



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCBTMB REDUCES PRICE ON STATE LICENSURE EXAM

Increases Affordability for Students

OAKBROOK TERRACE, Illinois (March 25, 2008) – The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) announced a price reduction on its National Examination for State Licensing (NESL). Registration fees for the NESL have been reduced from \$225 to \$175, making it more affordable for massage therapy and bodywork students seeking licensure in states where the exam is utilized.

“As the massage and bodywork industry continues to evolve and grow, we recognize that students seeking to become licensed practitioners often have limited financial resources,” stated Christopher Laxton, NCBTMB CEO. “This is a way to decrease the cost and speed up the state licensure process – in some cases, by weeks or even months.”

Thirty-two states plus the District of Columbia currently utilize or recognize NCBTMB exams in statute or rule as part of their licensing programs. The NESL state licensure exam is especially convenient because it can be taken at any time during a student’s training. Students who pass the exam become immediately eligible for state licensure upon completion of education and hands-on requirements. This allows practitioners to enter the workforce much sooner.

The added value of the NESL is that students can later apply for full national certification. Candidates who have successfully passed the exam and wish to become nationally certified need only provide a copy of their transcript, diploma, proof of identification and a \$50 conversion fee (\$75 if the application is received more than six months after the original examination date.) No additional testing is required, and no other exam gives students this advantage.

“At NCBTMB, we’re continually seeking ways to make our credentialing program more accessible,” stated Donna Feeley, NCBTMB Board Chair. “We hope this price reduction will allow aspiring new practitioners to establish their practices sooner, as they continue to pursue excellence and ultimately attain full national certification.”

Another benefit to early NESL testing is a higher average test score. “Students statistically score higher when they can sit for the exam immediately upon completion of classroom instruction, when retention is at its highest,” said NCBTMB Chief Credentialing Officer Mark Lausch. “This is a win-win for schools and administrators as well, because they typically see higher pass rates as a result.”

For more information on the NESL option of the NCBTMB certification program, call 1-800-296-0664 or e-mail questions to schooloutreach@ncbtmb.com.

ABOUT NCBTMB

The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork (NCBTMB) was established in 1992 as an independent, private, nonprofit organization fostering the highest standards of ethical and professional practice in the delivery of therapeutic massage and bodywork through a recognized credentialing program. NCBTMB examinations are currently utilized or recognized in statute or rule by 32 states plus the District of Columbia. There are currently more than 89,000 professionals with NCBTMB certification. NCBTMB has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1993 and is currently pursuing American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation.

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