



## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF SCHOOLS**

The California Massage Therapy Council (“CAMTC”) hereby adopts the following policies and procedures for the approval of schools, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 4600 et. seq. (hereinafter the “Law”). In accordance with the Law, CAMTC approved schools shall meet minimum standards for training and curriculum.

### **1. Eligibility for approval.**

In order to receive and maintain CAMTC school approval, a massage school, and any CAMTC approved satellite and branch locations, shall meet ALL of the following requirements:

- A. The school must offer at least one eligible program clearly identified as a professional massage program that grants students a certificate, diploma, or degree in massage. Other professional education programs that include massage as a component of their programs are not eligible.
- B. Massage program(s) provides an organized plan of study of massage and related subjects for a minimum of 500 supervised clock hours (or credit unit equivalent) containing, at minimum, 100 hours of instruction addressing subjects specified by the Law and CAMTC, including but not limited to: anatomy and physiology; contraindications; health and hygiene; and business and ethics. The massage program(s) shall also incorporate appropriate school assessment of student knowledge and skills. CAMTC does not accept online or distance learning hours, including but not limited to, externships, homework, and self-study or credits through challenge examinations, achievement tests, or experiential learning.
  - a. For programs qualifying at a college or university of the state higher education system, as defined in Section 100850 of the Education Code, units must be for academic credit and appear on an official college transcript. Certificates from non-credit adult education classes and programs are inapplicable. Community College degrees and certificates must be approved by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
- C. The school and/or massage program is not currently un-approved by CAMTC.

- D. The school and corresponding massage program(s) shall also meet at least one of the following requirements:
- a. Approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE).
  - b. Approved by the California Department of Consumer Affairs.
  - c. Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities or the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and that is one of the following:
    - (1) A public school.
    - (2) A school incorporated and lawfully operating as a nonprofit public benefit corporation pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5110) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code, and that is not managed by any entity for profit.
    - (3) A for-profit school.
    - (4) A school that does not meet all of the criteria in subparagraph (2) that is incorporated and lawfully operating as a nonprofit public benefit corporation pursuant to Part 2 (commencing with Section 5110) of Division 2 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code, that has been in continuous operation since April 15, 1997, and that is not managed by any entity for profit.
  - d. A college or university of the state higher education system, as defined in Section 100850 of the Education Code.
  - e. A school requiring equal or greater training than what is required pursuant to the Law and is recognized by the corresponding agency in another state or accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
- E. To prevent a possible lapse of CAMTC School Approval, CAMTC needs to receive an application for re-approval at least six months prior to the school's approval expiration date as stated in the letter of approval. While CAMTC may send a complimentary reminder, it is the school's responsibility to submit the application for re-approval on time.

## 2. Approval and Re-Approval Process.

- A. Complete either the application for school approval or application for school re-approval packet entirely and submit all requested documents.
- B. Pay the initial application fee of \$3,000 and any required background check fees. All fees are non-refundable. If approved, the initial application fee provides for 2 full years of CAMTC approval, so long as the school maintains the requirements for approval set forth herein and is not in violation of these Procedures. A school that has been continuously approved for the full 2-year initial approval period, with no disciplinary action taken against it by CAMTC and no break in the approval period, may apply for re-approval. The re-approval fee shall be \$3,000 and provides for 4 full years of CAMTC approval, so long

as the school maintains the requirements for approval set forth herein and is not in violation of these Procedures. Schools with a break in the approval period, or who have had disciplinary action taken against them by CAMTC, must apply and meet the requirements of a new applicant, including paying the initial application fee, which shall provide for 2 full years of CAMTC approval if approval is obtained.

- C. From the date an application for school approval is received by CAMTC, through and until the date that a decision on the application becomes final and effective, the school shall distribute Notice (in a form determined by CAMTC) to all prospective students before they enroll in the program and to all students currently enrolled in the program regarding the implications of attending a school that is not yet approved by CAMTC.
- D. Schools applying for initial approval shall host a scheduled site visit from a CAMTC representative(s) who will verify information submitted in the application packet and compliance with requirements for approval set forth herein. Schools applying for re-approval may also be required to host a scheduled site visit from a CAMTC representative(s) who will verify information submitted in the application packet and compliance with requirements for approval set forth herein, at CAMTC's discretion. Unscheduled site visits may also occur at any time for both approved schools and applicants for approval or re-approval.
- E. Within 180 days from the date an application is deemed complete by CAMTC, CAMTC will send a letter to the school notifying it of CAMTC's decision to approve the school, provisionally approve the school, propose to deny the school, propose to otherwise act against the school in accordance with these Procedures, or notify the school that corrective action is needed in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.
  - a. Provisional School Approval for New Schools and/or New Massage Programs. For new schools and new massage programs, CAMTC will follow the same application review process set forth in these procedures, except for those procedures applicable to the site visit. For schools seeking CAMTC provisional school approval, a minimum of two site visits will occur. The initial site visit will follow the guidelines of a regular site visit except for class observations, student interviews, and student file review. A follow-up site visit will be performed once students have started the program to complete these items. If granted, CAMTC provisional school approval is valid for only 180 days, unless otherwise extended by CAMTC in its sole discretion.
  - b. Request for Corrective Action. CAMTC, in its sole discretion, may determine that specific corrective action is needed. If CAMTC determines that corrective action is needed, it will send a letter to the school notifying it of the specific corrective action requested and specify a time period for the school to take the requested corrective action and provide proof to CAMTC that the requested corrective action has been taken. Once CAMTC has reviewed submitted proof that the school has taken the specific corrective action requested pursuant to this section and made a determination as to whether the action taken satisfies the request for corrective action, CAMTC will send a letter to the school notifying it of CAMTC's decision to approve the school, provisionally approve the school, propose to deny the school, or propose to otherwise act against the school in accordance with these Procedures or notify the school that additional corrective action is needed.

