



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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Webinar for Educators: Wednesday Sept. 27, 2017 at 1:00 PM EDT

Topic: Q & A on the 2018 Content Outline and New Standards

This webinar will give a brief overview of the process used to update the NPTE Content Outlines and revisit the minimal competence standard (i.e., the cut score) for the examination. NPTE assessment staff will discuss the rationales for the changes and what is changing in PT and PTA practice that necessitates these updates. FSBPT staff will provide key last-minute timelines for educators preparing candidates for testing in early 2018. Most importantly, there will be ample time for questions!

Webinar details and login

Instructions on how to participate in this webinar (hosted by WebEx) are below. If you are new to using WebEx, you will need to allow 15 minutes for the sign in process, which may have your computer complete a short set-up.

Instructions for Participating

Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Time: 1:00 PM EDT. The session is expected to last approximately an hour.

Step 1 – Join the online portion of the WebEx

- Click here: [join the meeting](#)
- Enter your name & your state in the “name” box
- Enter your email address
- Enter the meeting password: Wednesday
- Click "Join Now"

Step 2 – Join the teleconference

- After joining the WebEx, click on the “I will call in” box and a toll free number will be provided.
 - Enter both the **ACCESS CODE** and the **ATTENDEE ID**
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Important News! PEAT has been updated for the 2018 forms!

The Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT) has been updated to correspond to the 2018 Content Outlines at both exam levels. These updates reflect minor changes to the test questions and scoring.

Users who purchase and begin PEAT before the October testing dates will get the choice of taking PEAT forms that correspond to the current content outline or taking forms that correspond to the January, 2018 and later content outline. Users will get this choice as soon as they log in to start their first form.

These changes apply to both Academic PEAT and versions of PEAT available for individual purchase.

Any questions can be directed to peat@fsbpt.org.

Individual PEAT can be purchased here:

[https://www.fsbpt.org/OurServices/CandidateServices/PracticeExamAssessmentTool\(PEAT\).aspx](https://www.fsbpt.org/OurServices/CandidateServices/PracticeExamAssessmentTool(PEAT).aspx)

Academic PEAT can be purchased through the Educator’s interface: <https://school.fsbpt.net/>

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!

Your Students Can Now Use aPTitude

Since its launch in 2010, aPTitude (www.fsbpt.org/aPTitude), has served as a free online continuing competence management system for PTs and PTAs to maintain their records of completed activities. In late 2016, FSBPT expanded aPTitude to also serve PT and PTA students.

FSBPT recently created a new tool to help inform students of the benefits of using aPTitude. [Please share this brief screencast](#) with your students that demonstrates how easy it is to use aPTitude to record and upload completion certificates for:

- Conferences (such as APTA's Combined Sections Meeting);
- APTA chapter courses and events;
- Professional meetings;
- Residencies and fellowships; and
- Any other activities.

Students will need their FSBPT ID to use aPTitude.

Once licensed, aPTitude will continue to assist these experienced users in researching their requirements, tracking their progress toward meeting them, and securely storing their documentation. Students can contact us at aPTitudeHelp@fsbpt.org for assistance with aPTitude.

This Quarter's Question: I've heard the new content outlines will be introduced for the NPTE in January. What do I need to know?

The new NPTE Content Outlines will be effective starting with the January 10, 2018 administration for PTAs and the January 24, 2018 exam for PTs. The new content outlines have been posted since early in 2017 and are available [here](#).

For the 2018 NPTE-PT and NPTE-PTA, the lymphatic system will be separated from the cardiovascular and pulmonary systems. This will ensure that there will be some lymphatic questions on every NPTE form administered. The NPTE-PT also added a new content area – Gastrointestinal Evaluation.

This summer, the NPTE standards were reviewed by a diverse panel of experts at each exam level. The result of this review was to raise the standard at each exam level. For the PTA exam, a candidate would have to answer about three more questions correct on a typical form to pass, whereas a PT candidate would have to get about four more questions correct to pass. The change is expected to impact just fewer than 4% of first-time CAPTE-educated candidates, with negligible impact over six attempts.

In reviewing the standard, both the PTA and PT standard setting task forces recommended raising the standard based on significant factors affecting the profession. Similar to the standard setting review conducted in 2012, standard setters noted aging patient populations, with more medical comorbidities. Reimbursement issues and insurance compliance are affecting the professions at both exam levels as well, with increasing pressure to accomplish better treatment outcomes with fewer

patient visits (e.g., as with Accountable Care Organizations), and patients are being discharged from health care facilities faster. Advances in medicine and more informed patients create pressure for both PTAs and PTs to integrate new evidence faster. For PTAs, more work is being shifted from PTs to PTAs and there is a higher need for home-health care with limited oversight, requiring an expanded role in patient education and a greater need for critical thinking. For PTs, there is a greater emphasis on non-pharmacological management of pain, a higher prevalence of direct access, and an expanded role on medical teams with limited opportunities for mentorship.

Register now: 2017 FSBPT Annual Meeting in Santa Ana Pueblo, NM!



FSBPT's 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. [Register now!](#)

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.

Useful Pages

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

- **Candidate Handbook:** 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
 - **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. 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

If you have questions, challenges or ideas, we want to hear from you!		
FSBPT (703) 299-3100 FCCPT (703) 684-8406 (Call FSBPT unless otherwise noted after name)		
Contact Person	Title	Topics
William A. Hatherill	Chief Executive Officer	FSBPT Issues
Mark Lane	Vice President	General questions and feedback; research questions
Susan Layton	Chief Operating Officer	
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: schoolreports@fsbpt.org Practice Exam and Assessment Tool (PEAT): peat@fsbpt.org

Distribution:

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FSBPT Council of Board Administrators
FSBPT Exam Committees: EDC PT and PTA