



The Council of Board Administrators was created by the FSBPT bylaws to provide its members a forum to share information relevant to board functions, regulatory practices, practice standards and issues, licensing processes and security, and enforcement issues in the practice of physical therapy. Membership is open to currently or formerly employed administrative staff personnel assisting our 53 Member Boards.



administrative staff corner

Alternate Approval Pathway (AAP)

*Charles Brown, Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Physical Therapy;
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FSBPT rolled out the Alternate Approval Pathway (AAP) in June of 2017. This initiative was based on feedback from many administrators with the idea to streamline the eligibility process by having FSBPT perform the exam eligibility review on the jurisdiction's behalf. Under AAP, FSBPT makes CAPTE educated candidates eligible to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE®) and sends the scores to the jurisdiction for a licensing determination. In addition, FSBPT will review and approve testing accommodations requests for all candidates, both CAPTE and non-CAPTE educated.

Eligibility Checks

Under AAP, FSBPT checks that all NPTE eligibility requirements have been met prior to making a candidate eligible for the exam. These checks include both FSBPT eligibility requirements and certain state specific requirements.

The FSBPT eligibility checks apply to all candidates and include:

- Education has been validated by the candidate's school as on track to graduate.
- Cannot register for an exam more than 90 days prior to graduation.
- Cannot have two low scores per exam level. A low score is defined as a score less than 400.
- Cannot have more than six attempts per exam level.
- Cannot test more than three times in a 12-month period.
- Cannot have an open security or administrative flag.

In addition, under AAP, FSBPT can enforce the following two jurisdiction specific eligibility rules:

- A jurisdiction lifetime limit less than six (per exam level).

- A prohibition on candidates educated at the PT level from sitting for the PTA exam.

Testing Accommodations

FSBPT will be responsible for reviewing and approving all testing accommodations for AAP jurisdictions. That said, FSBPT will seek jurisdiction input when appropriate if the accommodation requested is considered “non-standard.”

FSBPT has contracted with a third party, Paradigm Testing, to perform the reviews and make recommendations on appropriate testing accommodations. Paradigm is an expert in the field of accessibility and disability services and can provide a fair and consistent process for all applicants.

Next Steps

AAP is an optional service for jurisdictions but can provide substantial benefits by streamlining the process for jurisdiction administrative staff. The initial workload on staff of reviewing exam eligibility and testing accommodations is eliminated. Also, because FSBPT eligibility checks are done systematically, candidates can move through the process and receive their Authorization to Test (ATT) letters the next business day, reducing the stress around deadlines and phone calls from anxious candidates.

As of March 2018, Texas, Colorado, and Washington have opted into AAP. If you’re interested in AAP, the first step is to check your laws and rule to determine if a change will be needed to allow for AAP. Then you can contact Jeff Rosa, jrosa@fsbpt.org, or Christine Sousa, csousa@fsbpt.org, for additional information on executing the AAP agreement and having this service turned on for your state.

Chuck Brown graduated in 2008 from Grand Canyon University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He is also a former Marine. Chuck has worked in the licensing and regulating of healthcare providers since 2001. During his time with the Arizona Boards, he has served at the levels of Investigator, Deputy Director and Executive Director. Chuck actively participated in the CBA and served as Chair and Vice Chair from 2010-2011. He has served as Chair of the Exam Administration Committee and as a member on the Education Committee, Finance Committee, as well as other task forces and focus groups.

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