

**CERTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY RULES
FILED WITH THE
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OTHNI LATHRAM, DIRECTOR**

Pursuant to Code of Alabama 1975, §§41 22 5(b) and 41 22 6(c) (2)a. and b.

I certify that the attached emergency amendment is a correct copy as promulgated and adopted on Monday, June 23, 2025.

AGENCY NAME:	Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board
RULE NO. AND TITLE:	532-X-5-.01 Requirements For Approved Massage Therapy Schools
EXPIRATION DATE OF RULE:	Tuesday, October 14, 2025
NATURE OF EMERGENCY:	The emergency rule is necessary to facilitate immediate implementation of Alabama Act 2025-395
STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	Code of Ala. 1975, §34-43A-6
SUBJECT OF RULE TO BE ADOPTED ON A PERMANENT BASIS:	Yes
NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON TO CONTACT FOR COPY OF RULE:	Honor Ingels Honor.Ingels@abn.alabama.gov 334/293-5236

Peggy Benson

Peggy Benson, AL

Signature of officer authorized
to promulgate and adopt rules and
regulations or his or her deputy

REC'D & FILED
JUN 23, 2025
LEGISLATIVE SVC AGENCY

Requirements For Approved Massage Therapy Schools.

- (1) The board is authorized to approve massage therapy schools and to establish a list of approved massage therapy schools.
- (2) Successful completion of the curriculum at a board approved massage therapy school shall satisfy the educational requirements for licensure as a massage therapist.
- (3) An approved massage therapy school shall comply with all standards for approval established by the board and require a student to successfully complete a minimum of six hundred and fifty (650) hours of instruction, which shall consist of all of the following:
 - (a) One hundred (100) hours of anatomy and physiology, including thirty-five (35) hours of myology.
 - (b) Fifteen (15) hours of osteology.
 - (c) Ten (10) hours of circulatory system.
 - (d) Ten (10) hours of nervous system, with the remaining thirty (30) hours addressing other body systems at the discretion of the massage therapy school.
 - (e) Two hundred fifty (250) hours of basic massage therapy, the contradistinctions of massage therapy, and related touch therapy modalities, including a minimum of fifty (50) hours of supervised massage.
 - (f) Fifty (50) hours of business, hydrotherapy, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, professional ethics, and state massage therapy laws.
 - (g) Two hundred fifty (250) hours of electives as determined by the massage therapy school.
- (4) An approved massage therapy school may not teach the use of techniques or procedures that require specialized training, licensure or expertise, including, but not limited to, laser therapy, injection therapy, manipulation of the joints or any diagnosis or treatment of an illness that normally involves the practice of medicine, chiropractic, physical therapy, podiatry, nursing, occupational therapy, veterinary medicine, acupuncture, osteopathy, orthopedics, hypnosis, or naturopathic.

(5) An approved massage therapy school shall adhere to the following requirements for supervised student clinical learning experiences, including but not limited to supervised massage:

(a) Supervised massage performed by a student shall be performed under the direct supervision of a registered massage therapy instructor employed by or contracted with an approved massage therapy school.

(b) Supervised massage performed by a student shall be performed on the school premises.

(c) The registered massage therapy instructor supervising the supervised massage shall have direct access to the student and the client.

(d) The client shall be informed that the massage therapy session is being performed by a student massage therapist prior to beginning the session.

(e) Students shall receive no compensation for any massage therapy session performed on the premises of the approved massage therapy school.

(f) Student may be awarded hours for performing business-related tasks such as answering telephones, returning telephone calls, booking therapy appointments, computer or file data entry, laundry of linens if the school provides linens for student clinical use and any other business-related tasks which will aid the students in future massage work environments, but the hours awarded for those tasks may not be used to satisfy the minimum of 50 hours of supervised massage.

(g) Student clinicals may not include manual labor on the school premises unrelated to everyday clinical sessions.

(h) Students may not be required to clean the school premises beyond the normal sanitation procedures inclusive to treatment rooms and the immediate office space (i.e., appointment desk area, copy station, and client waiting room) used during clinical sessions.

(i) Students may not be required to perform building maintenance, lawn care, facility housekeeping, including bathrooms, floors, or anything that does not apply to the education and career goal of a student.

