South Dakota Board of Massage Therapy
Board Policies & Positions

Updated 10-28-26

Continuing Education

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

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

The Board accepts CPR courses only from American Red Cross and American Heart Association certified instructors and such courses count up to 4 hours of continuing education per renewal period. *(Board Action February 11, 2026)*

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Sanitation presented by an approved provider of the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB), American Medical Massage Association (AMMA), or Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) for up to 3 continuing education units as a qualifying continuing education course, in accordance with ARSD 20:76:03:04. *(Board Action May 19, 2020; Updated July 25, 2022)*

Attendance of the video conference of a board meeting is also qualifying continuing education in conjunction with ARSD 20:76:03:04. *(Board Action May 19, 2020)*

The Course Category Policy below is effective November 1, 2019 as part of the Board Policies and Positions
(Board Action September 25, 2019; Updated July 25, 2022)

Acceptable Course Categories

The FSMTB has determined that courses taught in the following categories will be acceptable for inclusion in the CE Registry. The Board recognizes courses in the CE Registry as meeting requirements 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

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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
  Mandatory 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.

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- **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
  Trauma
  Orthopedic
  Obese
  Oncology
  Pregnant

- **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 *(Board Action October 28, 2026)*
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
Chiropractic assistant
Crystals
Crystal bowls
Dancing
Diets
Dry Needling
Electric stimulation
Energy work
Exercise
Feng Sui
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

Board Operations

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)*

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

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(Board Action June 17, 2013; Updated July 25, 2022)

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)*

Board Meetings

The Executive Secretary shall provide board members with copies of any materials received in the Board office that have been marked for distribution to board members unless the materials are related to an open complaint or investigation. Such materials shall be included in the packet of information provided to board members for a scheduled board meeting. Any materials must reach the board office at least five days prior to the meeting to be included in the board meeting packet. *(Board Action July 25, 2022)*

Individuals in attendance at a Board meeting shall register with the Executive Secretary by signing in, if physically present at the board meeting, or, if participating by the internet (e.g., Zoom, Teams), by entering their name in the chat feature. Individuals must indicate if they intend to speak during the open forum time on the agenda. The minutes of the board meeting shall reflect all people who have signed in, whether they intend to comment or not. *(Board Action July 25, 2022)*

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. *(Board Action April 10, 2017; Updated July 25, 2022)*

Licensing

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

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 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

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following year. *(Board Action July 21, 2014)*

Complaints

All complaints filed with the board must be in writing and contain an explanation of the alleged violation. The complaint must be signed and include the address and/or telephone number of the complainant. The board will not accept third party complaints unless the complainant is the parent or legal guardian of the person who was subject to the alleged violation. *(Board Action July 25, 2022)*

Upon receipt of the response of the applicant or licensee, or upon expiration of the time for the applicant or licensee complained against to respond, the administrator shall assign an investigative committee (Board member, Executive Secretary and Staff Attorney) to determine if the complaint has probable cause and constitutes grounds for disciplinary action or lacks probable cause and should be dismissed (SDCL 36-1C-3). The investigative committee is authorized to dismiss a complaint for lack of jurisdiction or probable cause pursuant to SDCL 36-1C-4. Any dismissal of a complaint by the investigative committee must be reported to the Board at its next scheduled meeting or within 30 days, whichever is shorter. (*Board Action July 25, 2022; updated April 23, 2025*)

The Board authorizes the Executive Secretary to refer complaints alleging unlicensed practice to local law enforcement at the time the complaint is filed with the Board and dismiss the complaint due to lack of jurisdiction. *(Board Action November 19, 2025)*

The Executive Secretary will provide an update, as necessary, at each board meeting of the status of complaints received. The update will include the number of complaints dismissed due to lack of jurisdiction and the number of complaints that were resolved. *(Board Action July 25, 2022)*

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; Updated July 25, 2022)*

Board members contacted by a licensee or a member of the public about a complaint or investigation pending before the Board shall respond they are not able to have any communications related to the complaint or investigation. A board member must report any contact about a complaint or investigation to the Executive Secretary. *(Board Action July 25, 2022)*

Massage Therapy Students

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

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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)*

Education

For purposes of calculating training or study hours to determine compliance with established application requirements, one (1) credit hour is considered to equal twenty-nine (29) clock hours. *(Board Action April 23, 2025)*

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