### 3. Important Dates.

- A. July 1, 2016. As of this date, CAMTC will accept, for purposes of certifying individuals who received massage education in California, only those hours completed from CAMTC approved programs offered at CAMTC approved schools unless otherwise allowed pursuant to these procedures. The 500 hours required for CAMTC Certification may be completed at more than one approved school and/or more than one approved massage program. Students do not have to register for or complete an entire CAMTC approved program for CAMTC to consider the education sufficient to meet the requirements in the Massage Therapy Act; CAMTC will consider hours from a partially completed program for certification so long as those hours are part of a CAMTC approved massage program.
- a. CAMTC will accept education for CAMTC certification purposes from schools or programs closed on or before June 30, 2016, with either no lawful custodian of records or a lawful custodian of records that is not a CAMTC approved school as long as all of the following conditions are met:
    - 1) The education occurred at a time when the closed school or program was approved or accredited by at least one of the organizations listed in California Business and Professions Code section 4601;
    - 2) The closed school or program is or was not subject to any disciplinary actions or pending investigations by any approval or accrediting agencies, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), government agencies, CAMTC or other massage or school related entities;
    - 3) The applicant for CAMTC certification provides verifiable proof that the education received at the closed school or program meets minimum standards for training and curriculum and the statutory education requirements for certification; and
    - 4) The individual application for CAMTC CMT certification is received in the CAMTC office on or before December 31, 2018. Applicants whose applications are received after this date may still use education from closed schools or programs described in this section 3.A.a. for CAMTC certification purposes as long as they either provide proof of current and continuous city and/or county permit(s) to provide massage for compensation or they pass a CAMTC education hearing (oral telephonic hearing or consideration of a written statement).
  - b. CAMTC will accept education for CAMTC certification purposes from schools or programs closed on or before June 30, 2016, that have a CAMTC approved school as their lawful custodian of records as long as all of the following conditions are met:
    - 1) The education occurred at a time when the closed school or program was approved or accredited by at least one of the organizations listed in California Business and Professions Code section 4601;
    - 2) The closed school or program is or was not subject to any disciplinary actions or pending investigations by any approval or accrediting agencies, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), government agencies, CAMTC or other massage or school related entities;

- 3) The CAMTC approved school identified as lawful custodian of records remains approved by CAMTC; and
- 4) The CAMTC approved school identified as lawful custodian of records adheres to the following requirements:
  - A. Submits transcripts from closed school(s) or program(s) in accordance with these Procedures, noting either on the transcript or in an attached letter that the transcript is being submitted by the lawful custodian of records;
  - B. When education is completed at multiple schools, submits either 1) one transcript listing education from all schools clearly identifying when and at which school specific education was received, or 2) provides a separate transcript for each school identifying when and at which school specific education was received;
  - C. Maintains detailed information including, but not limited to, attendance records, syllabi, instructor names, and course catalogs for the programs and curriculum from the closed school(s) or program(s) as they are listed on transcripts for CAMTC review; and
  - D. Maintains detailed information on the purchase, merger, or other legal transaction that resulted in the CAMTC approved school becoming the lawful custodian of records for the closed school or program for CAMTC review.
- c. CAMTC approved schools or programs that are closed, expired, or merged with a CAMTC approved school on or after July 1, 2016 and are in good standing with CAMTC at the time of closure, expiration, or merger: Education will be accepted from the lawful custodian of records as long as the closed, expired, or merged school or program is or was not subject to any disciplinary action or pending investigations by any approval or accrediting agencies, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA), government agencies, CAMTC or other massage or school related entities.
- d. CAMTC reserves the right to review and accept or deny all or part of any education submitted or require individual applicants for CAMTC certification to provide additional proof of adequate education by passing a CAMTC education hearing from any school or program including, but not limited to approved, closed, expired, sold, or merged school or program described herein.
- e. For schools that have been un-approved by CAMTC, and who had an effective un-approval date on or after April 2, 2016, a 90-day grace period from the date of the adoption of this provision (March 9, 2017), or from the effective date of un-approval, which ever is later, will be provided for acceptance of individual certification applications. 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) 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 are purged.

- B. May 1, 2015. To ensure a site visit and the possibility of approval by July 1, 2016, a school shall apply by this date. Schools may apply for approval while working to fulfill all of the requirements set forth herein, but may not receive approval until all requirements are met. Schools applying after this date or schools sent a letter requesting corrective action, proposed for denial, or proposed to be otherwise acted against may not be approved by July 1, 2016.
- C. All schools sent an official letter from CAMTC on or before July 1, 2016, notifying them that the school has been approved, will have an effective approval date starting on July 1, 2016. Approval shall be for a two year time period, unless the school is otherwise acted against in accordance with these Procedures. Schools that have received official written notice of approval from CAMTC may not verify or represent to others in any manner whatsoever that they are CAMTC approved until on or after January 1, 2016.
- D. Schools approved or provisionally approved after July 1, 2016, will have an effective date of approval starting on the date of approval or provisional approval. For purposes of individual CAMTC Certification, if CAMTC ultimately approves a school whose application for school approval is or was received on or after July 1, 2016, CAMTC may consider education completed at the school on or after the date CAMTC initially received the school's application for school approval as education completed at a CAMTC approved school.
- E. If a school does not complete its portion of the application for school approval, including, but not limited to, all supporting documentation and background checks within one year of the date that CAMTC received the application, the application may be purged. Once an application is purged, the school will need to start the entire application process over, including paying the application fee and meeting all of the requirements for program approval that exist at the time, and applying as a new applicant for school approval. Once a school completes its portion of the application for school approval, the application may not be withdrawn.

