

S.C. Approves Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards' Exam

The Federation has gone through extensive development of an entry-level massage and bodywork licensing exam that is now available, and the South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Therapy Panel has approved this test for licensure. This means applicants now have a choice to take the National Exam (NCBTMB) or the Federation's exam, known as MBLex (massage and bodywork licensing exam).

Detailed information about the exam can be found at www.fsmtb.org. Go to the home page for the information.

Here are some answers to a few questions you may have:

What is the cost of the exam? \$195

When can I take the exam? It is available now! The launch date was Oct. 15, 2007.

How do I schedule the exam? You can go online and schedule at www.pearson.com/fsmtb or call the customer service center at 1-888-790-4892, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Central Time.

What is the exam like?

- There is information online about exam content at www.fsmtb.org. Go to the home page and click on Content.
- There are no study guides available.
- This is an entry-level exam, and your massage school curriculum should cover all material included in the listed content.
- The exam consists of 125 items and is multiple choice. You have 2 ½ hours to complete the exam.
- Scores are available at the test center upon completing the exam.
- This is a scaled score exam from 300-900 and a scaled score of 630 is needed to pass.
- For failing score, you will receive a numerical scaled score as well as diagnostic information indicating your performance in each content area, which assists in your future study efforts.

Will I be licensed after passing the exam? Licensure is not equal to passing the exam. You must still meet all the requirements of the state to which you are applying. For example, some states require 500 hours of study. Others require 750 hours. This means there is no automatic transfer of license.

---To date, six states have adopted the MBLex. They are: Arkansas, Iowa, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota and Texas.

Test sites in South Carolina are located in Greenville, Columbia and North Charleston.