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**MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY  
AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD  
Room 121C, 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison  
Contact: Tom Ryan (608) 266-2112  
September 15, 2016**

*The following agenda describes the issues that the Board plans to consider at the meeting. At the time of the meeting, items may be removed from the agenda. Please consult the meeting minutes for a record of the actions of the Board.*

**AGENDA**

**9:00 A.M.**

**OPEN SESSION – CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL**

- A) Adoption of Agenda (1-3)**
- B) Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2016 (4-8)**
- C) Welcome New Members**
- D) Administrative Updates**
  - 1) Appointments/Reappointments/Confirmations
  - 2) Department and Staff Updates
  - 3) Board Members – Term Expiration Dates
    - a) Darlene Campo – 07/01/2018
    - b) Robert Coleman – 07/01/2018
    - c) Carla Hedtke – 07/01/2018
    - d) Elizabeth Krizeneky – 07/01/2018
    - e) Mark Richardson – 07/01/2018
  - 4) Wis. Stat. s 15.085 (3)(b) – Biannual Meeting with the Medical Examining Board
  - 5) Informational Items
- E) Elections, Appointments, Reappointments, Confirmations, and Committee, Panel and Liaison Appointments**
- F) Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) Matters (9-22)**
  - 1) Presentation and Discussion
    - a) APPEARANCE – Debra Persinger, Executive Director, Federation of State Boards of Massage Therapy
  - 2) FSMTB Massage Education Policy
  - 3) FSMTB 2016 Resolutions
  - 4) FSMTB 2017 Annual Meeting

**G) Legislative/Administrative Rule Matters (23-50)**

- 1) Review of and Proposals for Chs. MTBT 2 and 3
  - a) Background to Rules Discussion Regarding School Accreditation and Approval
  - b) Rule Writing Discussion
- 2) Update on Other Legislation and Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects

H) Speaking Engagements, Travel, or Public Relation Requests, and Reports

I) Informational Items

J) Items Added After Preparation of Agenda:

- 1) Introductions, Announcements and Recognition
- 2) Administrative Updates
- 3) Education and Examination Matters
- 4) Credentialing Matters
- 5) Practice Matters
- 6) Legislation/Administrative Rule Matters
- 7) Liaison Report(s)
- 8) Nominations, Elections, and Appointments
- 9) Informational Item(s)
- 10) Disciplinary Matters
- 11) Presentations of Petition(s) for Summary Suspension
- 12) Presentation of Proposed Stipulation(s), Final Decision(s) and Order(s)
- 13) Presentation of Proposed Decisions
- 14) Presentation of Interim Order(s)
- 15) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 16) Petitions for Assessments
- 17) Petitions to Vacate Order(s)
- 18) Petitions for Designation of Hearing Examiner
- 19) Requests for Disciplinary Proceeding Presentations
- 20) Motions
- 21) Petitions
- 22) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed
- 23) Speaking Engagement(s), Travel, or Public Relation Request(s), and Reports

K) Public Comments

**L) Consider Inviting Debra Persinger into Closed Session**

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to deliberate on cases following hearing (§ 19.85 (1) (a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (§ 19.85 (1) (b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative warnings (§ 19.85 (1) (b), Stats. and § 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (§ 19.85 (1) (f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (§ 19.85 (1) (g), Stats.).**

**M) Deliberation on Division of Legal Services and Compliance (DLSC) Matters**

- 1) **Administrative Warnings**
- 2) **Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders**
  - a) 16 MAB 006 – Loren Gifford (**51-56**)
- 3) **Case Closures**

**4) Monitoring**

**N) Deliberation of Items Added After Preparation of the Agenda**

- 1) Education and Examination Matters
- 2) Credentialing Matters
- 3) Disciplinary Matters
- 4) Monitoring Matters
- 5) Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Matters
- 6) Petition(s) for Summary Suspensions
- 7) Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders
- 8) Administrative Warnings
- 9) Proposed Decisions
- 10) Matters Relating to Costs
- 11) Complaints
- 12) Case Closings
- 13) Case Status Report
- 14) Petition(s) for Extension of Time
- 15) Proposed Interim Orders
- 16) Petitions for Assessments and Evaluations
- 17) Petitions to Vacate Orders
- 18) Remedial Education Cases
- 19) Motions
- 20) Petitions for Re-Hearing
- 21) Appearances from Requests Received or Renewed

**O) Consulting with Legal Counsel**

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CLOSED SESSION**

- P) Open Session Items Noticed Above not Completed in the Initial Open Session
- Q) Vote on Items Considered or Deliberated Upon in Closed Session, if Voting is Appropriate
- R) Delegation of Ratification of Examination Results and Ratification of Licenses and Certificates
- S) Future Agenda Items**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE DECEMBER 14, 2016**

**MASSAGE THERAPY AND BODYWORK THERAPY  
AFFILIATED CREDENTIALING BOARD**

**July 19, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Darlene Campo, Robert Coleman (*via GoToMeeting,*) Carla Hedtke, Elizabeth Krizenesky; Mark Richardson

**STAFF:** Dan Williams, Executive Director; Nifty Lynn Dio, Bureau Assistant, and other Department Staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Elizabeth Krizenesky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum of five (5) members was confirmed.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Amendments to the Minutes**

- *Addition: Within administrative updates, new Board Member Carla Hedtke expiration date 07/01/2020*

**MOTION:** Robert Coleman moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to approve the minutes of February 2, 2016 as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, REAPPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AND  
COMMITTEE, PANEL AND LIAISON APPOINTMENTS**

**SECRETARY**

**NOMINATION:** Elizabeth Krizenesky nominated Mark Richardson for the Office of Secretary.

Dan Williams called for nominations three (3) times.