#### 4. Application Packet.

A School Approval Code issued by CAMTC is for a single campus, including CAMTC approved satellite locations and specific owner(s), and may not be used for any other locations, schools, or owners. Therefore, for each campus or school, a separate application, fee, and requested materials shall be submitted in electronic pdf format on a flash drive:

##### A. Application

- a. The application shall be completed in its entirety, typed, signed, dated, and accompanied by the non-refundable application fee. Employees of public colleges or universities of the California state higher education system, as defined in section 100850 of the Education Code, may use campus ID number in lieu of social security number, campus ID as a form of government issued photographic identification, and

may omit home address.

## B. Approvals

- a. Documented proof of current approval or accreditation by an agency listed in Business and Professions Code section 4601(a). Schools with more than one approval or accreditation shall submit proof of all.
- b. Schools shall submit all site visit report(s), compliance inspection report(s), disciplinary actions and other related documents issued to the school by all respective agencies documented above, if any.
- c. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4615(b), CAMTC, in its sole discretion, may adopt provisions for the acceptance of accreditation from a recognized accreditation body.

## C. Management

- a. For private post-secondary schools:
  - (1) Organizational chart showing owners and all full and part-time employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who participate in massage program operations, including but not limited to management, staff, faculty members, advisory boards, and administrative personnel.
  - (2) Ownership worksheet (included with application) and copy of a current valid government issued photographic identification for all owners of the school.
  - (3) Administrator Qualification form (included with application) and copy of a current valid government issued photographic identification for all full and part-time employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who participate in massage department operations, including but not limited to department management, staff, advisory boards, and administrative personnel.
  - (4) Copy of property tax bill, lease agreement, local business license, and fictitious business name filing, if applicable, proving that the owner(s) either owns or leases the property where the school is located.
  - (5) For corporations, limited liability companies, or partnerships, copies of articles of incorporation, partnership agreements, contracts, and/or EIN certificate from the IRS showing proof of ownership.
- b. For public colleges or universities of the California state higher education system, as defined in section 100850 of the Education Code, and public schools accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education:
  - (1) Organizational chart showing all full and part-time employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who participate in massage department operations, including but not limited to department management, staff,

faculty members, advisory boards, and administrative personnel.

D. Transcripts

- a. Sample transcript and massage program addendum, if any, with no additional markings.
- b. Sample transcript and massage program addendum, if any, with highlights and descriptions for unique security measures.
- c. Signatures, printed names, and titles for all approved signers.
- d. Transcript checklist (included with application).
- e. Sample diploma (NOTE: Diplomas are not accepted in lieu of transcripts as proof of education).
- f. Sample envelope from the school in which transcripts will be mailed to CAMTC.

E. Enrollment Agreement

- a. Blank enrollment agreement and massage program addendum, if any.
- b. Enrollment agreement checklist (included with application).

F. Course Catalog

- a. Current course catalog and massage program addendum, if any.
- b. Course catalog checklist (included with application).

G. Curriculum

- a. Program hour requirement worksheet (included with application).
- b. Calendar for each massage program noting beginning and end dates and daily schedule of all classes.
- c. Syllabi detailing all massage courses.
- d. List of textbooks, educational materials, and classroom equipment used for massage program.
- e. Policies for creating, reviewing, and updating curriculum.

H. Faculty

- a. Massage program faculty list worksheet (included with application).



- b. Instructor Qualification forms (included with application) for all massage program faculty, including but not limited to visiting teachers, volunteers, and all those who will be teaching on a full or part-time or temporary basis.
- c. Policies and procedures for hiring, training, evaluating (including student and management evaluations of faculty), and disciplining faculty.
- d. Massage program staff and faculty meeting and/or training policy, minutes, and attendance records within the last 12 months.
- e. Student-teacher ratio policy and ratios for all current classes.

I. Facility

- a. Simple floor plan with approximate measurements and square footage.
- b. Clear, color pictures of the following:
  - (1) Exterior signage.
  - (2) Building exterior.
  - (3) All classrooms utilized for massage classes.
  - (4) All areas utilized for student massage clinic.

J. Advertising

- a. Copies of online and print advertisements and marketing materials related to the massage programs submitted for approval.

5. Requirements for Approval.

Failure to meet and maintain minimum standards for training and curriculum, as determined by CAMTC in its sole discretion, is a basis for denial of an application for school approval or discipline of a school.

To achieve and maintain approval, schools shall fulfill the requirements of all other agencies through which they are approved or accredited pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4601 and comply with all of the following provisions:

A. Administration

- a. Continuously maintain all eligibility requirements for approval or accreditation by the organization(s) listed in Business and Professions Code section 4601 that the school is accredited or approved by, and for approval by CAMTC.

- b. Include CAMTC School Approval Code (once approved) in any and all massage program advertising and marketing materials, including but not limited to website, business cards, brochures, print advertisements, and online banners. The school may indicate that it is “CAMTC approved” or “approved by CAMTC,” but may not state or imply that the school or its educational programs are endorsed or recommended by CAMTC, or that approval indicates the school exceeds minimum standards.
- c. Post any and all approvals and accreditations, including from CAMTC, on the school premises in an area easily visible to the public.
- d. Continuously maintain the exact same owner(s) and ownership structure matching CAMTC records, which shall match the records of all other agencies that have approved or accredited the school pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4601.
- e. Operate; advertise; issue certificates, diplomas, degrees, and/or transcripts; and conduct all other school business under the exact school name matching CAMTC records, which shall match the records of all other agencies that have approved or accredited the school pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4601.
- f. Teach all classes and conduct business only at CAMTC approved locations matching CAMTC records, which shall match the records of all other agencies that have approved or accredited the school pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4601.
  - (1) Occasional, site-specific classes, including but not limited to First Aid/CPR Certification, cadaver labs, sports massage events, health and professional expos, career fairs, and spa tours accounting for no more than 50 total hours and specifically provided for in the curriculum, complete with detailed learning objectives, assignments, and assessments, may be taught at an appropriate off-site location under direct supervision of a qualified instructor. Instructors must sign off on appropriate documentation attesting to the total number of acceptable clock hours completed by each student and students shall only receive credit for the actual clock hours for which they engaged in massage activities and activities related to massage. Under no circumstances shall students receive credit for travel time, idle, non-educational, or unsupervised activity. CAMTC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to not accept off-campus hours.
- g. Changes of owner(s) and/or ownership structure, operating under a different school name, teaching and/or conducting business at a different or additional address, and/or changes in program name or content may only occur after the school first obtains an approval letter from the appropriate agencies that have approved or accredited the school pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4601, submits the appropriate application for change to CAMTC, and CAMTC approves such application. (Please note that BPPE currently only requires approval for a change of location if the move is more than 10 miles from the original location; however, CAMTC requires approval for any change of location.)

