g. Visual Arts     |
| d. Foreign language (other than native language) | h. Performing Arts |
|  | i. Philosophy      |
|  | j. Ethics          |

#### 2. Physical Science

- a. Chemistry with laboratory (one course required) \*
- b. Physics with laboratory (one courses required) \*
- c. Geology
- d. Astronomy

#### 3. Biological Science (General – not core to PT)

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| a. Biology    | e. Kinesiology  |
| b. Anatomy    | f. Neuroscience |
| c. Physiology |                 |
| d. Zoology    |                 |

#### 4. Social and Behavioral Science

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| a. History     | e. Economics         |
| b. Geography   | f. Political science |
| c. Sociology   | g. Religion          |
| d. Psychology* | h. Anthropology      |

\* Required

#### 5. Mathematics

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. Statistics | d. Calculus |
|---------------|-------------|

- b. Algebra
- c. Pre-calculus
- e. Trigonometry
- f. Geometry
- g. Computer Studies

## Professional Education

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Ninety semester credits shall be the minimum required in professional education. There should be at least 68 didactic credits and 22 clinical education credits.

### 1. Basic Health Science

Content is required in each topic listed (a through l) under basic health sciences. The didactic content is basic to the practice of PT practice.

- a. Human anatomy (specific to physical therapy)
- b. Human physiology (specific to physical therapy)
- c. Neuroscience (Neuroanatomy/Neurophysiology)
- d. Kinesiology, functional anatomy or biomechanics
- e. Pathology
- f. Pharmacology
- g. Genetics
- h. Histology
- i. Nutrition
- j. Exercise Science
- k. Psychosocial aspects of health, disability, physical therapy
- l. Diagnostic imaging

### 2. Medical Science

The competent physical therapist practitioner is cognizant of general medical sciences relevant to healthcare, human function and system interaction. This must include but not be limited to:

- a. Cardiovascular (Including Lymphatic) system
- b. Respiratory system
- c. Endocrine & metabolic systems
- d. Renal, genitourinary systems
- e. Immune system
- f. Integumentary system
- g. Musculoskeletal system
- h. Neurologic system
- i. System interactions
- j. Differential diagnosis
- k. Medical, surgical conditions across the lifespan
  - i. Pediatrics
  - ii. Geriatrics

To prepare a competent physical therapist practitioner, the education must incorporate the essential elements of Examination, Evaluation, and Intervention. Therefore, educational coursework must contain all of the following:

### 3. Examination

- a. Patient history
- b. Screening of patient
- c. Systems review
- d. Physical exams, tests and measure selection
  - i. Test and measures administration
  - ii. Aerobic capacity/endurance

- iii. Anthropometric characteristics
- iv. Mental functions
- v. Assistive, adaptive devices
- vi. Community work (job, school, or play) reintegration
- vii. Cranial nerve integrity
- viii. Peripheral nerve integrity
- ix. Environmental, home, work barriers
- x. Ergonomics, body mechanics
- xi. Gait
- xii. Integumentary integrity
- xiii. Joint integrity and mobility
- xiv. Mobility (excluding gait)
- xv. Motor function
- xvi. Muscle performance
- xvii. Neuromotor development, sensory processing
- xviii. Pain
- xix. Posture
- xx. Range of motion
- xxi. Reflex integrity
- xxii. Self-care, home management
- xxiii. Sensory integrity
- xxiv. Ventilation, respiration or gas exchange

#### **4. Evaluation**

The physical therapist is responsible for the interpretation and analysis of the data collected in the examination of the client/patient. Education must include the following but is not limited to:

- a. Data analysis and evaluation
- b. Patient problem identification
- c. Findings that warrant referral
- d. Prognosis and goal formulation
- e. Plan of care development

#### **5. Plan of Care Implementation**

The implementation of treatment interventions is to be included in the educational program for the physical therapist practitioner. This includes the following but is not limited to:

- a. Interventions
  - i. Airway clearance techniques
  - ii. Integumentary repair and protection
  - iii. Wound debridement
  - iv. Electrotherapy
  - v. Physical agents
  - vi. Mechanical agents
  - vii. Community, work, functional training
  - viii. Self-care, home management, functional training
  - ix. Manual therapy techniques (including joint and soft tissue mobilization and massage)
  - x. Patient/client education
  - xi. Prescription, application, and as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and equipment
  - xii. Therapeutic exercise
  - xiii. Mobility training
- b. Plan of care management
- c. Supervision of support staff

- d. Outcome assessment
- e. Discharge or discontinuation planning
- f. Patient-related emergency procedures

**6. Clinical Education**

Clinical education must include physical therapist-supervised application of physical therapy theory, examination, evaluation, and intervention. The applicant must have a minimum of two full-time clinical internships of no less than 1050 hours total, which are supervised by a physical therapist. The required and maximum number of full-time clinical education credits is 22. The clinical internships must also show evidence of a variety of patient diagnoses or conditions.

**7. Related Professional Coursework**

Content is required in the following 12 areas:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| a. Professional roles and behaviors                                 | f. Teaching & learning (including educational theory)        | k. Teamwork and inter-professional collaboration |
| b. Healthcare Systems, Administration and Management                | g. Documentation (all aspects of patient/client management)  | l. Cultural competency                           |
| c. Community health   | h. Communication   | m. Consultation                                  |
| d. Health promotion and wellness                                    | i. Legal and regulatory aspects of physical therapy practice |  |
| e. Clinical Decision Making Processes - Evidence-based Practice and | j. Ethical aspects and values of physical therapy practice   |  |

## EVALUATION CHECKLIST

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>School:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
<b>Degree:</b>	
<b>Reviewing Organization:</b>	
<b>Reviewer(s):</b>	
<b>Signature of Issuing Organization's Authorized Representative:</b>	
<b>Print Name and Title:</b>	

**Note for Reviewing Organizations:** Please affix official organization seal to the Evaluation Checklist authentication purposes.

### General Education

A. Communication and Humanities One course minimum from the category	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference
1. English Language		
2. English Composition		
3. Speech or Oral Communication		
4. Foreign Language		
5. Native Language		
6. Composition of Research Writing		
7. Literature		
8. Visual Arts		
9. Performing Arts		
10. Philosophy		
11. Ethics		

B. Physical Science: One course in chemistry (with laboratory) and one course in physics (with laboratory) are required*.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference
1. Chemistry (with laboratory)*		
2. Physics (with laboratory)*		
3. Geology		
4. Astronomy		

C. Biological Science: (General - not core to PT) One course minimum	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference
1. Biology		
2. Anatomy		
3. Physiology		
4. Zoology		
5. Kinesiology		
6. Neuroscience		



D. Social and Behavioral Science: Two courses minimum from the category	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference
1. History		
2. Geography		
3. Sociology		
4. Economics		
5. Religion		
6. Political Science		
7. Psychology*		
8. Anthropology		

\*Required

E. Mathematics: One course minimum from the category	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference
1. Statistics		
2. Algebra		
3. Pre-Calculus		
4. Calculus		
5. Trigonometry		
6. Geometry		
7. Computer Studies		

**SUB-TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION CREDITS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Professional Education

A minimum of 90 semester credits is required in this area.

A. Basic Health Science: Must include but not limited to areas 1– 12.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference	Justification
1. Human Anatomy /core to PT			
2. Human Physiology / core to PT			
3. Neuroscience (Neuroanatomy/ Neurophysiology)			
4. Kinesiology, Functional Anatomy, or Biomechanics			
5. Pathology			
6. Pharmacology			
7. Genetics			
8. Histology			
9. Nutrition			
10. Exercise Science			
11. Psychosocial aspects of health, disability, physical therapy			
12. Diagnostic imaging			

Subtotal Basic Health Science			
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B. Medical Science: Must include but not limited to areas 1 – 11b.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference	Justification
1. Cardiovascular (including Lymphatic)			
2. Respiratory			
3. Endocrine& Metabolic			
4. Renal, Genitourinary			
5. Immune			
6. Integumentary			
7. Musculoskeletal			
8. Neurologic			
9. System Interactions			
10. Differential Diagnosis			
11. Medical, Surgical Conditions across the life span			
11a. Pediatrics			
11b. Geriatrics			
Subtotal Medical Science			

