



SCHOOL CRISIS AVERTED IN CALIFORNIA

On October 31, 2023, the United States Department of Education released final regulations that impact all vocational schools offering Title IV financial aid starting July 1, 2024. Almost half of CAMTC Approved Schools offer Title IV financial aid.

In short, these schools were previously allowed to offer programs at 150% of their state's minimum hourly requirement for mandatory licensure or certification if such existed. The new rule limits the number of program hours to 100%. As a basic example, in the many states that require 500 hours for massage licensure, massage programs offering Title IV financial aid could be 750 hours. Starting July 1, 2024, these same programs can only be 500 hours.

In addition to the logistical nightmare of converting a 750-hour program to 500 hours, this lower threshold effectively excludes the programs from the primary benefits of Title IV financial aid as partial Pell grants start at 600 hours with full Pell grants happening around 800 hours. Having no or limited access to Title IV funds would devastate these schools, the students who depend on this financial aid, employers who are already desperate for more massage therapists, and the entire massage profession.

The good news is, California massage programs are immune to the detrimental effects of these

new regulations. The Department of Education has concurred that CAMTC's voluntary certification model would not cause a massage program to be subject to the limitations of this new rule. The DOE stated that, "those limitations only apply when there is a legal requirement in the State establishing entry level requirements for the occupation." With that, CAMTC Approved Schools that offer Title IV financial aid can breathe a sigh of relief. CAMTC believed all along that the new regulations did not apply to our Approved Schools, and we are ecstatic that the DOE agrees with us.

Nonetheless, CAMTC does not operate in a bubble. Other states and the national massage profession continue to grapple with this potentially devastating issue. Even with CAMTC Approved Schools in the clear, these regulations will impact approximately 300 massage programs around the country. That's about one-third of all U.S. massage schools. A nationwide movement to increase the minimum hours of entry to the massage profession, a reconfiguration of the Title IV financial aid program, a reduction in the national massage workforce, or any number of possible repercussions have the potential to ripple through the California massage profession. As such, the CAMTC Board adopted a resolution at its December 2023 Board Meeting for CAMTC to continue working with national and state partners to reduce the potential negative outcomes of these new regulations.

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.

www.camtc.org



NEW YEAR, NEW SCHOOL CALENDARS DUE

With the new year, it's a good time to make sure your school has submitted a current schedule of classes to CAMTC. Whether your school updates its class calendar annually, quarterly, monthly, or more regularly, CAMTC's Policies and Procedures for Approval of Schools section 5.I.b requires:

"Approved schools and schools applying for approval must provide and ensure that CAMTC has a current schedule of classes at all times including, but not limited to, class name, day/date, class start and end times, and whether the class is in-person or distance learning. For interactive distance learning classes, the school must provide login information for CAMTC in advance of the class. CAMTC, in its sole discretion, may charge a fee if a site visit is attempted but unable to be completed because the school failed to provide a current schedule of classes, emergencies and unforeseen circumstances notwithstanding."

Whenever your school updates its calendar, send a copy to CAMTC. Can't remember if you already sent it? Send it again. We love more work!

NEW SCHOOL FEE SCHEDULE

Effective June 1, 2024, the new application fees for schools will be:

- Initial Applications for Approval:
 - \$3450 (good for 2 years of approval, if approved)
- Applications for Re-approval (for currently approved schools whose approval expires on or after June 1, 2024):

- \$3450 (good for 2 years of approval, if re-approved)
- \$6900 (good for 4 years of re-approval, if re-approved)
- Application fees are non-refundable and will not be refunded if CAMTC denies your school or program approval or re-approval or CAMTC revokes, suspends, or imposes probationary terms or conditions on your school's approval.



