



FSMTB
FEDERATION OF STATE
MASSAGE THERAPY BOARDS

July 19, 2018

Mitch Richter
Executive Secretary
South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy
1103 Park Hill Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701

VIA Email: sdbomt@gmail.com

RE: Massage Education Policy Option for South Dakota Massage Therapy Education Programs

Dear Mr. Richter:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide more information about the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) [Massage Education Policy](#) and how proposed rule revisions would affect MBLEx applicants from South Dakota.

Most states that regulate massage therapy also recognize, approve or license massage therapy schools or programs. The FSMTB Massage Education Policy allows applicants from those schools and programs that are recognized, approved or licensed in their state to sit for the MBLEx after receipt of education verification directly from the school.

Where an applicant received education from a school or program in their state that is not recognized, approved or licensed in their state, the individual can still apply for the MBLEx but FSMTB will require an approval from a state licensing board before the applicant may sit for the MBLEx.

It is my understanding that the South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy reviews education from each candidate prior to issuing a license. Should South Dakota remove the list of recognized facilities from its rules and not conduct any sort of recognition or approval of schools or programs, the order of the licensing process will change, but the substance will not.

Should the proposed rule revision pass, applicants from schools that are not considered "recognized facilities" in South Dakota may either apply for a South Dakota license first, or may apply for the MBLEx and the South Dakota license at the same time. Applicants will ensure their school has provided education verification to FSMTB, and FSMTB will seek approval from the South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy for each individual to sit for the exam. This process is currently being used in another state without issue.

While FSMTB will work together with the South Dakota Board to ensure this process is as efficient as possible, FSMTB is prepared to offer an optional review process available only to schools in South Dakota in order to support students who want to sit for the MBLEx.

The process will include a review of the school's curriculum in relationship to the Entry Level Massage Education (ELME) curriculum outline. The ELME is the resulting educational blueprint from the Entry Level Assessment Project (ELAP) workgroup's comprehensive review and analysis of what should comprise core entry-level massage education. The ELAP Final Report and ELME Blueprint can be found at www.elapmassage.org.

Review and subsequent approval by FSMTB will allow the school to be listed on the MBLEx application and permit access to submit education records through the FSMTB Education Record Center (ERC). Approval shall not be interpreted as an endorsement or accreditation of a school. Please note, approval by FSMTB does not mean that a state licensing board will accept a school's education for licensure purposes.

If a massage school or program is interested in participating in this optional review process, FSMTB suggests they begin by comparing their school's curriculum to the ELME content outline topics and sub-topics. This will provide the school with a head start on collating the information it will submit regarding its curriculum. While generating the ELME comparison, schools should note in which of its classes the content is being presented, the number of hours it takes to cover the topics and the total number of hours for its massage program.

Outlined is a list of information a school may be required to submit if it chooses to go through the FSMTB review process:

- School name, location, website, general phone number, general email address
- Direct email addresses for key staff person who will act as main contact for this project
- ELME comparison
- Detailed course descriptions
- A sample copy of the school's education record – such as a transcript or in progress report
- Other items as required

We encourage schools with any questions, concerns or comments to contact FSMTB at 913.681.0380 or schoolsupport@fsmtb.org.

FSMTB is here to support its member boards in their mission of public protection. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Sonja Way
Director of Government Relations