



## **NPTE Quarterly Faculty Newsletter**

**Volume 14; No. 2**

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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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### **Reminder to Validate Graduation so your August 2017 Cohorts Can Register for the NPTE**

Do you have an August 2017 cohort? Are your students ready to register for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE)? If so, remember to validate graduation!

The current exam registration process requires the school to validate that a student is on track to graduate before the student can register for the NPTE.

**If you have an August 2017 cohort**, your program director should have received an email in late May announcing that the validation process could commence. Your program decides when to complete this step.

**If you haven't validated graduation for some of your students about two weeks before the candidate registration deadline**, we'll send another email to your program director.

If you don't validate their graduation, they cannot register for the NPTE.

\*As a reminder, unless the state board gives different guidance, the graduation validation process does not replace any documentation that you must send to the state board for use in determining eligibility to sit for the NPTE and ultimately obtain a license.

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### **FAQs on NPTE Withholding Scores**

Do you have questions about National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) withheld scores? Are you curious to know why scores are held for validation or when a held score will be released? **Learn more here:** [www.fsbpt.org/NPTE/WithheldScores](http://www.fsbpt.org/NPTE/WithheldScores).

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### **Academic PEAT Enhancements Coming Soon!**

Based on feedback from faculty, soon you will see several new Academic PEAT features.

- The process to assign and manage student access to PEAT will be streamlined. You will be able to assign PEAT to your students through the online interface.
- Student access will also be streamlined. Once a school activates PEAT, the student can access the exams directly through their candidate dashboard.
- The access period will be increased from 60 days to 6 months. This will allow schools more flexibility when administering the two PEAT exams.

These enhancements will be rolled out in the fall, and you'll receive additional information as we get closer to the launch date.

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### **Practice Analysis Update**

The results of the 2016 Practice Analysis for PTs and PTAs are available on FSBPT's website. The 2018 Content Outlines, which are based on the practice analysis, are available on the NPTE Content page: <http://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/NPTEDevelopment/NPTEContent.aspx>.

These Content Outlines will be effective as of tests administered in January of 2018 and later.

For more information on the work activities and knowledge and skill requirements identified as critical by the practice analysis, see the Ensuring Validity page:

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

These work documents form the basis of the content for all NPTE questions. That is, an NPTE question must require a candidate to apply a critical knowledge or skill area to a problem involving a critical work activity. The full practice analysis reports are expected to be posted later this summer on the Ensuring

Validity page. Stay tuned for more information about updates to PEAT, school reports, and other NPTE reports related to the NPTE Content Outlines.

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### **Reminder: Register for the Faculty Workshop in October**

The NPTE Workshop for Educators is being hosted at FSBPT main offices on October 20-22, 2017 in Alexandria, VA. This will be the only Workshop for Educators in 2017. A few spaces are still available!

This popular workshop gives attendees a better understanding of how NPTE items are developed, and how they can integrate sound item-writing principles into their school's curriculum. FSBPT staff will be available to answer questions on a variety of topics, and invited speakers give presentations on curriculum development and how we design the NPTE.

The workshop fee is \$595, which covers materials and meals. [Register here](#) before it sells out!

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### **This Quarter's Question: What Emails Will My Students Receive in the New Exam Registration Processing System?**

As a result of faculty requests, we recently enhanced the School Interface (<https://school.fsbpt.net>) to include examples of the emails that your students will receive during the exam registration process. A link to this document is available on your dashboard once you log into the system.

#### **The subjects of the emails include:**

- (1) the FSBPT Account Notification email, which is sent immediately after the school confirms the cohort;
  - (2) the Graduation Validation email, which is sent immediately after the school completes the graduation validation process;
  - (3) the Exam Registration email, which is sent immediately after the student registers for the NPTE;
  - (4) the Authorization to Test (ATT) email, which is sent the day after the state board makes the student eligible to sit for the NPTE; and
  - (5) the Two-Time Failure email, which is sent to a student who fails the NPTE for a second time.
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### **What students need to know: How do breaks work during the NPTE?**

There are two kinds of breaks during the examination: scheduled and unscheduled.

Both the PT and PTA examinations have **one scheduled** 15-minute break after section two has been completed. During the scheduled break, the examination timer is paused for up to 15 minutes. If candidates do not want to take the scheduled break or want to take a shorter break, they can end the break by following the directions on the computer screen.

An **unscheduled break** can be taken between the other sections when the "Unscheduled Break" screen is showing on the computer. During an unscheduled break, the examination timer continues to elapse. This means time spent on an unscheduled break is time that the candidate is choosing to not spend on the examination.

Candidates may leave the examination only when either a scheduled break or an unscheduled break screen is showing on their computer.

It's important to note that during breaks candidates may not access cell phones or study materials of any kind. If a candidate leaves the testing room while not on a specified break screen or accesses prohibited items while on a break, the test center administrator will report to the FSBPT that an examination irregularity occurred during the candidate's examination administration.

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### Save the Date: 2017 FSBPT Annual Meeting in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM!



The FSBPT Annual Meeting is packed with educational and networking opportunities for educators, physical therapy board members and administrators, and those invested in learning more about timely topics in regulation and protecting the public. We encourage you to hold the dates (November 2-4, 2017) for this year's meeting on your calendar. Registration will be open in September.

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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](http://www.fsbpt.org) 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 “Our Services,” then “Candidate Services.” Go to “Status of My Request” and click “View now” 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. Current liaison relationships are listed here for your reference.

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

**Distribution:**

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