Mark Richardson was elected as Secretary by unanimous consent.

<b>2016 ELECTION RESULTS</b>	
<b>Board Chair</b>	Elizabeth Krizenesky
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Darlene Campo
<b>Secretary</b>	Mark Richardson

**LIAISON APPOINTMENTS**

<b>2016 LIAISON APPOINTMENTS</b>	
<b>Credentialing Liaison(s)</b>	Darlene Campo, Alternate – Carla Hedtke

<b>DLSC Liaison</b>	Robert Coleman, Alternate – Mark Richardson
<b>Monitoring Liaison</b>	Darlene Campo, Alternate – Mark Richardson
<b>Office of Education and Examinations Liaison</b>	Darlene Campo Alternate – Mark Richardson
<b>Legislative Liaison</b>	Elizabeth Krizenesky Alternate – Carla Hedtke
<b>Travel Liaison</b>	Elizabeth Krizenesky Alternate – Darlene Campo
<b>Website Liaison</b>	Elizabeth Krizenesky, Alternate – Darlene Campo
<b>Administrative Rules Liaison</b>	Elizabeth Krizenesky Alternate – Darlene Campo
<b>Professional Assistance Procedure (PAP) Liaison</b>	Darlene Campo Alternate – Mark Richardson
<b>Screening Panel</b>	Darlene Campo, Robert Coleman, Mark Richardson

**MOTION:** Mark Richardson moved, seconded by Carla Hedtke, to affirm the Chair’s appointment of liaisons and panels. Motion carried unanimously.

**SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, TRAVEL, OR PUBLIC RELATIONS REQUESTS AND REPORTS**

**2016 FSMTB Annual Meeting – October 6-8, 2016 – Cleveland Ohio**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to designate Darlene Campo to attend the 2016 FSMTB Annual meeting on October 6-8, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio and to authorize travel. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Elizabeth Krizenesky moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to designate Tom Ryan to attend the 2016 FSMTB Annual meeting on October 6-8, 2016 in Cleveland, Ohio and to authorize travel. Motion carried unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to convene to Closed Session to deliberate on cases following hearing (§ 19.85(1) (a), Stats.); to consider licensure or certification of individuals (§ 19.85 (1) (b), Stats.); to consider closing disciplinary investigations with administrative warnings (§ 19.85 (1) (b), Stats. and § 440.205, Stats.); to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (§ 19.85 (1) (f), Stats.); and to confer with legal counsel (§ 19.85 (1) (g), Stats.). The Chair read the language of the motion aloud for the record. The vote of each member was ascertained by voice vote. Roll Call Vote: Darlene Campo – yes; Robert Coleman – yes; Carla Hedtke – yes; Elizabeth Krizenesky – yes; Mark Richardson – yes. Motion carried unanimously.

*At this time, all external communication contacts will be terminated for purposes of going into Closed Session.*

The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:52 a.m.

### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to reconvene in Open Session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:15 a.m.

### **VOTE ON ITEMS CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED UPON IN CLOSED SESSION, IF VOTING IS APPROPRIATE**

**MOTION:** Mark Richardson moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to affirm all Motions made and Votes taken in Closed Session. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CASE STATUS REPORT**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Robert Coleman, to request DLSC attempt to assign any cases previously handled by Barbara Yetter and Sharon Pollock to the new Board members, Robert Coleman, Carla Hedtke and Mark Richardson as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

### **DELIBERATION ON DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES AND COMPLIANCE (DLSC) MATTERS**

#### **Administrative Warning**

#### ***15 MAB 008 – M.R.L.***

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Robert Coleman, to issue an Administrative Warning in the matter of DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 008 against M.R.L. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Proposed Stipulations, Final Decisions and Orders**

#### ***14 MAB 001 – Ping Zhao***

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Ping Zhao, DLSC Case No. 14 MAB 001. Motion carried unanimously.

#### ***15 MAB 001 – Xiaoli Cui***

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Robert Coleman, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Xiaoli Cui, DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 001. Motion carried unanimously.

#### ***15 MAB 006 – Jeffrey LaBudde***

**MOTION:** Mark Richardson moved, seconded by Carla Hedtke, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Jeffrey LaBudde, DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 006. Motion carried unanimously.

***15 MAB 054 – Denis Putikov***

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Robert Coleman, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Denis Putikov, DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 054. Motion carried unanimously.

***15 MAB 056 – Kara Stadel-Infelise***

**MOTION:** Carla Hedtke moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Kara Stadel-Infelise, DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 056. Motion carried unanimously.

***15 MAB 057 – Zhiping Cheng***

**MOTION:** Mark Richardson moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Zhiping Cheng, DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 057. Motion carried unanimously.

***16 MAB 003 – Canary Dexter***

**MOTION:** Carla Hedtke moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to adopt the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in the matter of disciplinary proceedings against Canary Dexter, DLSC Case No. 16 MAB 003. Motion carried unanimously.

**Case Closures**

***15 MAB 002 – D.J.Z.***

**MOTION:** Carla Hedtke moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to close the DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 002 against D.J.Z. for **No Violation**. Motion carried unanimously.

***15 MAB 053 – W.Z.***

**MOTION:** Mark Richardson moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to close the DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 053 against W.Z. for **Prosecutorial Discretion (P2)**. Motion carried unanimously.