- h. The school is responsible for the conduct of all owners, full and part-time employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who participate in school operations, including but not limited to management, staff, faculty members, advisory boards, and administrative personnel. CAMTC may deny approval or take disciplinary action against a school if an owner, full or part-time employee, independent contractor, volunteer, or any other individual who participates in school operations, including but not limited to management, staff, faculty members, advisory boards, and administrative personnel, engages in unprofessional conduct while engaged in school activities.
- i. The school must report to CAMTC, within 15 days of receiving notice, all legal actions, arrests, police reports, and complaints against professional conduct, involving the school; school personnel including owners, full and part-time employees, independent contractors, volunteers, and any other individuals who participate in school operations, including but not limited to management, staff, faculty members, advisory boards, and administrative personnel; and/or students or graduates engaged in school or massage related activities.

## B. Transcripts

- a. Transcripts and massage program addendums, if any, from private post-secondary schools shall, at minimum, contain the following information:
  - (1) School name, address, telephone number, website, and CAMTC School Approval Code (once approved), which shall exactly match information on file at CAMTC.
  - (2) Heading entitled "Official Transcript."
  - (3) Student's full legal name and date of birth.
  - (4) Name of CAMTC approved program(s) attended by student.
  - (5) Date student started CAMTC approved program(s) and date student completed CAMTC approved program(s) or hours, for programs longer than 500 hours, completed CAMTC requirements, if applicable.
  - (6) Breakdown of courses completed with total number of supervised clock hours attended and passing grades for each course. Courses shall match those listed in the provided syllabi and program hour requirement worksheet(s) (included with application).
  - (7) Total number of supervised clock hours completed for CAMTC approved program(s).
  - (8) At least one authorized, personally handwritten signature in ink with printed name, title, and date.

- (9) Official school seal affixed, embossed, or otherwise attached to transcript.
- (10) Sufficient security measures that uniquely identify the school's transcripts.
- b. Transcripts from public colleges or universities of the California state higher education system, as defined in Section 100850 of the Education Code, and public schools accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education shall meet or exceed standards as determined by governing laws and regulations.
- c. Only sealed transcripts sent directly from the school or an authorized transcript provider in an envelope matching the sample submitted to CAMTC will be considered for certification purposes.
- d. CAMTC staff shall clearly be able to discern whether a student has completed the required hours without having to interpret any information.
- e. Clearly identify or DO NOT include unsupervised clock hours.
- f. Clearly identify or DO NOT include courses or hours considered incomplete by the school.
- g. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4604, CAMTC can only consider transfer hours from CAMTC approved schools. Transcripts shall clearly identify transfer hours, including but not limited to name, CAMTC School Approval Code, address, telephone, and website of other school(s); number of hours transferred; class requirements met by transfer hours; reason(s) for transfer; and attached copy of transcript(s) from other school(s). Transfer hours may not make up more than 50% of the 500 hours required for certification.
  - (1) CAMTC will consider up to 125 hours of equivalent anatomy and physiology, health and hygiene, and/or business completed at a college or university of the state higher education system, as defined in Section 100850 of the Education Code, as meeting the definition of a CAMTC approved school.
  - (2) CAMTC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to not accept any or all transfer hours.
- h. Schools shall take necessary precautions to avoid the creation and/or reproduction of fraudulent transcripts. Fraudulent transcripts, whether from within or without the school, may lead to suspension or revocation of school approval, among other consequences.
- i. Any changes in transcript format, authorized signers, and/or security features may only occur after the corresponding application for change has been submitted to and approved by CAMTC.
- j. The school shall have clearly defined written policies that it follows for accurately and securely keeping and maintaining student files and transcript information, including but not limited to enrollment agreements, payment ledgers, attendance rosters,

coursework, and grades.

- k. Transcript information shall be securely kept permanently. If a school closes, it shall designate a custodian of records for that school and notify CAMTC of the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated custodian of records 30 days before the date of the school's closure.

### C. Enrollment Agreement

- a. Enrollment agreements and massage program addendums, if any, from private post-secondary schools shall, at minimum, contain the following information:
  - (1) School name, address, additional addresses where classes will be held, telephone number, and website.
  - (2) Student's full legal name, date of birth, address, email, telephone number, and signature.
  - (3) Copy of a current valid government issued photographic identification.
  - (4) Title of massage program and total scheduled number of supervised hours received upon completion.
  - (5) Program schedule with start date and scheduled completion date.
  - (6) All scheduled charges and fees including, as applicable: tuition, registration fee, equipment, lab supplies, textbooks, educational materials, uniforms, charges paid to an entity other than the school as required by the program, and any other charge or fee.
  - (7) Scheduled payment terms.
  - (8) Clearly visible disclosure statement: "Attendance and/or graduation from a California Massage Therapy Council approved school does not guarantee certification by CAMTC. Applicants for certification shall meet all requirements as listed in California Business and Professions Code sections 4600 et. seq."
  - (9) Statement directing students to CAMTC for unanswered questions and for filing a complaint: "A student or any member of the public with questions that have not been satisfactorily answered by the school or who would like to file a complaint about this school may contact the California Massage Therapy Council at: One Capitol Mall, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95814, [www.camtc.org](http://www.camtc.org), phone (916) 669-5336, or fax (916) 669-5337."
- b. Enrollment agreements from public colleges or universities of the California state higher education system, as defined in section 100850 of the Education Code, and public schools accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education shall meet or exceed standards as determined by governing laws and

regulations.

