



SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MAY 30, 2018

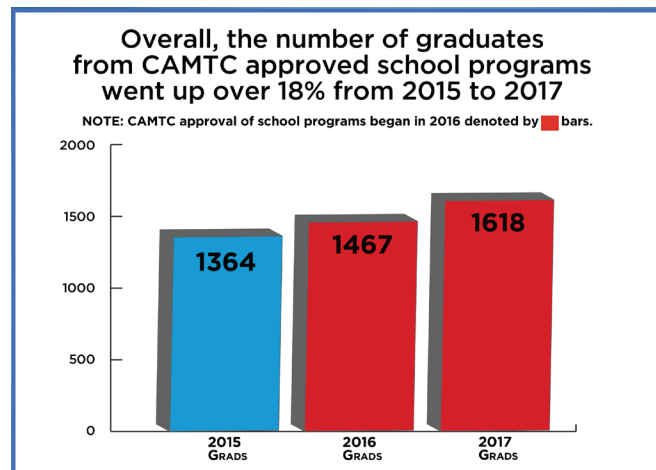
CAMTC's Board of Directors highly values the input of schools. Thus, it has continued the Schools Advisory Committee that began last year. The Committee convened for its first meeting of 2018 on May 30th. To add a fresh perspective, three previous Committee Members rotated off and three new Members were added after numerous resumes were received in response to the call for candidates. The Committee made several recommendations:

- Recommend to Board that the purged school policy being proposed at the next day's meeting, clarify that "incomplete application" means items within a school's control and includes a notice to purged schools to inform graduates of the policy and deadlines. (This was addressed at the May 31 Board Meeting.)
- Recommend that the Board ask staff to consider options to accept courses within approved programs without requiring enrollment in the entire approved program, and present these to the Committee with possible amendments to the Policies and Procedures for Approval of Schools in September.
- Recommend to Board to add an additional fee for individual applicants for certification that submit education from multiple schools. (This may be on the agenda for the September Board Meeting.)
- Recommended that staff add a notice to the approved school list on the website stating that "Applications for re-approval have been submitted and the first re-approvals will occur in June 2018." (Staff accepted and has already complied with this recommendation.)
- Recommend to staff that applications for school re-approval be accepted one year prior to expiration. (The application for re-approval is currently on the website and will be accepted up to one year in advance of a school's expiration date.)

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hard to believe CAMTC School Program Approval turns two years old on July 1st. Over 90 schools have been approved since we began. Now our first group of approved schools have been re-approved, with more to come. Many of these schools not only meet the minimum requirements for training and curriculum, but often exceed them and provide some of the best massage education in the country.

The first 41 schools applying for re-approval self-report that the average number of graduates from CAMTC Approved Programs has increased by 18.6% from 2015 (the year prior to CAMTC School Program Approval) to 2017 (the first full-year of CAMTC School Program Approval), with the average number of annual graduates growing from 33 to 39. To promote this continued increase in graduates, CAMTC has developed several school initiatives including: 1) a singular list on our website where prospective massage therapists can find all CAMTC Approved Schools, 2) this quarterly CAMTC School Newsletter provided to all massage schools free of charge, and 3) a Schools Advisory Committee comprised of approved school owners and administrators who make recommendations directly to CAMTC's Board of Directors.



While approved schools shine, CAMTC continues to battle the fraud and illegal activity that infiltrates massage education. To date, CAMTC has unapproved or denied over 80 schools. The majority of these "schools" have been found to be providing transcripts to "students" for education that did not occur. These "schools" degrade the profession and feed criminal prostitution and human trafficking rings. By continuing to investigate and take action against these schools, CAMTC protects your status as a CAMTC Approved School and ensures that applicants for CAMTC Certification have met the minimum requirements for training and curriculum.

With re-approval periods now four years (meaning less paperwork for schools), fewer illicit schools undercutting legitimate competition, and enrollment on the rise, the future looks bright for CAMTC Approved Schools.

Sincerely,
Joe Bob Smith
Director of Educational Standards Division



BOARD MEETING



MAY 31, 2018

The Board took several actions that will impact schools and their students:

- **A New Fee Schedule for Schools**
Download available at:
www.camtc.org/schools/

(Approved May 31, 2018)

The following fees will become effective October 1, 2018

Description	Fee
Hearing - Recording	\$50
School Background Check	\$82
School Application (Two Years)	\$3000
School Hearing - Telephonic/Oral	\$1800
School Hearing – Written Statement	\$1400

The following fees will be applicable to schools expiring on or after January 1, 2020

Description	Fee
School Reapplication (Four Years)	\$6000

- **Policy for Purging School Applications for Approval and instituting a one-time only grace period for students.**
 - The current purge policy specifies that if an application for school approval is not completed within one year of submission of the application, it will be purged. Schools are notified of this policy and agree to it when they submit their applications for school approval. However, this policy does not address what happens to students when a school's application is purged.

While this one-year purge policy has been the policy since the applications for school approval first became available, CAMTC has not imposed it as CAMTC wanted to give schools ample time to adjust to the new school approval program. The fact that this policy wasn't imposed means some students may have been waiting a long time in limbo while their school has been pending.



BOARD MEETING MAY 31, 2018 CONTINUED...

