



ADVISORY BOARD OF ATHLETIC TRAINERS

David Weir
Chair

Stewart Myrick
Program Director

PO Box 149347, MC 1982
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
(512) 834-6615
Fax (512) 834-6677
at@dshs.state.tx.us
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/at>

Marty Akins
David R. Schmidt, M.D.
Rebecca Spurlock
Michael Alan Waters

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2010 RULE CHANGES

The Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers (board) adopted changes to the licensure rules on May 10, 2010 and the rule changes became effective on June 24, 2010. One of the changes is the addition of the following paragraph concerning the acceptance of the Board of Certification examination for certain applicants who apply for licensure under Method B:

Title 22, Texas Administrative Code, §871.9(m) - If an applicant has successfully completed the examination administered by the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) on or after January 1, 2004, the applicant shall not be required to complete the examination described in subsections (a) through (l) of this section, unless the applicant has previously held a license issued by the board. The applicant must furnish the board a copy of the test results indicating that the applicant passed the examination.

Based on comments provided to the board, it appears there may be a lack of understanding regarding the impact of this rule change. The board has prepared this information to respond to some of the concerns that were voiced during the rulemaking process.

Q. Does this change affect currently licensed athletic trainers?

A. No. This rule change does not affect current LATs. It affects certain applicants for licensure. If an applicant has successfully completed the BOC exam after January 1, 2004, the applicant will not be required to take the Texas state licensing exam.

If an LAT allows the license to expire and does not renew the license within one year from the date of expiration, the LAT must apply for a new license, meet current license requirements, and successfully complete the Texas state licensing exam. The requirement to pass the Texas state licensing exam applies under these circumstances, even if the person originally was licensed on the basis of the BOC exam.

Q. Does this change apply only to out-of-state applicants?

A. No. While it certainly can apply to out-of-state applicants, in recent years, the board has seen increasing numbers of applicants who graduated from Texas universities that are CAATE-accredited. Many of these applicants have also successfully completed the BOC exam.

The rule change doesn't apply to all out-of-state applicants. There are some out-of-state applicants who have not completed the BOC exam or who completed it prior to January 1, 2004. Those applicants will continue to be required to complete the Texas state licensing exam.

In the past, the board has referred to "in-state" and "out-of-state" applicants, which was a distinction limited to whether or not the applicant obtained his or her degree at a college or university in Texas. Now that there are four methods to licensure, the "in-state" and "out-of-state" distinctions have diminished in importance.

Q. Will this change lead to the elimination of apprenticeship programs in Texas and/or the Texas state licensing exam?

A. No; these topics have not been under consideration by the board. The board understands that the apprenticeship route to licensure (Method A) is vital to ensuring that the number of qualified licensed athletic trainers is sufficient to meet the needs of the state. The Texas state licensing exam will continue to be administered regularly, as it has been since 1972.

Q. Why would the board recognize the BOC exam since all other professions require that applicants take a state licensing exam?

A. It is not true that each health care profession administers a state-specific licensing exam. In occupational licensing, there are many professions that require national examinations for state licensure purposes. Examples of professions in Texas that do not have a state-specific licensing exam, and require a national exam to get a state license, include respiratory care therapists, massage therapists, medical radiologic technologists, social workers, dietitians, orthotists, prosthetists, speech pathologists, audiologists, and chemical dependency counselors.

Q. Is the BOC “taking over” licensure in Texas? Doesn’t this weaken our licensure law in Texas?

A. No. The BOC is a private, national certification body that has no jurisdiction relating to athletic trainer regulation in the state of Texas. The Texas Legislature has granted sole authority to the Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers to regulate athletic trainers in Texas. (See Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 451.)

Q. Will the board require the BOC to recognize the Texas state licensing exam and grant reciprocal national certification to Texas LATs who are not certified?

A. No. In the same way that the BOC lacks jurisdiction over the regulation of Texas athletic trainers, the board lacks authority to compel the BOC to grant certification to Texas LATs.

Q. Won’t this rule change negatively impact the job market for Texas athletic trainers?

A. The board has no evidence to indicate that this will have a negative impact on job opportunities for Texas athletic trainers.

Q. I failed the Texas state licensing exam. Can I now take the BOC exam and get my Texas license?

A. No. If an applicant has failed the Texas state licensing exam, the applicant must pass it before becoming licensed in Texas.

Q. I heard that if you fail the BOC exam, then you can’t take the Texas state licensing exam. Is this true?

A. No. The Texas state licensing exam is available to all license applicants who qualify for the Texas state licensing exam, regardless of whether they passed or failed the BOC exam.

If you have any further questions about the licensing rules or law, you may contact the board office via e-mail at at@dshs.state.tx.us, or by phone at (512) 834-6615. You may visit the board website at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/at> for updated board information, license verification, and to review or print current board laws and rules.