#### D. Course Catalog

Course Catalogs and massage program addendums, if any, shall, at minimum, contain the following information:

- a. School name, address, additional addresses where classes will be held, telephone number, website, and CAMTC School Approval Code (once approved).
- b. Date printed/revised.
- c. Title of massage program(s) and total number of scheduled supervised hours received upon completion.
- d. Program prerequisites, including but not limited to admission requirements, previous training, and language comprehension skills.
- e. Completion and graduation requirements, including but not limited to clock hours to attend, assignments to complete, and assessments to pass.
- f. Transfer credit policy.
- g. Attendance and leave of absence policies, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Notice that applicants for CAMTC certification shall have attended 500 supervised hours total with 100 of those hours satisfying CAMTC specified subjects.
  - (2) For 500-hour programs, how students make up missed hours and, for programs longer than 500 hours, percentage of hours students can be absent and how they make up any additional hours.
  - (3) Length, terms, and allowances for leaves of absence.
- h. Hygiene, dress code, and draping policies.
- i. If the school admits foreign or ESL students, the catalog shall contain language proficiency information, including the level of English language proficiency required of students and the kind of documentation of proficiency that will be accepted; and whether English language services are provided and, if so, the nature of the service and its cost. The catalog shall also identify whether any instruction will occur in a language other than English and, if so, identify the other language(s) instruction will be provided in, the level of English proficiency required, and the kind of documentation of proficiency that will be accepted.
- j. Publication of CAMTC's Law related to unfair business practices as related to massage:

- (1) Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 4611, It is an unfair business practice for a person to do any of the following:
  - (a) To hold himself or herself out or to use the title of “certified massage therapist” or “certified massage practitioner,” or any other term, such as “licensed,” “certified,” “CMT,” or “CMP,” in any manner whatsoever that implies or suggests that the person is certified as a massage therapist or massage practitioner, unless that person currently holds an active and valid certificate issued by the California Massage Therapy Council.
  - (b) To falsely state or advertise or put out any sign or card or other device, or to falsely represent to the public through any print or electronic media, that he or she or any other individual is licensed, certified, or registered by a governmental agency as a massage therapist or massage practitioner.
- k. Clearly visible disclosure statement: “Attendance and/or graduation from a California Massage Therapy Council approved school does not guarantee certification by CAMTC. Applicants for certification shall meet all requirements as listed in California Business and Professions Code section 4600 et. seq.”
- l. Statement directing students to CAMTC for unanswered questions and for filing a complaint: “A student or any member of the public with questions that have not been satisfactorily answered by the school or who would like to file a complaint about this school may contact the California Massage Therapy Council at One Capitol Mall, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95814, [www.camtc.org](http://www.camtc.org), phone (916) 669-5336, or fax (916) 669-5337.”

## E. Curriculum

All 500 hours of education must be provided under active and direct supervision of qualified instructors.

- a. Provide a minimum of at least 100 supervised clock hours (or credit unit equivalent) addressing the following subjects:
  - (1) A minimum of 64 hours of Anatomy & Physiology, including but not limited to orientation to the human body; integumentary, skeletal, fascial, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, and other body systems; and kinesiology.
  - (2) A minimum of 13 hours of Contraindications, including but not limited to endangerment areas, contraindications, and medications and massage.
  - (3) A minimum of 5 hours of Health & Hygiene, including but not limited to understanding disease, therapist hygiene, infection control, and standard precautions.
  - (4) A minimum of 18 hours of Business & Ethics, including but not limited to obtaining and maintaining credentials, adhering to laws and regulations, ethical principles,

standards of ethical practice, and compliance with the Law applicable to CAMTC certified massage professionals.

- b. Provide a minimum of 400 additional and appropriately weighted supervised clock hours in subjects substantially related to the massage profession, including but not limited to additional hours for topics required above, massage theory and principles, professional practices, therapeutic relationship, assessment and documentation, massage and bodywork application, palpation and movement, and career development. CAMTC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to determine whether curriculum is substantially related to massage or not.
- c. Student clinic hours may count for no more than 75 of the required 500 supervised clock hours and shall demonstrate educational purpose by meeting the following conditions:
  - (1) Operate at all times under active and direct supervision of qualified instructors and on school premises.
  - (2) Maintain detailed lesson plans, learning objectives, policies and procedures, attendance records, and grade requirements.
  - (3) Include a client intake form for every client that, among other things, informs client that the practitioner is a student.
  - (4) Include SOAP notes, or equivalent, completed by the student practitioner for every client.
  - (5) Provide for written client feedback.
  - (6) Maintain clinic attendance for each student detailing massages and other duties performed during clinic hours.
  - (7) Offer alternate, faculty-supervised learning experiences to students participating in clinic but who do not have a clinic client or specific clinic duties. Under no circumstances shall students receive credit for idle, non-educational, or unsupervised activity.
  - (8) Student clinic hours may include, but are not limited to, hands-on treatments of paying and non-paying public clients or other students; setting up, tearing down, and cleaning massage area; reviewing intake forms, interviewing clients, providing and receiving client feedback, and recording SOAP notes, or equivalent; greeting customers at reception, handling payments, answering and returning calls for appointments, interacting with appointment systems, placing confirmation calls, and managing client files; other duties reasonably befitting a professional massage therapist; and instruction related to these items. Students may not be required to clean school premises or work beyond normal procedures inclusive to treatment areas and immediate office space used during clinical sessions.



