

<https://doh.sd.gov/boards/massage/education.aspx>

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

To be licensed as a massage therapist, an applicant must have at least 500 hours of specific education and training from a board recognized facility or instructor.

The 500 hours of education and training must include: ([ARSD 20:76:01:06](#))

- One hundred twenty-five hours of training in the body's system and anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology;
- Two hundred hours of training in massage and bodywork assessment, theory, and application;
- Forty hours of training in pathology;
- Ten hours of training in business and ethics, with a minimum of six hours in ethics; and
- One hundred twenty-five hours of additional training in an area or related field that theoretically completes a massage program of study.

The board currently recognizes certain **South Dakota** facilities as approved providers of the required education and training. These ~~se~~ **current** facilities include: ([ARSD 20:76:08:01](#))

- Black Hills Health and Education Center;
- Headlines Academy;
- ~~National American University;~~
- ~~Pam's Massage School;~~
- SD School of Massage Therapy;
- Sioux Falls Therapeutic Massage & Education Center; and
- Springs Bath House School of Massage.

List updated 10/08/2020

The board will continue to accept education and training from a facility that is no longer operational if it was recognized by the board while in operation.

- National American University;
- Pam's Massage School;

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A South Dakota facility which is accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education or endorsed by a nationally recognized agency may apply to the board to be recognized. ([ARSD 20:76:08:02](#))

Additionally, the Board may recognize training from additional facilities if such a facility is either licensed or approved by a state board of massage therapy in the state where the facility is located or is accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. ([ARSD 20:76:08:02](#))

Examinations

A passing score on a national exam is required for licensing. The board approved national examinations for purposes of licensure are:

- [NCETM \(National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage \\$225\)](#)
- [NCETMB \(National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork \\$225\)](#)
- [NBCA Massage Therapy Certification Exam \(AMMA \\$275\)](#)
- [MBLEx \(Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards \\$195, effective 10-01-2020 \\$265\)](#)

Examinations are computer-based. Candidates need to register directly with the national exam provider and request that results be provided to the Board of Massage Therapy.