**Monitoring**

***Josiah Groth***

**MOTION:** Elizabeth Krizenesky moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to grant the request of Josiah Groth to modify the Order No. 0004035 dated 06/02/2015, paragraph **4.i** to read: Respondent must complete a one hour, face-to-face session with a counselor specializing in the impact of sexual victimization and to require a summary report be submitted to the Board by the counselor. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED FINAL DECISION AND ORDER IN THE MATTER OF DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ISMAIL ALSHIKHLI, RESPONDENT, DHA CASE NO. SPS-16-0016/DLSC CASE NO. 15 MAB 051**

**MOTION:** Darlene Campo moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to delegate to Michael J. Berndt, Department Chief Legal Counsel, the Board's authority to preside over and resolve disciplinary proceedings against Ismail Alshikhly, Respondent, DHA Case No. SPS-16-0016/DLSC Case No. 15 MAB 051. Motion carried unanimously.

**RATIFICATION OF LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES**

**MOTION:** Robert Coleman moved, seconded by Mark Richardson, to delegate ratification of examination results to DSPS staff and to delegate and ratify all licenses and certificates as issued. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

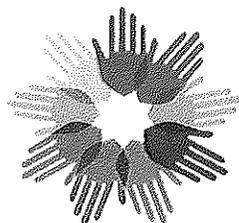
**MOTION:** Robert Coleman moved, seconded by Darlene Campo, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

**AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request:  Darlene Campo		2) Date When Request Submitted:  8/18/2016 <small>Items will be considered late if submitted after 4:30 p.m. and less than:</small> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 10 work days before the meeting for Medical Board</li> <li>▪ 14 work days before the meeting for all others</li> </ul>	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections:  Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board			
4) Meeting Date:  9/15/2016	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page?  Background to Rules Discussion regarding School Accreditation and Approval	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/> Both	8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled? If yes, who is appearing?  No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:	
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed:			
11) Authorization			
Signature of person making this request			Date
Supervisor (if required)			Date
Bureau Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)			Date



**FSMTB**  
FEDERATION OF STATE  
MESSAGE THERAPY BOARDS

**Contact:** Kevin Snedden  
Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards  
ksnedden@fsmtb.org / 913.681.0380

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 8, 2016

### **FSMTB ANNOUNCES MESSAGE EDUCATION POLICY**

Overland Park, Kan., August 8, 2016 – In an ongoing effort to maintain the integrity of the licensing examination and address fraud in the licensing process, the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) is developing an incremental process to support our member boards in detecting and addressing fraud. This work is a combined effort from state board members and executive staff who generously serve on the Examination Committee, the Federation Authentic Information Review (FAIR) Task Force, the Human Trafficking Task Force, and the MBLEx Eligibility Panel. The following Massage Education Policy is a result of their research and recommendations and adoption by the FSMTB Board of Directors.

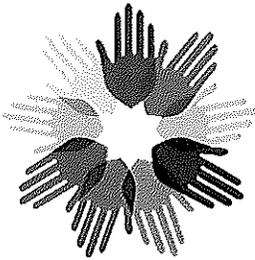
Effective July 1, 2017, candidates seeking access to the Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) will be required to substantiate enrollment in or having received their education from a massage therapy educational program that is approved or recognized by the state board or agency authorized to regulate massage therapy in the state in which the school is located. In the event the massage therapy board/agency does not approve or recognize education programs, approval or recognition from the relevant state department of education or like agency, in the state which the school is located, shall apply. In the event of a conflict between the state board/agency and department of education, the approval or recognition of the massage therapy board/agency shall prevail.

For more information, please contact our Director of Professional Standards, Kevin Snedden at [ksnedden@fsmtb.org](mailto:ksnedden@fsmtb.org).

#### **About FSMTB**

FSMTB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, membership organization composed of massage and bodywork regulatory and licensing boards and agencies from 38 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories. FSMTB's mission is to support its member boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner. For more information, please visit [www.fsmtb.org](http://www.fsmtb.org).

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# FSMTB

FEDERATION OF STATE  
MASSAGE THERAPY BOARDS

## ***FSMTB 2016 RESOLUTIONS***

Dear FSMTB Member Boards and Agencies,

Voting on resolutions will commence during the FSMTB Annual Meeting October 8, 2016.

Enclosed are five resolutions for consideration. The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy has submitted two resolutions. The Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy has also submitted two resolutions. The fifth resolution from the New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork is a carryover from the FSMTB 2015 Annual Meeting.



## Resolution Form

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**Title of Resolution:** Eligibility Criteria for Access to MBLEx: Substantiating Documentation

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

**WHEREAS** the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy (Board) requires applicants for licensure as massage therapists to verify graduation from an education program as one criterion for licensure eligibility; and

**WHEREAS** the Board requires applicants for licensure to successfully complete the Massage and Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEx) owned and administered by the Federation of State Boards of Massage Therapy (FSMTB) as one criterion for licensure eligibility; and

**WHEREAS** current FSMTB policies allow candidates to register for, receive an Authorization to Test letter (ATT), and sit for the MBLEx by attesting to having obtained the education and training in all subject areas of the *MBLEx Content Outline*; and

**WHEREAS**, current FSMTB registration policies require candidates seeking access to the MBLEx to self-identify without verification the education program currently attending or having completed; and

**WHEREAS** the Board has identified an increased number of applicants for licensure that indicate a different education program than that identified when registering with FSMTB for the MBLEx, and