C. Examination: Must include but not limited to areas 1 – 5w.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference	Justification
1. History			
2. Screening			
3. Systems Review			
4. Physical Exams, Tests, Measures Selection			
5. Tests and Measures Administration:			
a. Aerobic capacity/Endurance			
b. Anthropometric characteristics			
c. Mental Functions			
d. Assistive, adaptive devices			
e. Community, work (job, school, or play) reintegration			
f. Cranial Nerve Integrity			
g. Peripheral Nerve Integrity			
h. Environmental, home, work barriers			
i. Ergonomics, body mechanics			
j. Gait			
k. Integumentary integrity			
l. Joint integrity and mobility			
m. Mobility (excluding gait)			
n. Motor function			
o. Muscle performance			

p. Neuromotor development, sensory processing			
q. Pain			
r. Posture			
s. Range of motion			
t. Reflex integrity			
u. Self-care, home management			
v. Sensory integrity			
w. Ventilation, respiration or gas exchange			
Subtotal Examination			

D. Evaluation: Must include but not limited to areas 1 - 5.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference	Justification
1. Data Analysis and Evaluation			
2. Patient Problem Identification			
3. Findings that Warrant Referral			
4. Prognosis and Goal Formulation			
5. Plan of Care Development			
Subtotal Evaluation			

E. Plan of Care Implementation: Must include but not limited to areas 1 (1a-m) – 6.	Credit Hours	Transcript Reference	Justification
1. Interventions			
a. Airway clearance techniques			
b. Integumentary Repair & Protection			
c. Wound Debridement			
d. Electrotherapy			
e. Physical Agents			
f. Mechanical Agents			
g. Community, Work Functional Training			
h. Self-Care, Home Management Function Training			
i. Manual therapy techniques (including joint and soft tissue mobilization and massage)			
j. Patient/Client Education			
k. Prescription, application, and as appropriate, fabrication of assistive, adaptive, orthotic, protective, supportive, and prosthetic devices and			

<b>equipment</b>			
<b>l. Therapeutic exercise</b>			
<b>m. Mobility Training</b>			
<b>2. Plan of Care Management</b>			
<b>3. Supervision of Support Staff</b>			
<b>4. Outcome Assessment</b>			
<b>5. Discharge or Discontinuation</b>			
<b>6. Patient-related Emergency Procedures</b>			
<b>Subtotal Plan of Care Implementation</b>			

<b>F. Clinical Education 22 credits required*</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Transcript Reference</b>	<b>Justification</b>

<b>Clinical experiences:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE</b>
1. Deliver physical therapy services to patients/clients with a variety of diseases and conditions settings			
2. Occur in at least 2 different types of practice settings			

**Note:** Clinical education must include physical therapist-supervised application of physical therapy theory, examination, evaluation, and intervention. The applicant must have a minimum of two full-time clinical educational experiences (with a variety of patient populations, diagnoses, and acuity levels) of no less than 1050 hours.

\*Full time clinical education credits is to be 22 credits.

<b>G. Related Professional Coursework: Must include but not limited to areas 1-13.</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>Transcript Reference</b>	<b>Justification</b>
<b>1. Professional Roles and Behaviors</b>			
<b>2. Healthcare Systems, Administration, and Management</b>			
<b>3. Community Health</b>			
<b>4. Health Promotion and Wellness</b>			
<b>5. Clinical Decision Making Processes - Evidence-based Practice and</b>			
<b>6. Teaching and Learning (including educational theory)</b>			
<b>7. Documentation (all aspects of patient/client management)</b>			
<b>8. Communication</b>			
<b>9. Legal and Regulatory Aspects</b>			

<b>of Physical Therapy practice</b>			
<b>10. Ethical Aspects and values of Physical Therapy Practice</b>			
<b>11. Teamwork and Inter-professional Collaboration</b>			
<b>12. Cultural Competency</b>			
<b>13. Consultation</b>			
<b>Subtotal Related Professional Coursework</b>			

**SUB-TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CREDITS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(90 minimum)**

