

The “*What to do*” List for 2027 Graduates

The NPTE & Applying for a PT License (primary focus on MI)

All students need to consider the following regarding licensure:

- Sitting for the licensure examination typically *follows* graduation from a CAPTE-accredited DPT program.
 - Your official graduation date will be August 10, 2027.
- Although many students decide to sit for the licensure examination in July, this is considered *early* because it is prior to your official GVSU graduation date.
 - NPTE allows for students to take the examination up to 90 days prior to the official graduation date
 - NPTE requires that a program validate a student who plans to take the examination early.
 - Students must meet ALL program requirements to be validated
 - MI allows students to take the examination prior to official graduation
 - Not every state does: [NPTE licensure prior to graduation guide](#)

Bottom Line: Early validation is a privilege, requires that specific criteria be met, and is NOT guaranteed.

Prior students have generally appreciated the program’s willingness to validate students in their final semester, allowing them to take the exam early. However, they have also provided feedback regarding the downside:

- The program’s evidence-based requirement to pass a PEAT exam in May requires early preparation and has been a source of anxiety for some students
- Studying for the NPTE while finishing program requirements (particularly 40 hours of clinical/week) is demanding

As you decide what is best for you, please recognize that the July date is not expected. If you will benefit from dedicated study time in August and September, please consider taking the licensure exam in October.

Becoming a licensed physical therapist requires two processes that are generally parallel:

- Registering for and completing licensing requirements through a state licensing board
- Registering for and passing the NPTE through FSBPT

Both processes involve multiple detail-oriented steps. You can’t do one without the other, as the agencies communicate with each other.

The overview of these processes includes:

- Study for the licensure exam. Spectacular achievement is always preceded by diligent preparation.
- Register for your exam(s)
 - The NPTE is required of every candidate
 - Jurisprudence examination requirements vary by state
- Complete a state application form for licensure (process described below)
- Cost estimate for all processes: ~ \$1,100

I. Initiating/Completing the FSBPT processes

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) is an organization for U.S. physical therapy licensing boards that develops and administers the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).

FSBPT provides a more detailed overview of the process

- Access the (FSBPT) website for information about licensure, examination and the PEAT practice exam. The general FSBPT link is <http://www.fsbpt.org/>.
 - Specifically for the NPTE licensure exam: <https://www.fsbpt.org/Secondary-Pages/Exam-Candidates>.
- Select and read all content for “Exam Candidates”
- There is also a series of “NPTE in 60 Seconds” videos: <https://www.fsbpt.org/Secondary-Pages/Exam-Candidates/National-Exam-NPTE/The-NPTE-in-Sixty-Seconds>

Program Validation

FSBPT allows for early examination for students in their last semester of their DPT program **given they are validated by the program**. For GVSU students, the July exam is early and requires validation. To be eligible for validation to take the July NPTE, students must:

- Be on track to complete all DPT program requirements in Semester 9
 - All didactic coursework is complete
 - On track to be “Entry Level” for all areas for PT 698 clinical education experience at the midterm evaluation
 - Research is complete/set to be complete by research day
- Have no current professional behavior issues being addressed/managed
- In addition, students must complete at least 1 PEAT exam with a score ≥ 600 (considered a “passing” score).

PEAT Timeline

- April 26, 2027: PEATS will become available to students.
 - It is recommended that students complete the first PEAT attempt by mid-May.
 - Test is completed independently in a timed manner
 - If score is ≥ 600 , and all other criteria are met, student will be validated

- If score is < 600, student will have to demonstrate a passing score on the second attempt to be validated
- All students should consider taking the second PEAT
 - Students who did NOT earn a score of ≥ 600 on the 1st PEAT should take the second PEAT on or before June 8, 2026.
 - This allows adequate time for validation in advance of the June 23rd registration and payment deadline
 - If score is ≥ 600 , and all other criteria are met, student will be validated
 - If score is < 600, the student will not be validated for early testing

Some states require candidates to begin a state application prior to registering for the NPTE. Michigan does NOT. However, we strongly recommend beginning the process as soon as possible. The state will process your initial application, create a file, and add information in real time as it arrives. Starting the process early ensures good communication throughout the process and prevent delays at the end (when your official transcript arrives).