**WHEREAS** FSMTB may, under certain circumstances where there are identified discrepancies in education programs, impose adverse actions against such candidates including invalidation of MBLEx scores; and

**WHEREAS** FSMTB adverse actions against such candidates may have an effect on the licensure process administered by the Board, and

**WHEREAS** allowing candidates who have registered for the MBLEx under an inaccurate education program may adversely or undeservingly affect the pass/fail and retest rates attributable to the identified education program, and

**WHEREAS** accurate identification of education programs will decrease the number of adverse actions that may have to be taken by FSMTB, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the FSMTB Board of Directors amend its MBLEx registration policies to include, as a prerequisite to access to the MBLEx, a

requirement that candidates shall cause their education program(s) to submit directly to FSMTB verification of having obtained the education and training in all subject areas of the *MBLEX Content Outline* and/or substantiation of graduation from an FSMTB member board approved or State approved massage therapy education program.

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such new policies have an effective date as soon as reasonably possible but, under any circumstances, no later than July 1, 2017.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

FSMTB will make changes in policy and take necessary actions to implement the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Resolution for MBLEX Eligibility for any candidate that will sit for the MBLEX exam on or after July 1, 2017.

**Board Members**

Craig Knowles, LMT  
*Chair*

Jennifer Clay, LMT  
*Vice Chair*

Pam Nichols, LMT

Trisha Butler, LMT

**Board Director**

Adrienne Price  
*Executive Director*

**Board Attorney**

Betsy Cohen, Esq.  
*Assistant Attorney General*



## Resolution Form

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**Title of Resolution:** Amendment to Re-testing/Re-examination Policy to Limit the Number of Attempts to Pass the MBLEx Before Additional Education and Training is Required

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

**WHEREAS** the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy proposes that the FSMTB Board of Directors amend the re-testing/re-examination policy to state that after a failed fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) attempt at passing the examination, the candidate must provide FSMTB with verification of having taken additional education and training in all content subject areas from a board approved massage therapy education program before being allowed to retake the examination.

**WHEREAS** allowing the same students or individuals to retake the examination as many times as they wish allows for greater opportunity to commit test fraud through the memorization of the test questions and the sharing of that information with other test candidates.

**WHEREAS** the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy reasons that statistics regarding the probability of an individual passing an exam after more than two attempts diminishes with each additional attempt as a result of a loss in confidence, little time to study between attempts or little time to complete a remediation plan to increase professional insight.

**WHEREAS** the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy reasons that FSMTB has invalidated scores for individuals who have passed the MBLEx with high scores after multiple attempts upon discovering that the candidate participated in exam fraud.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the statements noted above are hereby approved, ratified and adopted by the members of the Georgia Board of Massage Therapy.

**RESOLVED**, that implementation of these measures may further reduce the incidences of test fraud.

**RESOLVED**, that passage rate for second time test takers will improve and positively affect the pass/fail rates for the appropriate schools as candidates will focus more on studying when they know that the number of attempts to pass the exam is limited.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN** – Should the policy be amended, it will be incorporated in the MBLEx Candidate Handbook in the *'Application and Documentation Requirements,'* *'Authenticity and Adequacy,'* *'Fraud, Cheating and Forfeiture,'* *'How Many Times Can I Take The MBLEx?'* and the *'Retaking an Examination'* sections.

**EFFECTIVE DATE** – The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy would like to see the proposed

amendment effective as soon as possible and no later than the calendar year 2017.  
Upon motion duly made by Pam Nichols, LMT, seconded by Jennifer Clay, LMT and  
Unanimously carried, said resolution is to be forwarded to FSMTB for consideration.

**Board Members**

Craig Knowles, LMT

*Chair*

Jennifer Clay, LMT

*Vice Chair*

Pam Nichols, LMT

Trisha Butler, LMT

**Board Director**

Adrienne Price

*Executive Director*

**Board Attorney**

Betsy Cohen, Esq.

*Assistant Attorney General*



## Resolution Form

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**Title of Resolution:** MBLEx Eligibility Resolution A. ISMTB

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Indiana State Massage Therapy Board

**WHEREAS**, massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy education and the skills that are developed in the training is what prepares a person to work safely and competently on the public; and

**WHEREAS**, developing a knowledgeable, skilled and competent professional strengthens their career and ensures a safer and more satisfactory experience for the public and the massage therapist; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring the completion of an individual's education to sit for the MBLEx exam will help state board members and staff that review state licensing applications and attached supporting documents, to decipher what school was attended, how many hours of education was completed, and whether each individual state law requirements are met, making the whole validating process as clear as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of this resolution will help to address the increasing problem of fraudulent documents slipping through the vetting process at all levels; and

**WHEREAS**, each level of the journey that an individual goes through to become a state licensed/certified massage therapist, including the school they attend, the tests they take and the state they apply to for credentials should do their part to protect the public from harm and ensure an individual is a trained professional in the massage therapy and bodywork field; and

**WHEREAS**, portability for a massage therapist could prove to be more acceptable from state to state when the completion of their education requirement is met; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is in alignment with the mission of the FSMTB, which is "The mission of the Federation is to support its Member *Boards* in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that candidates applying for the MBLEx exam complete and pass course work required for graduation from an approved / accredited massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy education program that meet their state requirements to be eligible to sit for the MBLEx exam.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- FSMTB make changes in policy and take necessary actions to implement the Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy Resolution for MBLEx Eligibility•
- Candidates approved to sit for the MBLEx exam, prior to the effective date, would not experience a change to their “Authorization to Test (ATT)” date to test, which is 90 days from their approval date.