## Academic Institution

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<b>Describe the academic level of the educational program and the institution within the context of the country's educational system:</b>
<b>1. Status (recognition/accreditation) within the country's educational system:</b>
<b>2. Entry Requirements (secondary education):</b>
<b>3. Degree Equivalence (Baccalaureate, Post-Baccalaureate etc.)</b>
<b>4. Other (CAPTE accreditation, etc.)</b>

## Summary

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<b>Total General Education Credits:</b>	
<b>Total Professional Education Didactic Credits (68 Minimum):</b>	
<b>Total Clinical Education Hours (1050 Hours required equals 22 credits)</b>	
<b>Total Credits (170 Minimum)</b>	

## DEFINITIONS

**Adequate:** Coursework satisfies the requirement that the level of complexity and scope of the content in a course or courses meets established standards necessary for the entry-level degree.

**Clinical Education:** That aspect of the professional curriculum during which student learning occurs directly as a function of being immersed within physical therapist practice. These experiences comprise all of the formal and practical “real-life” learning experiences provided for students to apply classroom knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors in the clinical environment. (CAPTE Evaluative Criteria)

**Clinical Sciences:** Content includes both diseases that require direct intervention of a physical therapist for management and diseases that affect conditions being managed by physical therapists across systems. (*A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004; p. 159*)

**Comments:** Validation of transcript references. Identifies specific location within official institutional records where content area(s) may be found. These references may be in the form of educational objectives, listing of course content, course syllabi, test questions or other curricular documents.

**Course:** A series of study which is taught at the post secondary level, which results in an official transcript of record with assigned grade, a course description and syllabus, and credit that can be verified by the institution. Credit is either assigned by a semester of 15 weeks, plus an exam week, or is converted to semester hours based on 16 weeks of study.

**Credit Hour:** A semester credit hour must include at a minimum: 15 hours of lecture, or 30 hours of laboratory, or 48 hours of clinical education.

**Evaluation:** A dynamic process in which the physical therapist makes clinical judgments gathered during the examination (*Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Rev. Second Edition, 2003, APTA*).

**Examination:** A comprehensive and specific testing process performed by a physical therapist that leads to diagnostic classification or, as appropriate, to a referral to another practitioner. The Examination has three components: the patient/client history, the systems reviews, and tests and measures. (*Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Rev. Second Edition, APTA, 2003*).

**General Education:** General Education constitutes all non-physical therapy education completed, provided these courses were taken at the post secondary level from a recognized educational program. These courses, both pre-professional and post-professional education, may be used to fulfill the core course requirements

**Grades:** Undergraduate grades must equate to a “C” average in the United States. No failing grades should be accepted. Professional coursework must meet the requirement of a “C” or higher. Credentialing decisions for conversion of grades or semester credits should follow accepted guidelines as published in acceptable and recognized country codes and “International Reference Guides.” This includes, but is not limited to P.I.E.R., NAFSA publications, or AACROA publications.

**Intervention:** The purposeful interaction of the physical therapist with the patient/client, and, when appropriate, with other individuals involved in patient/client care, using various physical therapy procedures and techniques to produce changes in the condition. (*A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004;*

Page 163)

**Standards:** Foundational requirements of an established profession; in this case used by credentialing agencies to determine entry-level professional requirements for physical therapists. In physical therapy, *The Guide to Physical Therapist Practice Second Edition, A Normative Model of Physical Therapist Professional Education: Version 2004*, and *Evaluative Criteria for PT Programs* serve as resources for setting these requirements.

**Substantially Equivalent:** The individual has satisfied or exceeded the minimum number of credits required in general and professional education needed for a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy. Coursework completed may not be identical in all respects to a U.S. first professional degree in physical therapy, but all required content areas are evident. Deficiencies may be noted in coursework, but not in essential areas of professional education nor be of such magnitude that the education is not deemed to be at the entry-level of preparation for practice in the United States.

**Transcript Reference:** Official documentation from the academic institution of courses completed, grades assigned, and degree conferred in the form of an official transcript. In the exceptional cases where an official transcript does not exist within the institution, an alternative official document may be considered.