(6) An approved massage therapy school shall ensure that massage therapy courses are taught only by licensed massage therapists

who are registered massage therapy instructors, and that all courses are taught by instructors who are academically and experientially qualified to teach the courses assigned to them.

(7) An approved massage therapy school at which supervised massage is conducted on the premises shall meet all of the qualifications for a massage therapy establishment license as described in chapter 532-X-4-.02.

(8) An approved massage therapy school shall carry professional and general liability insurance with an "A" rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

(9) No later than ~~January~~October 1, 2025, an approved massage therapy school shall acquire and maintain registration as an assigned school through the National Certification of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork Board (NCBTMB).

(10) Within 2 years of board approval, all newly approved massage therapy schools must obtain and maintain registration as an assigned school through the National Certification of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork Board (NCBTMB).

(11) A massage therapy school located outside of the state of Alabama may be an approved massage therapy school, provided that, in addition to meeting all other requirements in this chapter, the out-of-state massage therapy school shall:—

(a) Be recognized by a regional professional accrediting body.

(b) Be an accredited postgraduate training institute.—

(c) Provide a copy of the conforming curriculum.

(12) Institutional and school policies, procedures, and other publications, whether written or electronic, shall:

(a) Be printed, written, and/or spoken statements and representations regarding massage therapy schools and schools shall be clear, factually accurate, and current. Supporting information shall be kept on file by the sponsoring school or school administrator and shall be readily available for review, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Policies concerning admission, financial aid, curriculum, schedules, and all other areas affecting the education and wellbeing of students shall be honestly and clearly stated in publications promoting the school.

2. Procedures, dates, and requirements for application, admission, financial aid, and other responsibilities and opportunities directly affecting students shall be clearly stated and shall be generally available to prospective and current students.

3. Policies regarding student admission and standing, evaluation of student progress, and the operation of schools shall be readily available to current and prospective students.

4. A description of tuition, fees, and other charges, as well as all policies pertaining thereto, shall be clearly described in the school's published literature. The total cost of the school shall be clearly stated.

(13) Catalogs, advertising, and promotions shall clearly distinguish existing and recognized schools from those that are prospective or hypothetical.

(14) All advertising and promotional materials shall include the correct name and location of the school and any parent institution.

(15) All advertising promoting student clinical sessions shall clearly indicate that services provided by students are offered under the supervision of a licensed massage therapist by using the phrase, "under the supervision of" or "supervised by a licensed massage therapist." Students may not use personal advertisements for such services, but student names may be included in an instructor's advertisement, provided that the students' intern status is clearly disclosed in the ad.

(16) Advertisements or any other type of recruitment materials shall not claim that students receive compensation for attending school or for providing student services.

(17) All school and school advertising and promotional materials shall clearly disclose that they offer solely training, and not employment, in massage therapy. No overt or implied claim or guarantee of individual employment shall be made at any time therein.

(18) No school shall use the term "accredited" unless it indicates the agency or organization by which it is accredited.-

(19) No school shall issue any certificate or diploma or confer any degree that misrepresents the course of study or instruction covered or completed or the accomplishments or standing of the student receiving such certificate, diploma, or degree.

(20) The school shall not falsely represent its facilities in photos, illustrations, computerized images, or by other means.

(21) Schools that utilize placement statistics and/or state examination pass rates in advertising, promotional literature, and/or verbal presentations shall use corroborative data from reliable and current sources, e.g., state agencies, previous calendar year statistics, etc. to support its claims.

(22) Massage therapy schools shall complete the Massage Therapy Education Annual Report in a format specified by the board within the time specified.

(23) Massage therapy schools must satisfy other standards as may be imposed by the board through rule.

Author: Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board

Statutory Authority: Code of Ala. 1975, §34-43A-6.

History: New Rule: Filed January 29, 2001; effective March 5, 2001. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed April 20, 2009; effective May 25, 2009. **Repealed and New Rule:** Filed February 10, 2012; effective March 16, 2012. **Repealed and New Rule:** Published September 30, 2024; effective November 14, 2024. **Amended (ER):** Filed June 23, 2025; effective June 23, 2025; expires 113 days, October 14, 2025.