- (9) Schools should carefully weigh and be prepared to support the purpose, duration, and effectiveness of student clinic hours in terms of educational value to the student. CAMTC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to not accept clinic hours.
- d. Students may not be credited more than 40 hours of total education in any 7-day period, with no more than 10 hours in any one day.
- e. Maintain current syllabi, including but not limited to the following information for each course and/or subject:
  - (1) Name of course or subject.
  - (2) Detailed description.
  - (3) Learning objectives.
  - (4) Prerequisites.
  - (5) Total number of hours.
  - (6) Instructional material(s) to be used.
  - (7) Required assessments and assignments for successful completion.
- f. Maintain current daily lesson plans for each course that support syllabi. Daily lesson plans should include, at minimum: educational objectives; instructor resources; required or suggested readings; required or suggested assignments; and assessments with assessment criteria, if any, for each class.
- g. Maintain policies for creating, reviewing, and updating curriculum.

## F. Faculty

- a. Qualified instructors are responsible for the delivery of all 500 supervised clock hours (or credit unit equivalent). CAMTC reserves the right in its sole discretion to determine whether an instructor is qualified or not. Requirements for qualified instructors include but are not limited to:
  - (1) Complete and submit the instructor qualification form, including supporting documents.
  - (2) Hold a current CAMTC certification, other allied health license with advanced training in soft tissue modalities, or possess documented higher education applicable to the specific subject(s) taught.
  - (3) Have at least 2 years of documented professional experience applicable to the specific subject(s) taught.

- (4) Instruct only in those subjects in which qualified through documented education, certification, and professional experience, and not instruct techniques or procedures that require specialized training, licensure, or experience for which they are not qualified.
- (5) Behave within principles of acceptable, ethical, and professional behavior, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Truthfully and completely administer, record, and represent duties, including but not limited to attendance records, curriculum delivery, and student assessments.
  - (b) Refrain from soliciting, encouraging, or consummating romantic, sexual, or otherwise inappropriate relationships with current students on or off school premises by written, electronic, verbal, or physical means.
  - (c) Refrain from possessing, consuming, furnishing, allowing, or working under the influence of alcohol or illegal or unauthorized drugs during professional activities, including but not limited to being on school premises or at school-sponsored events involving students.
  - (d) Refrain from financial transactions with students, including but not limited to payments, loans, advances, donations, contributions, deposits, or monetary gifts, except for lawful collection and transfer of funds as required by regular school business.
  - (e) Refrain from violating federal, state, and local laws and/or CAMTC rules and regulations, including but not limited to the reasons for denial or discipline/revocation as stated in CAMTC's Procedures for Denial of Certification or Discipline/Revocation.
- b. Maintain policies and procedures for hiring, training, evaluating (including student and management evaluations of faculty), and disciplining faculty.
- c. Maintain policies and procedures, minutes, and attendance records for regular massage program staff and faculty meetings and/or trainings.
- d. For private post-secondary schools, student-teacher ratios for practical (hands-on) classes may not exceed 25 total students to 1 teacher. For public colleges or universities of the California state higher education system, as defined in Section 100850 of the Education Code, and public schools accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education student-teacher ratios shall meet or exceed standards as determined by governing laws and regulations.

## G. Facility

- a. Appropriate in size and design for the number of students.

- b. Sufficient reference materials and other resources to support educational objectives.
- c. Instructional aids and equipment consistent with the educational content, format, and teaching methodology of each course.

#### H. Student/Graduate Passage Rates on CAMTC Approved Exams

Beginning with graduate passage rates on CAMTC approved exams for calendar year 2021, an approved school's graduate passage rates on CAMTC approved exams shall equal or exceed the required passage rates for the previous calendar year or CAMTC may place the program on probationary status and/or may require the school to appear before CAMTC to present a plan for remediation.

- a. An approved program shall achieve a graduate passage rate on CAMTC approved exams that is not lower than 10 percentage points less than the national average passage rate for graduates of comparable degree programs who are first-time test takers on the CAMTC approved exams during a calendar year.
- b. If the program does not achieve the required passage rate for 2 consecutive calendar years or show significant improvement, CAMTC may revoke approval or take other disciplinary action against the school.

#### I. Site Visits

- a. CAMTC reserves the right to visit any approved school or school applying for approval during stated business hours with or without notice at any time whatsoever and for any reason.

#### 6. Reasons for Imposing Discipline, Denying, or Revoking Approval.

Schools may be denied approval or may have their school approval revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including the imposition of probationary conditions, for any of the following reasons:

- a. Failing to meet or maintain the requirements for approval set forth herein or in CAMTC's Procedures for Un-Approval of Schools, which includes but is not limited to the following:
  - (1) Selling or offering to sell transcripts, or providing or offering to provide transcripts, without requiring attendance, or full attendance, at the school;
  - (2) Failure to require students to attend all of the classes listed on the transcript;
  - (3) Failure to require students to attend all of the hours listed on the transcript;

- (4) Engaging in fraudulent practices, including but not limited to, the creation of false documents to aid or abet students seeking CAMTC certification, aiding or abetting students to use false documents and/or to present false testimony in CAMTC hearings, aiding or abetting students in engaging in fraudulent practices with respect to CAMTC hearings, making false claims, or otherwise engaging in fraudulent practices;
  - (5) Denial, suspension, revocation, or otherwise being acted against by the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork, including but not limited to, denial, suspension, or revocation of assigned school code;
  - (6) Failure to create, record, or maintain accurate records, including but not limited to student attendance records and student transcripts;
  - (7) Failure to identify transfer credit from other institutions (including name of other institution(s), hours transferred, and class requirements met by transfer credit) on transcripts;
  - (8) A finding by a local law enforcement agency, a state or local agency, or a private certifying, permitting, or accreditation agency related to massage, that a school has engaged in any of the conduct identified in this section 6;
- (9) Failure to meet the requirements for an approved school as defined in Business and Professions Code section 4601(a).b. Engaging in or has engaged in unprofessional business practices or an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) has engaged in or is engaging in unprofessional business practices;
- c. Procuring or attempting to procure school approval by fraud, misrepresentation, or mistake or an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) has procured or attempted to procure school approval by fraud, misrepresentation, or mistake;
  - d. Violating or attempting to violate or has violated, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate, or has assisted in or abetted the violation of, or conspired to violate, any provision of the Massage Therapy Act or any rule, regulation, policy, or procedure adopted by CAMTC by the actions of the school or an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer);
  - e. Conviction of an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) of any felony, misdemeanor, infraction, or municipal code violation, or being held liable in an administrative or civil action for an act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a CAMTC certificate holder or CAMTC approved school. A record of the conviction or other judgment or liability shall be conclusive evidence of the crime or liability;

