

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy
PT Candidate Information Sheet
March 2011
Rev. 3-23-2011

What's changing?

The PT NPTE will move from continuous testing to fixed-date testing after June 30, 2011. (PTA graduates will not be affected.)

How will this work?

What is the exam schedule for 2011?

PT graduates who register for the NPTE with FSBPT by May 31, 2011 and are approved to test by their state by June 15, 2011 (**REVISED**) will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter that will allow them to schedule a testing date through June 30, 2011.

Continuous testing registration and approval deadlines (ADDED)

Candidates must register by 5/31/2011 and be approved by their jurisdiction by 6/15/2011 to be eligible for an exam date on or before 6/30/2011. Scheduling an exam between 6/15 and 6/30 may be difficult.

Those who:

- Are unable to test by June 30, 2011 *OR*
- Register on or after June 1, 2011

will have to schedule their test on one of the following dates in 2011.

- September 7, 2011
- October 26, 2011 (**REVISED DATE**)
- December 5, 2011

FSBPT registration for each date will close on the following schedule:

Test Date	Date Registration Closes
September 7, 2011	August 7, 2011
October 26, 2011 (REVISED)	September 26, 2011 (REVISED)
December 5, 2011	November 5, 2011

How many exam dates can I choose if I register on or after June 1, 2011?

You can choose one date. If you do not test on that date for any reason, you will need to register for another date. See the section below on "Canceling, No-Shows and Refunds."

What is the exam schedule for 2012?

There will be five testing dates in 2012 for the PT NPTE. We are working with Prometric and the PT programs to determine best dates for accommodating candidate volume.

Scheduling an exam

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Is the registration fee different for fixed-testing?

No. The registration fee will remain \$370.

How do I schedule my exam?

You may schedule your appointment with Prometric once you receive your Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. **You are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with Prometric as soon as you receive notification from FSBPT that you are eligible.**

There will be some sites that are extremely popular and will fill up quickly. **It is recommended that you wait to make travel arrangements until after you have a scheduled test date and location, as we cannot guarantee a seat at your preferred testing location.**

Please visit www.prometric.com/fsbpt to schedule your appointment.

Canceling, No-Shows and Refunds

If I am unable to test on the scheduled test date, will I receive a refund?

You will receive a refund only if you withdraw your registration from the FSBPT by your scheduled test date. The refund will be less a processing fee.

If you fail to sit for the examination or fail to withdraw your registration by your scheduled test date, you will forfeit your examination fee.

If you wish to withdraw your registration, you must notify FSBPT in writing by submitting a Withdrawal Request Form. This form must arrive at FSBPT no later than your scheduled test date. If you have already made an appointment with Prometric to sit for the examination, you must cancel that appointment two business days prior to the scheduled appointment.

Taking the Examination

What are the requirements for admission to the testing center?

The requirements for admission to the test center for fixed-date testing are the same as for all other exams. **Because fixed-date testing is a one day testing event, it is critical that you have proper identification.**

You must arrive 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment with two forms of acceptable identification. Acceptable ID is a currently valid, government-issued photo ID (passport, driver's license, etc.), and another piece of identification pre-printed with your name and containing your signature such as a credit card. On both forms of ID your signature must match your pre-printed name. A Social Security card is not an acceptable form of identification. As part of your identification processing, the driver's license/passport will be scanned in order to retain the pertinent information.

Your first and last name on both forms of ID must exactly match the first and last name on

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your Authorization to Test letter issued by FSBPT. If you are denied admittance to the examination due to any problem with your identification, you will forfeit your fees and will not be able to test until the next scheduled administration.

What if I am unable to test due to an unexpected site closure?

In the unlikely event of an unexpected site closure, FSBPT and Prometric will work with you to make alternate arrangements to test.

Is the format of the fixed-date tests different than continuous tests?

No. The format will be exactly the same as continuous-testing NPTEs. They will be 250 items and you will have five hours to complete the exam.

Score Reporting

How will score reporting work for fixed-date testing?

Scores will be reported one week after the test date. This is to allow time for the FSBPT to receive, process and deliver to jurisdictions several thousand exam score files.

Working until I pass the NPTE

Can I practice as a PT after I graduate?

Maybe; it depends on your state. Some states will issue temporary licenses or permits to new graduates until the state receives the NPTE results. If your state does not offer temporary licensure for new graduates, you will have to wait to work as a PT until you pass the NPTE.

Go to www.fsbpt.org and navigate to Regulatory Tools/Licensure Reference Guide/Management of Licenses/ Temporary Licensure to learn if your state issues a temporary license or permit for new PT graduates. Although this information was recently updated, you should check with your state directly regarding temporary licensure.

What if I need to retake the examination?

You will need to re-register with FSBPT and Prometric. If you have a temporary license, check with your state to see whether you can continue to practice.

In most states, your temporary license/permit (if you have one) expires when/if you fail the NPTE.

Why did you move to fixed-date testing?

By offering the NPTE on a limited number of fixed dates, the FSBPT will be able to ensure that the NPTE given on a particular date will not contain previously compromised items. This change in procedure is designed to substantially reduce or eliminate candidates' ability to gain a score advantage by having advance access to NPTE questions. The new procedure's purpose is to ensure the validity of scores on the NPTE and fulfill the member boards' and FSBPT's shared responsibility of protecting the public.

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This change was made in response to a Georgia Superior Court judge's decision in a lawsuit brought by three PT candidates. The lawsuit challenged the Federation's decision to develop a version of the NPTE for graduates of physical therapy schools from Egypt, India, Pakistan and the Philippines (the NPTE-i). The Federation's decision to develop the NPTE-i was made in response to objective, compelling evidence of pervasive sharing of recalled items by and among graduates of these programs.

On February 9, 2011, the judge granted an injunction to the three graduates of physical therapy programs in the Philippines against the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy and the FSBPT. The injunction prohibits the Georgia Board and the FSBPT from enforcing in Georgia a July 2010 security measure implemented by the FSBPT that requires graduates receiving their first physical therapy degree from programs in Egypt, India, Pakistan and the Philippines to take an NPTE-i form of the National Physical Therapy Examination.