

**Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
Jurisdiction Licensure Reference Guide
Topic: Foreign Educated PTs and PTAs**

Use of the FSBPT Coursework Tools (CWT)

The following definitions were used in this portion of the survey.

- Current Coursework Tool: This CWT was developed by the Federation to assist in evaluating whether the education and coursework of a foreign educated physical therapist is “substantially equivalent” to that of the education of a United States-educated physical therapist under the current criteria established by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). The CWT has been found valid and reliable by independent research and was adopted by Federation’s 2003 Delegate Assembly.
- Retro CWTs: Additional Coursework Tools were developed by the Federation based upon the appropriate educational criteria in place at the time of graduation in 1955, 1978 and 1992, 1998 and 2009 (current tool). Each CWT reflects the minimum general and professional educational requirements for substantial equivalence in respect to a US first professional degree in physical therapy at the time of the candidate’s graduation.
- PTA Tool: This PTA Coursework Tool was developed by the Federation in response to the 2008 published regulation number CMS-1385 by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Medicare reimbursement. This CMS regulation requires a foreign educated physical therapist assistant to show certification of education which is substantially equivalent to an entry-level physical therapist assistant’s education in the United States.
- Statutes are passed by legislators.
- Rules and regulations are written and passed by the board after a public hearing.
- Policies are internal documents written by the board with no input from the public.

Summary	
No. Jurisdictions that accept the current CWT	52
No. Jurisdictions that REQUIRE the current CWT	38
No. Jurisdictions that specify CWT in Statutes	1
No. Jurisdictions that specify CWT in Rules and Regulations	19
No. Jurisdictions that specify CWT in Policies	11
No. Jurisdictions that use the Retro CWTs (previous standards)	43
No. Jurisdictions that base Retro CWTs on Date of Graduation	31
No. Jurisdictions that base Retro CWTs on Date of Licensure	2
No. Jurisdictions that use PTA Tool	16

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Use of the Current Coursework Tool and Retro CWTs

STATE	Accept Current CWT?	Require Current CWT?	Where required?	Use Retro CWTs?	What date do you base Retro CWTs use on?	Use PTA Tool?
AL	Yes	Yes		No		No
AK	Yes	Yes		Yes	Graduation	
AZ	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	No		No
AR	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes, endorsement candidates only	Graduation	
CA	Yes	Yes		Yes	Graduation	Yes
CO	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	No
CT	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Not Specified	Yes
DE	Yes			Yes	Graduation	Yes
DC	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	Yes
FL	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	Yes
GA	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	
HI	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	No
ID	Yes					Yes
IL	Yes	Yes		Yes, CWT5 for first time licensees	Licensure	Yes
IN	Yes	No		Yes	Graduation	Yes
IA	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations (Admin	Yes	Graduation	Yes

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STATE	Accept Current CWT?	Require Current CWT?	Where required?	Use Retro CWTs?	What date do you base Retro CWTs use on?	Use PTA Tool?
			Rules)			
KS	Yes	No		Yes		Yes
KY	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	No
LA	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes, if licensed in another state		No
ME	Yes					Yes
MD	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	No
MA	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	
MI	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	Yes
MN	Yes	Yes	Statute	Yes	Graduation	
MS	Yes			Yes		No
MO	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Graduation	No
MT	Yes	No		Yes	Graduation	
NE	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	No
NV	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	No
NH	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes		No
NJ	Yes	Yes		Yes	Graduation	
NM	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	

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STATE	Accept Current CWT?	Require Current CWT?	Where required?	Use Retro CWTs?	What date do you base Retro CWTs use on?	Use PTA Tool?
NY	No*	No		No		No
NC	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	No
ND	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes; for endorsement only	Graduation	Yes
OH	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Licensure	No
OK	Yes	No		No		
OR	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations (Rules)	Yes	Graduation	No
PA	Yes	No		Yes		No
PR	Yes					
RI	Yes	No		Yes		Yes
SC	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes		No
SD	Yes	No		No		
TN	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	
TX	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	No
UT	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Not Specified	
VT	Yes	No		No		
VI	Yes	No		No		
VA	Yes	Yes	Rules and	Yes	Graduation	Yes, however, only if

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			Regulations			educated as a PTA
WA	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes, CWT 4 only	Graduation	No
WV	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations (Regulatory Law)	Yes	Graduation	
WI	Yes	Yes	Rules and Regulations	Yes	Graduation	Yes
WY	Yes	Yes	Policies	Yes	Not Specified	No

* The NY State Education Department uses a tool adapted from the Professional Education portion of the FSBPT Coursework Tool.