

Updated 7/21/2020: Updated Guidance for Massage Therapy Pre-Licensure Distant Education

Due to the current public health emergency and recommended safe practice guidelines for the COVID-19 virus, the South Carolina Massage/Bodywork Panel will continue to allow licensed massage schools to offer pre-licensure distant education to be delivered via a supervised online classroom. This pre-licensure distant education will be limited to the theory hours of coursework including, but not limited to, Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology, Business and Massage Theory Review.

The supervised online lecture classroom must be delivered as follows:

- 1) The class must be an interactive audio and video internet platform, where the instructor and students can view and talk with each other throughout the entire class in real time (synchronous).
- 2) The instructor must monitor the video screen during the entire presentation to ensure the students are present. There will be no credit given if any student is absent from the view screen without the instructor's permission.
- 3) The instructor must document attendance at each class meeting and should verify identification of each student as they would for in-person class attendance. Identification of each student must be done in a manner that protects the confidentiality of each student's information.

This pre-licensure distant education does not include "hands-on" massage training or the massage therapy clinical application portion of the course curriculum. This portion of the massage therapy curriculum has to be conducted/delivered face-to-face. Licensed massage schools are encouraged to observe the suggested safe practice guidelines, which assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19, published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the Federation of Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) and any other applicable safe practice guidelines for the resumption of the "hands-on" massage training or the massage therapy clinical application portion of the course curriculum.

This temporary action for Massage Therapy pre-licensure distance education accommodations will remain in place until further notice.