

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy

Welcome to aPTitude & ProCert

Welcome to the current issue of the **aPTitude & ProCert** newsletter for vendors of physical therapy continuing competence activities! Periodically we will provide important system and program updates, and share guidance for purposes of helping you reach prospective learners and achieve certification of your continuing education courses and conferences.

aPTitude and ProCert 101

[aPTitude](#) and [ProCert](#) are physical therapy continuing competence tools built by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy ([FSBPT](#)) as directed by our members, the 53 U.S. state and jurisdiction physical therapy licensing boards. [aPTitude](#) is the free online continuing competence management system; vendors (providers) of physical therapy continuing education courses and conferences use [aPTitude](#) to:

- Access information on states' continuing competence requirements for PTs and PTAs
- Market activities directly to 20,000 PTs and PTAs
- Receive feedback on activities from participants
- Research the marketplace to inform the design and scheduling of activities

If you have not already done so, [register](#) for your free account. Learn more about [aPTitude](#) by viewing [this video](#).

[ProCert](#) is a comprehensive certification (approval) program that evaluates the content of continuing competence activities and awards continuing competence units (CCUs) based on how well the activity meets the [FSBPT Standards for Continuing Competence Activities](#). Any course or conference published in [aPTitude](#) may be submitted to [ProCert](#). Answers to your questions on [ProCert](#) and a recorded orientation and demo can be found from the Resources section at www.continuingcompetence.org.

More PTs and PTAs Using aPTitude. Will They Find You There?

PTs and PTAs are using **aPTitude**, the online continuing competence


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management system, in record setting numbers in 2015. Since January 1 nearly 8,000 licensees have registered in **aPTitude** which brings the total number of PT and PTA system users to close to 20,000. The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy now requires all licensees in that state to utilize **aPTitude** to report compliance. As Georgia also accepts **ProCert** certification as a means to evaluate continuing education courses, vendors with **ProCert** certified courses can now reach this audience of about 8,000 PTs and PTAs.

The “one stop” nature of **aPTitude** allows licensees to search for and record activities all within the system, saving time and effort in the process. As a vendor of continuing competence activities you are encouraged to publish your offerings for licensees to find, and to reach your target market by seeking **ProCert** certification of your activities. Learn more about **aPTitude** and **ProCert** at www.continuingcompetence.org.

22 States Now Accept ProCert

ProCert certification of continuing education courses and conferences is now accepted in 22 states (or U.S. jurisdictions) for purposes of meeting PT/PTA continuing education and licensure renewal requirements.

These states are: **Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia** and **Wisconsin**. Several more states are updating their laws to accept **ProCert** certification in the future.

Learn more about ProCert [here](#), or [contact FSBPT Continuing Competence Staff](#) for more information.

Updated Guidance Documents for ProCert

By way of reminder, as part of our ongoing efforts to improve the guidance we provide to physical therapy continuing competence activity vendors using **ProCert**, we have issued the following updated Guidance Documents:

- [Vendor Guidance Document – Continuing Education](#)
- [Vendor Guidance Document – Conferences](#)

The updates include clarifying information in the following Standards:

- Continuing Education – **Standard 5b CONTENT** (justification statement must discuss the relevance of content to ALL participants within the target audience)
- Continuing Education – **Standard 7 INSTRUCTOR/DEVELOPER/STAFF QUALIFICATIONS** (instructor qualifications shall be submitted in a CV current within 2 years preceding the activity submission date)
- Conferences – **Standard 14b EVALUATION** (this value-added

criteria is now available when the activity has documented methods for analyzing data and incorporating results into future versions of the activity)

Changes to these **ProCert** requirements take effect January 1, 2016.

Attendance Verification Reminder for ProCert Certified Activities

By way of reminder, as of June 2015, confirming the attendance of your learners is a requirement for **ProCert** certified activities. Uploading attendance confirmation is a term in the **ProCert** user agreement as it provides an additional layer of verification for licensees who attended your courses. The simple process is as follows:

- In **aPTitude**, click the “Upload Attendance” link for your **ProCert** certified activity
- Download the template form
- Input licensee email addresses and completion date(s) (the only required fields)
- Save and upload the document

aPTitude will then notify licensees who hold **aPTitude** accounts that their attendance for the activity has been verified.

You may [view this short webinar](#) demonstrating the attendance upload process. [Contact FSBPT Continuing Competence Staff](#) for assistance.

Success with Objectives & ProCert

Standard 11 – Objectives in the ProCert application underwent some changes in April 2014. The Objective Submission Form is now embedded in the application and its successful completion is **required** for a positive outcome. If your courses were submitted to ProCert for evaluation prior to April 1, 2014, this feature may be new to you.

To pass standard 11 vendors must list each course objective individually and break that objective down to identify all of the required elements. To do so, the vendor must open the embedded form by clicking “Add New Objective” as shown below.

https://pt.sp.fsbpt.net:sp7/truider/cert/vendor/2173/2706/vendorSubmission/EditStandard/standardId:11

Jurisdiction List Login Page Standard 11 - Behavioral Ob...

All required criteria from above are met and at least one objective focuses on higher levels of learning.

Target Audience: Physical Therapists and Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Assistants, and Athletic Trainers.

Information Pertaining to All Objectives: By the end of the course, the participant will

Your Objectives Objective

Add New Objective

Once clicked, the form will look like this:

https://pt.sp.fsbpt.net:sp7/truider/cert/vendor/2173/2706/vendorSubmission/EditStandard/standardId:11

Jurisdiction List Login Page Standard 11 - Behavioral Ob...

All required criteria from above are met and at least one objective focuses on higher levels of learning.

Target Audience: Physical Therapists and Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Assistants, and Athletic Trainers.

Information Pertaining to All Objectives: By the end of the course, the participant will

Your Objectives Objective

New Objective X

Add New Objective

Objective: New Objective

When Will Objective be achieved:

Who will perform behavior:

Measurable Behavior:

Specifics and Conditions:

Performance Requirements:

Higher Level Objective?
 Yes No

Vendors must list 1 objective, and **using verbiage directly from that objective** populate the remainder of the boxes. The ability to populate the element boxes will help a vendor ensure that the objective contains all the necessary elements. Vendors must continue to click “Add New Objective” until all objectives are included in the form.

Guidance on composing behavioral objectives can be found in the Vendor Guidance Document – CE under standard 11 (including the “Anatomy of a Behavioral Objective) and Appendices B, C, & D. Additionally, [this 55-minute recorded presentation](#) on elements of behavioral objectives -

originally prepared to train our reviewers - is a resource we can share that will also be useful to vendors using **ProCert** to evaluate their activities.