**Fiscal Note** Attached, if necessary

Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy is unable to estimate the minimal fiscal impact.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

As of January 1, 2017, all candidates applying to sit for the MBLEx exam will be required to complete a massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy education program prior to taking the exam.



## Resolution Form

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**Title of Resolution:** MBLEx Eligibility Resolution B. ISBMT

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

**WHEREAS**, state boards and staff process applications for individuals seeking state licensing/certification for the massage profession. They attempt to decipher whether the person attended massage school, what is the name and location of the school, is it a creditable school, how many hours was the program, what dates are listed for starting and completion of the program, did they finish the program, when did they take the MBLEx exam and do the dates make any sense.

Challenges include, the name of the school on the application isn't the same name listed on the MBLEx Jurisdictional Score Report and Transfer Grade Roster. The report shows the applicant failed the exam 10/30/13, retake 12/17/15 passed. Different school name and dates on the report, but passed the MBLEx before completions of the finish date and the school on the report is no longer open for business. With a personal appearance the applicant brings in a school diploma and other supporting documents. Documents and dates don't match up, school names don't match up, papers are notarized but they passed MBLEx. How did they get this far into the process of becoming a massage therapist with this much confusion? This is a frequently seen scenario that state boards deal with; and

**WHEREAS**, sorting through the levels of the vetting process to validate an applicant should not be done at the end of the journey. Determining if documents have been tampered with or if mistakes have been made should be done throughout the process at every level; and

**WHEREAS**, state boards are most concerned about the public's safety and granting a license/certification to someone who has rightfully earned that privilege; and

**WHEREAS**, requiring proof from a candidate by submitting supporting documentation that they completed a massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy program to validate that accomplishment is the most sensible way to fight against confusion, mistakes that slip through the process, fraudulent documents being accepted, and meeting our ethical obligations and responsibility of a state board, under their authority, in issuing a license; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is in alignment with the mission of the FSMTB and carrying it out, which is, "The mission of the Federation is to support its Member Boards in their work to ensure that the practice of massage therapy is provided to the public in a safe and effective manner."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that candidates applying for the MBLEx exam must submit documentation supporting proof of completion and passing course work required for graduation from an approved / accredited massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy

education program, that meet their state requirements, to the FSMTB in the manner necessary for verification prior to being eligible to sit for the MBLEx exam, in addition to all other requirements outlined in the candidate handbook.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- FSMTB make changes in policy and take necessary actions to implement the Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy Resolution for MBLEx Eligibility.
- Candidates approved to sit for the MBLEx exam, prior to the effective date, would not experience a change to their “Authorization to Test (ATT)” date to test, which is 90 days from their approval date.

**Fiscal Note** Attached, if necessary

Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy is unable to estimate the fiscal impact.

#### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

As of **January 1, 2017**, all candidates applying to sit for the MBLEx exam will be required to submit supporting documentation of their completion of a massage therapy or massage and bodywork therapy education program before being approved to sit for the MBLEx exam.



## Resolution Form

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Title of Resolution: MBLex Eligibility

Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:  
NJ State Board Massage and Bodywork Therapy

### WHEREAS

- Candidates who apply for the exam are required to declare the massage school of attendance, including the dates of attendance and the graduation date of that program.
- In signing the application, the candidate is required to verify that they have read the Examination Content Outline and that they have education and training in the content subject areas.
- Currently there is no mechanism attached to the application process that requires evidence of completion of a massage training program.
- Although in the "STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *I hereby certify that the information I provided on this application and in any supporting documents is accurate, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.*", there is no requirement to submit supporting documents of attendance and graduation of a massage therapy program.
- That not all states require completion of an approved training program and a passing score of an approved exam.
- There are documented cases in which candidates have taken and passed the MBLex only to be determined at a much later date that the test scores were found to be invalid. These determinations have occurred after these candidates have been granted licenses based on passing scores, which in turn, gives them the opportunity to apply for a license in other States by endorsement. This ultimately compromises Consumer Protection and Public Safety.

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That candidates for the MBLex, be required to submit evidence of completion of a massage training program before being permitted to sit for the MBLex.

### FISCAL CONSIDERATION:

This resolution would require extra time from staff to:

- amend the application
- review evidence for accuracy

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:**

- a change in the application to sit for the MBLex is needed to reflect the need for supporting documents in evidence of a massage training program
- a change in job tasks for the staff member charged with this responsibility is also needed

**Fiscal Note Attached, if necessary:**

- A fiscal analysis would be required to define an outline for this aspect of this proposed resolution.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

- Within 180 days from the approval of this resolution.



## **2016 Resolution Recommendations from the FSMTB Policy Committee**

1. **Title of Resolution:** Eligibility Criteria for Access to MBLEx: Substantiating Documentation

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

**Policy Committee Recommendation:** Pass

2. **Title of Resolution:** Amendment to Re-testing/Re-examination Policy to Limit the Number of Attempts to Pass the MBLEx Before Additional Education and Training is Required.