II. Initiating/Completing the State Process

If you plan to become licensed in MI:

- Applicants must register (create) an MIPLUS account (internet explorer recommended):
<https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bpl/miplus-assistant>
 - Great videos that explain the process
 - Register your account:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jedh1WpsoF8&t=9s>
 - Instructions on how to apply for your first license:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EurLWlqceNk&t=3s>
- Go to this website for an overview of Michigan procedures, application form, and directions.
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/-/media/Project/Websites/lara/bpl/Physical-Therapy/Licensing-Info-and-Forms/Physical-Therapist-Licensing-Guide.pdf?rev=6a8dad3037c54ccb975a67ab459fc4a4&hash=F0DB045269EE89604B08E9F7BD8F8590>
 - Applicants are required to attest to completing specific trainings. **You HAVE completed these:**
 - Implicit bias training
 - Completed in the curriculum. Dr. Shoemaker will be emailing certificates for your records.
 - Human Trafficking training

- Completed in PT 511 through APTA MI module. You should have the certificate.

Within a few weeks of mailing your application, you should receive an Application Confirmation letter containing your customer number. You may use your customer number to check the status of your application.

- Licensure in another state- If you plan to become licensed in another state, you need to check on that state's requirements.
 - Some states will not issue an "Authorization to Test" without a state application
 - Again, FSBPT provides resources: <https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/Licensing-Authorities-Contact-Information>
 - Some states are "Member States" with Compact Privileges. This means that if you took a state board exam in a member state then you can practice in another member state after applying for compact privilege (and paying a fee).
 - <https://www.ptcompact.org/compact-map/>

II. Arranging to take the NPTE via FSBPT

- Register and pay for NPTE exam: <https://www.fsbpt.org/Our-Services/Candidate-Services/Exam-Registration-Payment>
- Once your registration and payment clear, FSBPT will send you an "Authorization to Test" (ATT)
 - This will include instructions on how to schedule the NPTE exam through Prometrics: www.prometric.com/fsbpt

III. Completing the state licensure process

- Request graduation transcript be forwarded to state licensing board
 - Ask GVSU to send your graduation transcript to the Michigan Board of PT (or whatever state) after your August graduation. You can request a transcript now, but must specify that you would like it sent after your official GVSU graduation (will happen when Dr. Shoemaker informs the registrar that you have successfully completed PT 698) . You also may choose to request that the Registrar send a copy to you to make sure your transcript is sent. **Select the phrase ... Hold for graduation verification.**
 - The GVSU link is: <http://www.gvsu.edu/registrar/transcript-requests-4.htm>
 - The GVSU Registrar will send your transcript (if you have requested it to be sent after graduation verification) to the state board when your final clinical grade is entered.

- If applying for licensure in Michigan, transcripts are sent to:
BPLDATA@michigan.gov

What can go wrong?

- If you do not request that your transcript be sent, GVSU will not send it. Your PT license will not be issued.
 - As you are applying for jobs, please ensure your employer understands that the Registrar could take up to 10 days to make your transcript available after Spring/Summer Graduation.
 - Once the Michigan Board of PT has your test results as well as your transcript, they will process and mail your license.
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Helpful Web Resources

MICHIGAN

- LARA – Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs – Physical Therapy (for licensing information, application packet, criminal background check, fingerprinting)
http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-35299_63294_27529_27549---,00.html
- LARA - Physical Therapy Examination dates (for deadlines)
http://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-27417_27529_27549-42783--,00.html

FSBPT home page (for wealth of resources)

<https://www.fsbpt.org>

FSBPT – Licensing Authorities (Michigan and other states; web sites and Practice Acts)

<https://www.fsbpt.org/FreeResources/LicensingAuthoritiesContactInformation.aspx>

FSBPT – test content outline

<https://www.fsbpt.org/Free-Resources/NPTE-Development/NPTE-Content>

PROMETRIC TESTING CENTERS

<https://www.prometric.com/exams/fsbpt>

GVSU

Requesting Transcripts

<http://www.gvsu.edu/registrar/transcript-requests-4.htm>