- f. Committing any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a CAMTC certificate holder or CAMTC approved school or an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) commits or has committed any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a CAMTC certificate holder or CAMTC approved school;
- g. An owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) commits or has committed any act punishable as a sexually related crime or is or has been required to register pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act (Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 290) of Title 9 of Part 1 of the Penal Code), or is or has been required to register as a sex offender in another state, or commits or has committed an act that is a violation of human trafficking laws or a violation of the education code or a violation of the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education's rules, regulations, policies, or procedures;
- h. Failure to fully disclose all information requested on the application or provide information upon request to an individual working on behalf of CAMTC;
- i. Denial of licensure, permit or certificate, or revocation, suspension, restriction, citation, or any other disciplinary action against the school, an owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) by CAMTC, by a state or territory of the United States, by a government agency, or by another California health care professional licensing board. A certified copy of the decision, order, judgment, or citation shall be conclusive evidence of these actions.
- j. An owner, faculty member, or other member of the school's staff (including but not limited to a visiting instructor, independent contractor, administrative staff, or volunteer) has owned, worked at, or been associated with a school that has been un-approved by CAMTC.
- k. Failure to update CAMTC and notify of any changes that might affect a school's eligibility for approval or result in disciplinary action against the school.

#### 7. Procedures for Imposing Discipline, Suspending, Denying, or Revoking CAMTC School Approval.

Any decision to impose discipline, deny approval, revoke approval, or otherwise act against a school that has applied for CAMTC approval or is a CAMTC approved school shall be decided upon and imposed in accordance with the procedures set forth herein. Denial, revocation, and disciplinary decisions against a school applying for CAMTC school approval or against a CAMTC approved school shall be based on a preponderance of the evidence. In determining the basis for action against a school applying for CAMTC school approval or a CAMTC approved school, the Council may consider all written documents or statements as evidence, but shall weigh the reliability of those documents or statements.

a. Actions Against Applicants for CAMTC School Approval and CAMTC Approved Schools.

1. All decisions to impose discipline, deny approval, revoke approval, or otherwise act against a school that has applied for CAMTC approval or is a CAMTC approved school shall be carried out by an employee of the Council known as the Division Director of the Educational Standards Division (hereinafter the "Division Director") or his/her designee and at least one other employee of CAMTC. The Division Director shall be assisted by Council staff and such other employees as shall be determined necessary by the Division Director. The Division Director (or his/her designee(s)), along with any staff/employees under his/her supervision, shall be collectively known as the Educational Standards Division (the "ESD").
2. If Council staff determines that grounds appear to exist to impose discipline, deny approval, revoke approval, suspend approval, or otherwise act against a school that has applied for CAMTC approval or is a CAMTC approved school, staff shall:
  - i) hold all complete application packets from students who have submitted transcripts from the school if the school has applied for CAMTC school approval;
  - ii) if the school is a CAMTC approved school, the school shall be placed under investigation and the Procedures identified in section 7.c.2. of this document shall be followed and
  - iii) in all cases Council staff shall forward the matter to the Division Director, or an ESD employee designated by the Division Director to receive such information, and the procedures set forth below shall be followed:
    - (a) The ESD shall be responsible for reviewing and making proposed determinations regarding denials, suspensions, revocations, and other discipline against a school that has applied for CAMTC approval or is a CAMTC approved school. All proposed decisions shall be made by a minimum of two employees of the ESD. The ESD shall ensure that the ESD employees making proposed denial, revocation, suspension, and disciplinary decisions do not have a conflict of interest relative to the affected school.
    - (b) If after reviewing the matter, the ESD determines that proposed action should be taken, the school shall be provided at least 15 days prior notice of the proposed action and the reasons therefore. Notice shall be given to the school by any method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice. Any notice given by mail must be given by first-class mail or mail with delivery confirmation sent to the last known address of the school shown in CAMTC's records.
    - (c) Schools shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either orally by telephonic conference or in writing, at least five (5) days before the effective date of the proposed action against the school. Schools must request an oral telephonic conference or consideration of a written statement in writing (email is sufficient), and pay the appropriate hearing fee, a minimum of 21 days before the date scheduled for their matter to be considered in order for their request to be timely. Failure to request an oral hearing or consideration of a written

statement and pay the required hearing fee in a timely manner shall result in the proposed action against the school becoming final and effective on the date noted in the letter, unless appealed as provided herein. Any documentary evidence to be considered by the Hearing Officers must be received by CAMTC a minimum of 21 days before the hearing/consideration date in order for it to be considered. The telephonic hearing shall be held, or the written statement considered, by a minimum of two Hearing Officers, who shall be employees of CAMTC, who together are authorized to determine whether the proposed action against the school should occur. The ESD shall ensure that the Hearing Officers making final denial, revocation, suspension, and disciplinary decisions do not have a conflict of interest relative to the affected school. The decision of the Hearing Officers shall be final as of the date noted in the Final Decision Letter, unless appealed as provided herein. The fee for an oral telephone conference shall be \$1,800.00 and the fee for consideration of a written statement shall be \$1,400.00.