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Georgia Board of Massage Therapy

**Policy Committee Recommendation:** Do Not Pass

3. **Title of Resolution:** MBLEx Eligibility Resolution A. ISBMT

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Indiana State Massage Therapy Board

**Policy Committee Recommendation:** Do Not Pass

4. **Title of Resolution:** MBLEx Eligibility Resolution B. ISBMT

**Member Board/Committee Proposing Resolution:** Indiana State Board of Massage Therapy

**Policy Committee Recommendation:** Do Not Pass

5. **Title of Resolution:** MBLEx[sic] Eligibility New Jersey (tabled 2015)

**Proposed in 2015 by former FSMTB Member:** New Jersey Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy

**Policy Committee Recommendation:** Do Not Pass

**State of Wisconsin  
Department of Safety & Professional Services**

**AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

1) Name and Title of Person Submitting the Request:  <b>Dale Kleven Administrative Rules Coordinator</b>		2) Date When Request Submitted:  <b>9/2/16</b> Items will be considered late if submitted after 12:00 p.m. on the deadline date: ▪ 8 business days before the meeting	
3) Name of Board, Committee, Council, Sections:  <b>Massage Therapy and Bodywork Therapy Affiliated Credentialing Board</b>			
4) Meeting Date:  <b>9/15/16</b>	5) Attachments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	6) How should the item be titled on the agenda page? <b>Legislative and Administrative Rule Matters – Discussion and Consideration</b>  <b>1. Review of and Proposals for chs. MTBT 2 and 3</b> <b>2. Update on Other Legislation and Pending or Possible Rulemaking Projects</b>	
7) Place Item in: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Session <input type="checkbox"/> Closed Session <input type="checkbox"/> Both		8) Is an appearance before the Board being scheduled?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes ( <a href="#">Fill out Board Appearance Request</a> ) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	9) Name of Case Advisor(s), if required:
10) Describe the issue and action that should be addressed:			
11) Authorization			
<i><b>Dale Kleven</b></i>		<i><b>September 2, 2016</b></i>	
Signature of person making this request		Date	
Supervisor (if required)		Date	
Executive Director signature (indicates approval to add post agenda deadline item to agenda)    Date			
Directions for including supporting documents: 1. This form should be attached to any documents submitted to the agenda. 2. Post Agenda Deadline items must be authorized by a Supervisor and the Policy Development Executive Director. 3. If necessary, Provide original documents needing Board Chairperson signature to the Bureau Assistant prior to the start of a meeting.			

## Chapter MTBT 2

### APPLICATION

**MTBT 2.01** Application for a license.  
**MTBT 2.015** Waiver of education requirements.

**MTBT 2.03** Reciprocal license.  
**MTBT 2.04** Accommodations relating to a disability.

**Note:** Chapter RL 91 was renumbered chapter SPS 91 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register November 2011 No. 671. Chapter SPS 91 was renumbered to MTBT 2 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register August 2012 No. 680.

**MTBT 2.01 Application for a license.** An individual applying for a certificate as a massage therapist or bodyworker shall submit all of the following to the department:

(1) An application on a form provided by the department.

**Note:** Application forms are available upon request to the Department of Safety and Professional Services at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(2) The fee specified under s. 440.05 (1), Stats.

(3) Evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she:

(a) Has graduated from a school of massage therapy or bodywork approved by the educational approval board at the time of the applicant's graduation or completed an approved training program.

**Note:** A list of approved schools is available upon request to the Educational Approval Board, 30 West Mifflin Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 8696, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(b) Has successfully completed at least 6 classroom hours of study in the laws of this state and rules of the department relating to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork in a course of instruction offered by any of the following:

1. A school of massage therapy or bodywork approved by the educational approval board, whether or not the course of instruction was completed to meet a requirement for graduation.

2. An approved training program whether or not the training program is completed by the individual for purposes of satisfying par. (a).

3. A school approved by an accrediting agency.

4. A technical college established pursuant to s. 38.02, Stats.

(c) Is 18 years of age or older.

(d) Has graduated high school or attained high school equivalency as determined by the department of public instruction under s. 115.29 (4), Stats.

(e) Has not been convicted of an offense under s. 940.22, 940.225, 944.15, 944.17, 944.30, 944.31, 944.32, 944.33, 944.34, 948.02, 948.025, 948.08, 948.085, 948.09, 948.095 or 948.10, Stats., or a comparable offense under federal law or a law of any other state.

(f) Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, Stats., has not been convicted of any other offense not listed in par. (e), the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork.

(g) Has passed either the national certification examination for therapeutic massage and bodywork or the national certification examination for therapeutic massage that are offered by the national certification board for therapeutic massage and bodywork, or another examination relating to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork that is administered by a national board that is accredited by the national commission for certifying agencies or a substantially equivalent examination approved by the department.

(h) Has passed an examination on state laws and administrative rules governing massage therapy or bodywork.

(i) Has in effect as a policyholder and insured, malpractice liability insurance coverage in an amount that is not less than

\$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 for all occurrences in one year.

(j) Has successfully completed a course consisting of 5 classroom hours in adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid if the individual has not graduated from a school of massage therapy or bodywork approved by the educational approval board and the 5 classroom hours are not completed by the individual as part of an approved training program as provided under s. MTBT 3.01.

