

**Title 20—DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
Division 2197—Board of Therapeutic Massage
Chapter 2—Massage Therapist Licensure Requirements**

EMERGENCY AMENDMENT

20 CSR 2197-2.010 Application for Licensure. The board is amending section (1).

PURPOSE: This amendment updates and clarifies clock hours for licensure.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: The Board of Therapeutic Massage is requesting to change the minimum clock hours for education requirements, for apprenticeship with a certified mentor and from a Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE). This change is required to ensure that students who can qualify for federal grants and loans for Massage programs can meet the requirements for their programs and be able to receive aid, to complete their program. Currently, most Missouri entry-level programs and apprenticeships/mentorships (on average) provides at least six hundred twenty-five (625) clocked hours to graduate from their programs. The United States Department of Education is amending their rule effective July 1, 2024, regarding minimum education requirements. Students entering massage programs or mentorships will not qualify for federal aid with the current clock hour requirements. If the rule is not amended by July 1, 2024, it will restrict federal financial aid to the entry level competence standard (minimum) which is the role of regulation (as opposed to allowing funding for a quality education program for lifelong learning) restricts access to education for already disadvantaged students and has the opposite effect of the purpose of federal financial aid funding. Students will be deprived of loans, schools will close, the massage therapist labor shortage will be exacerbated.

*Increasing the minimum number to six hundred twenty-five (625) hours of initial core education is required for students to acquire the core skills to safely practice massage therapy. As a result, the Board of Therapeutic Massage finds there is an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and/or welfare and a compelling governmental interest that requires this emergency action. The scope of this emergency rule is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the **Missouri and United States Constitutions**. The Board of Therapeutic Massage believes this emergency rule is fair to all interested persons and parties under the circumstances. This emergency rule was filed May 24, 2024, becomes effective July 1, 2024, and expires February 27, 2025.*

20 CSR 2197-2.010 Application for Licensure

- (1) A person who seeks licensure as a massage therapist and has completed either **[five hundred (500)] six hundred twenty-five (625)** clock hours of massage therapy training in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor and has successfully passed an examination approved by the board or massage therapy studies consisting of at least **[five hundred (500)] six hundred twenty-five (625)** clock hours of supervised instruction from a Coordinating Board

of Higher Education (CBHE) certified school, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved vocational program or school, or school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education or an equivalent approving body for out-of-state applicants, shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall submit the following:

(C) Official evidence of completing *[five hundred (500)] six hundred twenty-five (625)* clock hours of massage therapy training in an apprenticeship with a certified mentor or an official final transcript showing successful completion of a massage therapy program to be submitted directly to the board office from the certified mentor or massage therapy program which includes:

1. The applicant's name.
2. Date of enrollment.
3. Date of completion; and
4. Documentation that the massage therapy program consisted of at least *[five hundred (500)] six hundred twenty-five (625)* clock hours of supervised instruction which consisted of—

A. At least three hundred (300) clock hours dedicated to massage theory and practice techniques provided directly by the certified mentor or an instructor within a massage therapy program. An instructor for massage theory and practice techniques or certified mentor shall document at least two (2) years of massage therapy practice, and either be licensed as a massage therapist in this state or be licensure eligible, based upon board review of the instructor's credentials.

(I) An instructor of kinesiology or pathology within the massage therapy program shall submit verification of education and/or experience in kinesiology or pathology instruction and licensure as a massage therapist or licensure eligibility is not required.

B. **At least [O]one** hundred (100) clock hours dedicated to the study of anatomy and physiology provided by one (1) of the following:

(I) The certified mentor who must hold an associate, bachelor, or advanced degree in a science related field from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that includes a course of study in anatomy and physiology. Such degrees include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, medicine, nursing, chemistry, or biology.

(II) A school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, a massage therapy program approved by the Missouri CBHE, or an out-of-state school approved by an agency equivalent to the Missouri CBHE.

(III) The certified mentor who must have earned at least fifteen (15) semester hours or twenty-five (25) quarter hours in science or science related courses from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S.

Department of Education. All course work must have a passing grade and at least eight (8) semester hours in fifteen (15) quarter hours of the course of study shall be in anatomy and physiology. For the purpose of this regulation a semester hour is equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours and a quarter hour is equivalent to ten (10) clock hours.

- (IV) An instructor within a massage therapy program who must hold an associate, bachelor, or advanced degree in a science related field that includes a course of study in anatomy and physiology. Such degrees include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, chiropractic, osteopathy, medicine, nursing, chemistry, or biology from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education; or
 - (V) An instructor within a massage therapy program who must have earned at least fifteen (15) semester hours or twenty-five (25) quarter hours in science or science related courses from a college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. All course work must have a passing grade and at least eight (8) semester hours or fifteen (15) quarter hours of the course of study shall be in anatomy and physiology. For the purpose of this regulation a semester hour is equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours and a quarter hour is equivalent to ten (10) clock hours.
- C. **At least [F]fifty (50) clock hours** dedicated to business practice, professional ethics, hygiene, and massage law in the state of Missouri provided by a certified mentor or an instructor within a massage therapy program with documented experience/education in a related field; **[and]**
- D. **At least [F]fifty (50) clock hours** dedicated to ancillary therapies provided by a certified mentor or an instructor(s) within a massage therapy program with documented experience/education in a related field. The fifty (50) clock hours shall include at a minimum cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid provided by an instructor who holds the respective instructor certification; and
- E. Applicants for licensure shall have completed no less than six hundred twenty-five (625) clock hours. Hours may be completed in any combination identified in subsection (1)(C) as long as the minimum number of hours are met in each category; and**
- (E) An applicant completing a massage therapy program consisting of less than **[five hundred (500)] six hundred twenty-five (625)** hours of supervised instruction from a Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education (CBHE) approved school, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved vocational program or school, college, university, or other institution of higher learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education or an equivalent approving agency for out-of-state schools, or who has completed a massage therapy program deficient in clock hours according to 20 CSR 2197-2.010(1)(C)4.A.-D. may complete deficiencies at either a Missouri CBHE approved school, DESE approved vocational program, mentorship approved by the board, or school, college, university, or other institution of higher

learning in the United States accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the United States Department of Education, or an out-of-state school approved by an agency equivalent to CBHE; and

AUTHORITY: sections 324.240, 324.243, 324.245, 324.265, 324.267, and 324.270, RSMo 2016. This rule originally filed as 4 CSR 197-2.010. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. For intervening history, please consult the **Code of State Regulations**. Emergency filed May 24, 2024, effective July 1, 2024, expires February 27, 2025. A proposed amendment covering this same material is published in this issue of the **Missouri Register**.*

PUBLIC COST: This emergency amendment will not cost state agencies or political subdivisions more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the time the emergency is effective.

PRIVATE COST: This emergency amendment will not cost private entities more than five hundred dollars (\$500) in the time the emergency is effective.