### Appeals

- (1) Requests to appeal a denial or disciplinary decision must be: made in writing (email is sufficient) by sending the request to the address or email address noted in the proposed denial or disciplinary letter; made within 30 days of the effective date of the denial or imposition of discipline; must identify in writing the basis for the appeal; must specify whether an oral presentation before the Board (not to exceed 20 minutes) is requested or whether written consideration of a written statement is requested; and must include all documents to be considered.
  - (2) Appeals shall be considered by the CAMTC Board. Oral presentations before the Board may not exceed 20 minutes. No new factual evidence may be submitted during an appeal. During an appeal the Board is limited to reviewing the existing evidentiary record upon which the decision to deny or impose discipline was previously made and to determining whether the decision was reasonable and supported by the evidence in the record.
  - (3) After considering a timely appeal, the Board shall either: uphold the decision previously made; impose lesser or more discipline; remand the matter back to ESD for further processing and consideration; or approve a school that has applied for CAMTC school approval or determine that the discipline not be imposed on a school that is a CAMTC approved school. The decision of the Board shall be final.
- (d) Notice of a final decision shall be given by any method reasonably calculated to provide actual notice. Any notice given by mail must be given by first-class mail or mail with delivery confirmation sent to the last known address of the school shown in CAMTC's records.

- (e) Any action in superior court challenging CAMTC's action against a school, including a claim alleging defective notice, shall be commenced within 90 days after the effective date of the imposition of the denial, suspension, revocation, or other discipline.
  - (f) A school whose application for CAMTC approval is denied or whose CAMTC school approval is revoked pursuant to these procedures for selling or offering to sell transcripts, failing to require students to attend all of the classes listed on the transcript, failure to require students to attend the school for all of the hours listed on the transcript, or engaging in fraudulent practices, shall not be allowed to re-apply for CAMTC school approval for a period of five years from the effective date of the denial or revocation. All other schools whose application for CAMTC approval is denied or whose CAMTC school approval is revoked shall not be allowed to re-apply for CAMTC school approval for a period of two years from the effective date of the denial or revocation.
- b. Actions Against Schools That Have Not Applied for CAMTC School Approval or Are Not CAMTC Approved Schools.
- 1. Actions against schools that have not applied for CAMTC school approval or are not CAMTC approved schools shall proceed in accordance with CAMTC's Procedures for Un-Approval of Schools.
- c. Procedures Related to Students.
- 1. CAMTC will hold all complete individual application packets from students who apply to CAMTC for certification on or after July 1, 2016 with education from school(s) whose application(s) for CAMTC school approval have been received on or before December 31, 2018, but for whom a final decision has not been rendered as to school approval.
    - (a) If the school ultimately receives CAMTC school approval, the hold on the students' applications for certification will be lifted and the applications will be processed in accordance with CAMTC's standard procedures.
    - (b) If the school is ultimately denied CAMTC school approval, a 90-day grace period from the effective date of denial will be provided for acceptance of individual certification applications. 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) 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 cannot use education from the school for certification purposes.



(1) An additional grace period for acceptance of individual certification applications will be instituted from January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 for schools whose application(s) for school approval have been denied effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. During this additional grace period, the schools' students who apply for certification, and any applications that are currently being held, will be required to provide additional proof of adequate education (beyond merely a transcript from the subject school) in order to prove their education. Students whose applications are received after the additional 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 cannot use education from one of the schools in this category for certification purposes.

- (c) Students with otherwise complete application packets and transcripts from schools that have submitted applications for CAMTC school approval and the application for CAMTC school approval has been pending for one and a half years or more and the school is listed on CAMTC's website, may request, in writing, an education hearing to provide additional proof of adequate education (beyond merely a transcript from the subject school) in order to prove their education. The request shall be in a written form as determined by CAMTC. Students requesting an education hearing must acknowledge and agree to be bound by the terms of that request, including but not limited to the outcome of the hearing regardless of whether the school is ultimately granted CAMTC school approval. For those students that do not request an education hearing, the provisions of Procedures section 7.c.1.(a) and (b) apply.
2. All complete individual application packets for CAMTC certification submitted with transcripts from CAMTC approved schools that are under investigation or CAMTC has proposed to revoke, suspend, deny re-approval or discipline, and that cannot be otherwise certified, will be placed on hold. CAMTC will make a determination within 60 days of notifying a school that it is under investigation whether the investigation will continue or not, and notify the school of this determination.
- (a) If the decision is made not to pursue further investigation or that denial or disciplinary action is not necessary, the hold on the individual application packets will be lifted and the applications will be processed in accordance with CAMTC's standard procedures.
  - (b) If CAMTC determines that further investigation is necessary or that denial or disciplinary action against the school is necessary, CAMTC will lift the hold and process complete application packets from individuals with education from the school, but the individuals shall be required to provide additional proof of adequate education (beyond just a transcript) by passing a CAMTC education hearing. This requirement to provide additional proof of adequate

education will remain in place until one of the following occurs: 1) the investigation concludes and it is determined that no denial or disciplinary action will be taken; 2) a final decision to revoke, deny, or discipline the school is made (in which case the 90-day grace period shall apply); or 3) this requirement is lifted.

- (c) If the school ultimately has its approval revoked, suspended, re-approval denied, or is otherwise disciplined, a 90-day grace period from the effective date of denial or discipline will be provided for individual certification applications received during this time. 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) 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 cannot use education from the school for certification purposes.
3. For schools whose initial applications for CAMTC school approval are received on or after January 1, 2019, students may only use education from the school for certification purposes if the school is ultimately granted CAMTC school approval. Students who have attended schools whose initial applications for CAMTC school approval are received on or after January 1, 2019 and are denied CAMTC school approval may not use education from the school for certification purposes.