South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy
Board Policies & Positions

Any officer of the Board may sign documents on behalf of the Board. (Board Action March 6, 2006)

The Board shall join the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards. (Board Action April 18, 2006)

Massage therapy students may perform supervised externships without a license. (Board Position October 14, 2008)

Reiki is not massage therapy. Reiki classes are not continuing education compliant. (Board Position April 16, 2009)

A licensee grandfathered in another state does not meet reciprocity requirements in South Dakota. (Board Action July 25, 2011)

A mailing list of massage therapist licensees, including only name and primary mailing address of a licensee, will be available in a PDF or Excel format for one-time use for a fee of $300. (Board Action September 25, 2019)

The Board considers the following information collected of licensees by the Board to be public: Original License Category; License Status; Complaint(s); First Name; Middle Name; Last Name; Maiden Name; Primary Address; Primary City; Primary State; Primary Zip Code; Issue Date; Expiration Date; and Inactive Date. All other information collected by the Board is considered confidential. (Board Action June 17, 2013)

The Board does not accept education from a school that is no longer operational and was not recognized by a state board or recognized accrediting body while in operation. (Board Action March 17, 2014)

The Board does not accept carryover continuing education credits for multiple renewal periods. (Board Action March 17, 2014)

The Board will allow licensees who receive their original license on June 1st or later each year to be issued a license that is valid through September 30 of the following year. (Board Action July 21, 2014)
The Board accepts CPR courses only from American Red Cross and American Heart Association certified instructors and such courses count as 4 hours of continuing education per renewal period. (Board Action November 3, 2014)

The Board authorizes the Executive Secretary to refer complaints alleging unlicensed practice to the state’s attorney at the time the complaint is filed with the Board and dismiss the complaint due to lack of jurisdiction. (Board Action March 16, 2015)

Costs associated with a student performing a massage may be recovered when the student performs such services within the scope of an approved massage therapy school curriculum under the supervision of a licensed massage therapist. (Board Action September 21, 2015)

In order to minimize disruption to the Board’s meeting, all audio and video recordings of a Board meeting made by a member of the public pursuant to SDCL 1-25-11 shall be made from a place in the meeting room designated by the Board for such public recordings. The place designated by the Board will be located in the meeting room to reasonably allow for audio or video recordings. The Board does not guarantee the quality of the acoustics, sound or lighting in the meeting room or any impact such acoustics, sound or lighting may have on the quality of the recording. No matters properly subject to Executive Session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 may be recorded, in any manner, by a member of the public or a member of the Board. (April 10, 2017)

The President may appoint a non-board member to investigate a complaint when filed by or filed against a board member. (Board Action July 11, 2017)

This is a summary of policies and positions adopted by the South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy on specific issues. This summary is not an exhaustive list of all policies and positions of the South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy and should not be relied on as an exhaustive list. These policies and positions are offered as guidance not as binding authority. The South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy reserves the right to modify or repeal a policy or position at any time.
The Course Category Policy below is effective November 1, 2019 as part of the Board Policies and Positions (Board Action September 25, 2019)

Course Category Policy
The FSMTB has determined that courses taught in the following categories will be acceptable for inclusion in the CE Registry. Inclusion does not guarantee acceptance for license renewal; only state licensing boards have the authority to accept continuing education for license renewal.

Anatomy & Physiology – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in the structure and function of the body.

Applications & Tools – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in using applications and tools in the practice of massage therapy:

  - Applications – The topical application of any preparation, including but not limited to, the external application of hydrotherapy, thermotherapy and cryotherapy to augment the effects of massage therapy treatment.
  - Tools - Manual devices that mimic or enhance the actions of the hands.

Instructor Training – Courses to prepare individuals to teach in the massage profession.

Kinesiology – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in the study of the movement of the body.

Modalities – Eastern/Asian – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in Eastern/Asian massage modalities.

Modalities – Western – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in Western massage modalities.

Pathology – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in the study of diseases that affect the human body and their implications for massage.

Pharmacology – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in the interactions between medications and massage.

Professional Practice – Courses in the following topic areas:

  - Assessment
  - Benefits of Massage
  - Body Mechanics
  - Business
  - Communication with Clients
  - Contraindications
  - Documenting/Charting
  - Record Keeping
  - Treatment Planning
  - Third Party Reimbursement
  - Universal Precautions
**Regulatory Ethics** – State required regulatory education courses.

- Addictions/Substance Abuse
- Boundaries
- Cultural Competence
- Ethics
- Human Trafficking
- Infectious Disease Control
- Laws
- Mandated Reporting
- Medical Error Prevention
- Regulations
- Scope of Practice
- Sexual Misconduct/Abuse

**Research** – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in the process of scientific research of massage therapy.

**Special Populations** – Courses whose main purpose is to instruct students in providing massage/bodywork to special populations of clients.

- Athletes/Fitness
- Disabilities
- Geriatric
- Hospice
- Infants & Children
- Military
- Orthopedic
- Obese
- Oncology
- Pregnant
- Trauma

**Other** – Courses whose main purpose is not found in any other category. These courses will be reviewed for acceptance on a scheduled basis.

**Unacceptable Course Topics**

The FSMTB does not accept courses that are out of the massage therapy scope of practice. Some unacceptable course types are:
Advanced science
Applied Kinesiology
Animal massage
Bamboo
Chiropractic assistant
Crystals
Crystal bowls
Dancing
Diets
Dry needling
Electric stimulation
Energy work
Exercise
Feng Shui
Herbal remedies
Homeopathic remedies
Light therapy
Martial Arts
Meditation
Non-biological science
Nutrition
Personal training
Pilates
Psychology
Qi Gong
Sea shells
Social work
Spirituality
Supplements
Tai Chi
Therapist Self-care
Tuning Forks
Ultrasound
Weightlifting
Yoga