(k) Has current proficiency in the use of an automated external defibrillator achieved through instruction provided by an individual, organization, or institution of higher education approved under s. 46.03 (38), Stats., to provide the instruction.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99; emerg. am. (intro.), r. (3) (a), renum. (3) (b) to (e) to be (3) (a) to (d) and am. (3) (a) and (d), cr. (3) (e) and (f), eff. 9-3-00; am. (intro.), r. (3) (a), renum. (3) (b) to (e) to be (3) (a) to (d) and am. (3) (a) and (d), cr. (3) (e) and (f), Register, January, 2001, No. 541, eff. 2-1-01; CR 06-069; am. (intro.) and (2), r. and recr. (3) (a), renum. (3) (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) to be (f), (i), (g) (h), and (j), and am. (f), (g), (i) and (j), cr. (3) (b) to (e), Register December 2006 No. 612, eff. 1-1-07; correction in (3) (j) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register November 2011 No. 671; correction in (3) (j) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register August 2012 No. 680; EmR0827; emerg. cr. (3) (k), eff. 9-10-08; CR 08-086; cr. (3) (k) Register September 2012 No. 681, eff. 10-1-12; (3) (k) renum. from SPS 91.01 (3) (k) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register September 2012 No. 681; CR 13-055; am. (title) Register May 2014 No. 701, eff. 6-1-14.

**MTBT 2.015 Waiver of education requirements.** The requirements of s. MTBT 2.01 (3) (a) and (b) shall be waived if an individual submits evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she has successfully completed a course consisting of 5 classroom hours in adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation and standard first aid and satisfied one of the following:

(1) Is currently either certified or recertified by the national certification board for therapeutic massage and bodywork.

(2) Is currently either certified or recertified as active and in good standing by any other organization accredited to certify massage therapy or bodywork by the national commission for certifying agencies.

**History:** CR 06-069; cr. Register December 2006 No. 612, eff. 1-1-07; correction in (intro.) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register November 2011 No. 671; correction in (intro.) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register August 2012 No. 680.

**MTBT 2.03 Reciprocal license.** (1) An individual applying for a license on the basis of a similar license, registration or license in another state or territory of the United States or another country shall:

(a) Submit an application on a form provided by the board.

**Note:** Application forms are available upon request to the department at 1400 East Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin 53708.

(b) Pay the fee required under s. 440.05 (2), Stats.

(c) Submit evidence satisfactory to the board that the individual:

1. Holds a current similar license, registration or certificate to practice massage therapy or bodywork in another state or territory of the United States or another country, the requirements for which are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 460.05, Stats.

2. Has not been convicted of an offense under s. 940.22, 940.225, 944.15, 944.17, 944.30, 944.31, 944.32, 944.33, 944.34, 948.02, 948.025, 948.08, 948.085, 948.09, 948.095 or 948.10,

Stats., or a comparable offense under federal law or a law of any other state.

4. Subject to ss. 111.321, 111.322 and 111.335, Stats., has not been convicted of any other offense not listed under subd. 2., the circumstances of which substantially relate to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork.

7. Has in effect as a policyholder and insured, malpractice liability insurance coverage in an amount that is not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$1,000,000 for all occurrences in one year.

(2) Requirements for a current similar license, registration or certificate to practice massage therapy or bodywork in another state or territory of the United States or another country, are substantially equivalent to the requirements under s. 460.05, Stats., if the requirements include either of the following:

(a) Certification by the national certification board for therapeutic massage and bodywork or any other organization accred-

ited by the national commission for certifying agencies to certify massage therapy or bodywork.

(b) Completion of at least 500 classroom hours of instruction in massage therapy or bodywork at a school approved by an accrediting agency, and passing an examination relating to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork that is administered or approved by an accrediting agency.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99; am. (1) (intro.) and (c) 1., Register, January, 2001, No. 541, eff. 2-1-01; CR 06-069: am. (1) (intro.), (1) (c) 1., 4., and 7., and (2) r. and recr. (1) (c) 2., r. (1) (c) 3., 5. and 6., cr. (2) (a) and (b), Register December 2006 No. 612, eff. 1-1-07; CR 13-055: am. (title), (1) (intro.), (a), (c) (intro.) Register May 2014 No. 701, eff. 6-1-14; correction in (1) (c) (intro.) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register May 2014 No. 701.

#### **MTBT 2.04 Accommodations relating to a disability.**

A qualified individual with a disability shall be provided with reasonable accommodations requested in connection with the completion of an application for certification as a massage therapist or bodyworker.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99; CR 06-069: am. Register December 2006 No. 1-1-07.

## Chapter MTBT 3

### EDUCATION

#### MTBT 3.01 Approved training program.

**Note:** Chapter RL 92 was renumbered chapter SPS 92 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register November 2011 No. 671. Chapter SPS 92 was renumbered MTBT 3 under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register August 2012 No. 680.

**MTBT 3.01 Approved training program. (1)** An individual applying for a license as a massage therapist or bodywork therapist who has not graduated from a school of massage therapy or bodywork therapy approved by the educational approval board shall submit an official transcript or other official documentation showing dates and total hours attended and a description of the curriculum completed establishing that he or she has completed an approved training program.

**(2)** Credit may be granted for an approved training program regardless of when the program was completed.

**(4)** In addition to satisfying the requirements of sub. (5), an approved training program shall be one of the following:

(a) An associate degree program, or a technical diploma program in massage therapy or bodywork offered by a technical college established pursuant to s. 38.02, Stats.

(b) A course of instruction in massage therapy or bodywork offered by a school accredited by an accrediting agency at the time the individual completes the course of instruction.

**(5)** An approved training program shall consist of a minimum of 600 classroom hours of study and shall include the following subject areas:

(a) Anatomy, physiology, pathology, and kinesiology: 125 classroom hours.

(b) Business, law and ethics: 50 classroom hours, which shall include at least 6 classroom hours in the laws of this state and rules of the board relating to the practice of massage therapy or bodywork therapy required by s. MTBT 2.01 (3) (b).

(c) Massage therapy or bodywork theory, technique, and practice: 300 classroom hours which shall include 100 classroom hours of supervised hands-on practice.