BOARD MEETINGS

For past and future CAMTC Board meetings, visit our website:

www.camtc.org/information-about-camtc/meetings/#2024



NEW BOARD OFFICERS

At its December 14, 2023 Meeting, the CAMTC Board of Directors elected the following officers:

Mark Dixon, Chair

Mark Dixon was appointed by the CAMTC Board of Directors to fill a statutorily mandated seat. Mr. Dixon is a CAMTC Certified Massage Therapist.

Jeff Forman, Vice Chair

Jeff Forman, Ph.D., was appointed by the Chancellor's Office for the California Community College system. Dr. Forman recently retired as a full time Professor and Director of the Massage Therapy program at DeAnza College in Cupertino, where he developed the first Community College Massage Therapy degree and certificate programs in the State.

Michael Marylander, Treasurer

Michael Marylander was appointed by the CAMTC Board to represent a Massage Business Entity. Mr. Marylander owns The Massage Place, a chain of massage therapy clinics.

Shana Faber, Secretary

Shana Faber is a Municipal Law Attorney and was appointed as a board member by the CAMTC Board of Directors. Ms. Faber served as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Vacaville starting in 2002, and drafted one of the first ordinances in the State of California that required massage professionals to be CAMTC Certified.

OUT-OF-COUNTRY EDUCATION



On January 1, 2023, a new law went into effect allowing CAMTC to accept education successfully completed outside of the United States. The CAMTC Board elected to proceed with this potentially massive undertaking by starting with a relatively small pilot program for education successfully completed in North America. Generally, this required applicants to; 1) submit their transcripts to a recognized credentials evaluation service, and 2) successfully complete a minimum 50-hour Out-of-Country Supplement Program at a CAMTC Approved School.

By December 2023, the first approved Out-of-Country Supplement Program had graduated its first students and CAMTC received their applications. This was an incredible achievement to accomplish in only eleven months. CAMTC will continue to monitor the effectiveness of this program as it considers expanding the number of countries from which education may be accepted. We encourage schools considering offering an Out-of-Country Supplement Program to apply now for approval.

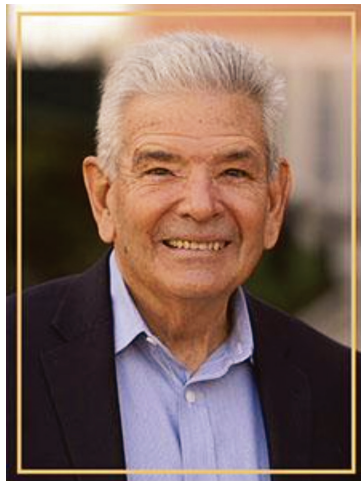


REVISED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR APPROVAL OF SCHOOLS 12/14/2023

An amended version of CAMTC's Policies and Procedures for Approval of Schools (approved December 14, 2023) has been posted to CAMTC's website

www.camtc.org/policies-and-procedures-for-approval-of-schools/

The CAMTC Board adopted these amended Procedures at its December 14, 2023, meeting. These amendments provide additional clarification, remove out-of-date language, and correct a typo. Please refer to these Procedures going forward.



DR. RON BATES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

The Dr. Ron Bates Memorial Scholarship recipient will be selected by the CAMTC Chair and Vice Chair, in their sole discretion, no later than February 29, 2024, and then announced on the CAMTC website. The Board voted to provide a \$5,000 Scholarship in Dr. Bates' name to a promising massage therapy student enrolled in a CAMTC Approved School.

Thank you to the many candidates who submitted their application.



MONTHLY SCHOOLS CALL

The CAMTC Monthly Schools Call occurs the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2pm. The next call is **February 7, 2024**. Calls are open to the public, but participation is prioritized for school owners and administrators. Please email your school-related questions in advance to:

jbsmith@camtc.org

To participate in the upcoming conference call, simply call the phone number below and, when prompted, enter the passcode below followed by the # sign: **Phone number: 877-366-0711 Passcode: 82373574 #**

Previous CAMTC Newsletters

You can always find previous School Newsletters here:

www.camtc.org/information-about-camtc/publications

Then scroll down.

