



Operative July 1, 2024

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR
EVALUATION OF OUT-OF-COUNTRY EDUCATION – NORTH AMERICA, BRAZIL,
THAILAND, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The California Massage Therapy Council (“CAMTC”) hereby adopts the following policies and procedures for the evaluation of out-of-country education provided in North America, Brazil, Thailand, and the United Kingdom, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code sections 4600 et. seq. (hereinafter the “Massage Therapy Act”).

In order for CAMTC to accept massage education from an out-of-country school, it must meet the requirements in the Massage Therapy Act. Business and Professions Code section 4601(a) provides:

“Approved school” or “approved massage school” means a school approved by the council that meets minimum standards for training and curriculum in massage and related subjects, that meets any of the following requirements, and that has not been otherwise unapproved by the council:...(5) *Is a school requiring equal or greater training than what is required pursuant to this chapter and is recognized by the corresponding agency in another state or accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.* (Emphasis added.)

Business and Professions Code section 4604(a)(6) also provides:

If an applicant has received education at a school that is not approved by the council, the council shall have the discretion to give credit for *comparable academic work* completed by an applicant in a program outside of California. (Emphasis added.)

A new provision to the Business and Professions Code, section 4604(a)(7), operative starting on January 1, 2023, adds the following:

If an applicant has received education at a school located outside of California or a school located in a country outside of the United States that does not meet the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 4601 to be an approved school, the

council shall have the discretion to give credit for comparable academic work completed by an applicant toward certification.

This means that in order for CAMTC to accept education from an out-of-country school:

- The school must be accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or determined to be the equivalent of an approved or accredited school by CAMTC in its sole discretion; AND
- The school must require equal or greater training than what is required for certification; AND
- The education provided must be comparable academic work (meaning it is the same as or greater than education provided by a CAMTC Approved School).

If a school is not accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or determined to be the equivalent of an approved or accredited school by CAMTC, then CAMTC cannot accept the education for certification purposes. If the school does not require equal or greater training than what is required for CAMTC Certification, then CAMTC cannot accept the education for certification purposes. If the academic work is not comparable to education received at a CAMTC Approved School, then CAMTC cannot accept the education for certification purposes. Applicants who submit education from these schools will be notified by email or in writing that the education cannot be used for certification.

Out-of-country education completed at a school that is accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or determined to be the equivalent of an approved or accredited school by CAMTC will be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the school provides equal or greater training than what is required for certification and whether it is comparable academic work, unless the school has been determined in accordance with these procedures to be a school that does not provide comparable academic work.

For CAMTC to determine whether the education provided is equal to or greater than training that is required for certification and whether it is comparable academic work, individual applicants for certification with education from out-of-country schools must complete the following, in addition to completing all other requirements for certification:

- a. Credentials Evaluation Service
 - i. Individual applicants for certification must submit documentation of their education to a credentials evaluation service recognized by CAMTC for review.
 - ii. A complete, accurate, and true transcript of the course of professional instruction successfully completed, which has been authenticated by the proper official of the massage therapy education program, must be submitted directly by the massage therapy education program to the evaluation service. If the school has closed and a custodian of records no longer exists, then the applicant may submit transcripts directly to

- the credentials evaluation service along with additional authenticating documents as may be required.
- iii. Transcripts and supporting documentation submitted in a language other than English shall be accompanied by an original translation certified by a certified translator who is someone other than the applicant.
 - iv. The credentials evaluation service must submit a report directly to CAMTC, based on their review of original documentation, documenting that:
 1. The massage therapy education successfully completed by the applicant is substantially equivalent to that of a CAMTC Approved Program, as determined by CAMTC in its sole discretion.
 2. The completion of the applicant's massage therapy education and training entitles the applicant to practice as a massage therapist in the location where the education and training was completed.

b. Additional Education

- i. Successfully complete 50 hours from a CAMTC Approved Out-of-Country Supplement Program or Course as follows:
 1. A minimum of 10 hours of Ethics including, but not limited to, standards of ethical practice, California laws and rules, informed consent, therapeutic relationship, and confidentiality. These hours must be in-person.
 2. A minimum of 15 hours of Business including, but not limited to, professional development, obtaining and maintaining credentials, and adhering to laws and regulations. These hours may be in-person or synchronous interactive distance learning in accordance with current CAMTC Procedures.
 3. A minimum of 25 hours of Hands-On Massage including, but not limited to, client assessment and interview, client draping, massage application, and planning and administering an individualized therapeutic massage. These 25 hands-on hours must be in-person and may not include student clinic hours.
- ii. All hours must be under the active and direct supervision of qualified instructors.
- iii. For the hours to be considered successfully completed, students must be comprehensively assessed and evaluated by qualified instructors. All assessments, both physical and written, must be completed in person. The school shall document its determination that the student possesses the skills necessary to safely perform massage therapy on members of the public in accordance with California law and CAMTC's Policies and Procedures, and directly transmit the results of the assessment to CAMTC.

- iv. Schools with CAMTC Approved Out-of-Country Supplement Programs or Courses must report the results of all students in the program to CAMTC.
 1. If a student fails the out-of-country supplement program or course, then CAMTC will not accept the out-of-country completed education and the student must complete 500 hours of education at a CAMTC approved massage program.
 2. If a student passes the out-of-country supplement program or course and provides satisfactory evidence that their prior out-of-country education is substantially equivalent to that of a CAMTC Approved Program, then the student meets the education requirements for CAMTC Certification.

OUT-OF-COUNTRY-NORTH AMERICA SCHOOLS THAT CAMTC HAS DETERMINED DO NOT PROVIDE COMPARABLE ACADEMIC WORK

CAMTC may determine, in its sole discretion, that, overall, a specific out-of-country school does not provide comparable academic work. In this case, CAMTC will not accept any education completed at the school. If this determination is made, transcripts will not be considered on a case-by-case basis and, instead, applicants will be informed that CAMTC cannot accept any education completed at the school.