To rectify this, the Board adopted the following one-time only policy for students who attended from purged schools on the list:

1. CAMTC's ESD staff shall create a list of all pending schools with incomplete applications that have been pending for one year or longer:
 2. For all schools on this list, staff shall send a letter notifying them that their applications will be purged if the school does not complete its application within 30 days, and
 3. Staff will purge incomplete school approval applications 30 days after the notice has been sent.
 4. For students who have attended one of the purged schools on the list, a 90-day grace period from the effective date of purging will be provided for acceptance of individual's CAMTC Application for Certification. During this 90-day grace period, the school's students who apply for certification, and all of those whose applications were previously held, will be required to provide additional proof of adequate education (beyond merely a transcript from the subject school) by passing an education hearing in order to prove their education. Students whose applications are received after the 90-day grace period has expired will be notified that, unless they have also supplied evidence of completion of required hours of massage education from one or more CAMTC Approved Schools, their applications are incomplete and that they have one year to complete their education and provide an acceptable transcript to CAMTC before their applications would be purged.
 5. Purged schools shall notify their graduates of the policy and the deadlines to comply with the policy.
- This grace period for acceptance of education from a purged school and the opportunity for applicants to come to an education hearing is a one-time only policy that CAMTC is instituting to assist both schools and students through this final phase of the initial CAMTC School Approval process.
 - For schools that are not on the list created pursuant to this policy:
 - CAMTC will purge school applications that are not completed within one year of receipt, and
 - Students will NOT be able to use education from these purged schools for certification purposes, and
 - Students will NOT be given the opportunity to come to an education hearing.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

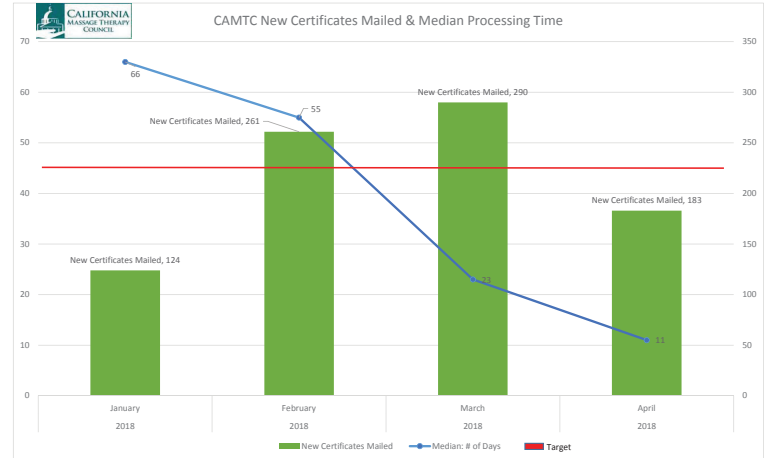
For School Questions or Comments:
Joe Bob Smith, CAMTC Director of
Educational Standards Division,
can be reached at:

jbsmith@camtc.org



RETURNED TRANSCRIPTS

Some schools may have recently had incorrect or incomplete transcripts returned to them along with a new form explaining what is wrong. This is not a new policy; schools have always needed to comply with the transcript requirements as outlined in the Procedures. Rather, it is a new process designed to speed up the Application for CAMTC Certification. Indeed, the new processes have drastically decreased processing time for new certifications from a median time of 66 days in January 2018 to 11 days in April 2018. We appreciate schools that respond quickly to these transcript deficiencies and work to avoid them in the future.



MBLEx SCORES

Procedures section 5.H. requires a CAMTC Approved School's passage rate for first-time test takers of CAMTC approved exams to not be lower than 10 percentage points below the national average passage rate for the previous calendar year. Schools that do not achieve the required passage rate for 2 consecutive calendar years or show significant improvement from one year to the next, may be subject to disciplinary action. CAMTC has approved several exams. However, the MBLEx is the most commonly taken. For the 2017 calendar year, FSMTB reports a national average passage rate of 72.9% for first-time test takers. This means that a CAMTC Approved School must have a passage rate of 62.9% to remain in compliance.

Overall, CAMTC Approved Schools had an average first-time passage rate of 68.9%, well within the minimum requirement. While this number is 4% below the national average, it is a positive achievement. California has only required passage of a standardized exam for three years; most states have required such for much longer. This means that schools in those states have had a longer time to adapt their curriculum and test preparations. CAMTC Approved Schools have exceeded expectations for this first year of results and will likely continue to improve as schools falling below the minimum requirements bring up their passage rates.

APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGE

All approved schools and those applying for approval should submit an application for change preferably before the change goes into effect or, at maximum, within 30 days after the change has gone into effect. To submit these changes, schools should use the forms attached to the Application for Re-Approval found here: <https://www.camtc.org/schools/>

Missed a CAMTC School Newsletter?

The CAMTC School Newsletter is distributed approximately 4 times per year after a Board meeting has occurred. CAMTC started this newsletter in September 2017 to better inform schools of recent policy changes and to communicate important happenings. Previous editions of the CAMTC School Newsletter can be found here: <https://www.camtc.org/information-about-camtc/> and then click on 'Publications.'

California Massage Therapy Council's mission is to protect the public by certifying massage professionals in California that meet the requirements in the law and approving massage programs that meet the minimum standards for training and curriculum.