(d) Student clinic: 20 classroom hours.

(e) Adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and standard first aid: 5 classroom hours. The requirement of this paragraph may be alternatively satisfied as provided under s. MTBT 2.01 (3) (j).

(f) Additional massage therapy or bodywork course offerings meeting the objectives of the course of instruction: 100 classroom hours.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1999, No. 518, eff. 3-1-99; emerg. am. (1), (5) (e) and (f), r. and recr. (3) and (4), eff. 9-3-00; am. (1), (5) (e) and (f), r. and recr. (3) and (4), Register, January, 2001, No. 541, eff. 2-1-01; correction in (3) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, January, 2001, No. 541; CR 06-069; am. (1), (2), (4) (intro.), (a), (b), (5) (intro.), (b), (d) and (e), r. (3), Register December 2006 No. 612, eff. 1-1-07; correction in (5) (b), (e) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register November 2011 No. 671; correction in (5) (b), (e) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register August 2012 No. 680; CR 13-055; am. (1), (5) (b) Register May 2014 No. 701, eff. 6-1-14.

## Example of Discrepancies in Transcripts, Program Curriculum Forms and School Catalogs

I noticed that this applicant attended the same school as applicant [YYYYY YYYYYY] There are several striking coincidences between these applications:

- Both applicants live in the same city, attended the same school, and are seeking initial licensure in Wisconsin.
- Both applicants attained a 75% in A&P and Kinesiology, the minimum grade per the school catalog (p. 11).
- Both applicants' A&P and Kinesiology grades were handwritten on the form. The other scores were all printed and 100%.

In addition, the Program Curriculum form submitted by the school does not entirely agree with the transcript they provided or the school catalog:

- Hours of Classroom Instruction. Transcript = 530, Catalog = 600
- Home Study/Class 104. Transcript = 470, Catalog 400
- Course 103. Transcript = 305, Catalog = 375
- A&P, Kinesiology, Pathology. Transcript = 180 (140 + 40), Program Curriculum form = 140
- Business, Law, and Ethics. Transcript = 20, Program Curriculum form = 50 (minimum required on form)
- Massage Therapy & Bodywork Therapy. Transcript = 320 (85 + 130 + 105), Program Curriculum form = 400
- Student Clinic. Transcript = Not specifically noted, Program Curriculum form = 30 (From which course?), Catalog = "200 in-class hours at our supervised massage clinic."

I'm most interested in determining where the student clinic fits into the curriculum and how many hours it comprises. If the entire curriculum is 1,000 hours and 470 were A&P/Home study, and 200 hours were spent in clinic, then I'm not sure how the other numbers add up.

### Application by Exam v. Endorsement/Reciprocity

Although an applicant applied for licensure by examination, I believe she also met the requirements for licensure by reciprocity by holding an active, unrestricted credential without any history of complaints. In consideration of the above, as well as a thorough review of the catalog, course descriptions, website, etc., I supported the application for licensure.

### Unapproved School Lists

Attached are the NCBTMB and CAMTC's Un-Approved School Reports. Note the high correlation between the lists, along with two pockets of concentration: El Monte/Rosemead/Monterey Park in Southern California, and Northern New Jersey. (Note that one of the New Jersey schools was implicated in the breach of the MBEx.)

Graduates from three schools appearing on both lists sought licensure in Wisconsin. In addition, graduates from one school that only appears on the NCBTMB list (American College Massage School) also applied for licensure in our state. I did not know at the time that the NCBTMB had revoked its Assigned School code; things just didn't add up, literally and figuratively.

Attachments

### **American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) Research Report**

Attached is the most recent annual AMTA Research Report. Section 4 discusses schools, with the Accreditation information on page 60.

Attachment

### **Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP) School Census Reports 2013, 2015**

Attachments

### **Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) Accreditation**

COMTA offers both program accreditation along with institutional accreditation, but they both require U.S. Department of Education accreditation. See the Fee Schedule: It looks like an institution might spend \$10,000. Also, the Annual Sustaining Fees are computed on gross revenue.

Those are the Cadillac versions. They also have "COMTA-Endorsed Curriculum" as an option:

- \$3,000 application fee (may be paid in two installments)
- \$1,000 site visit fee (covers expenses for one day-one person visit)
- \$495 annual sustaining fee

They promote it for those schools that "may not have the financial or staff resources to make accreditation a reality." They also state that "you can promote it to your state licensing boards who may want to ensure certain curriculum/instructional standards in practitioners' schooling but who may not have the resources to vet each school themselves."

Note the last bullet on COMTA's accreditation page:

- The program must be located in an institution that **already has institutional accreditation** from an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

If a requirement is that it's accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, then the question might be what makes COMTA accreditation any better than being an NCBMTB Assigned School (free), ABMP School Member (\$250-\$1,000) or a participant in the AMTA Schools Summit (\$395-\$574, plus travel)?

### **Regional Accreditation – Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**

There is information on Western Technical College's website as it relates to the Higher Learning Commission (Regional Accrediting Authority): Performance Excellence and Accreditation.

### **Accreditation – Benefits and Drawbacks**

Inspirit's Prospective Student page, paper : Accreditation – Benefits & Drawbacks.

In MTBT 3.01(4)(b), our statute states that a school should be accredited by an accrediting agency. This school is not accredited, however, they are licensed and regulated:

The programs are licensed or regulated by:

**Iowa State Department of Public Health**

Lucas State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**Iowa College Student Aid Commission**

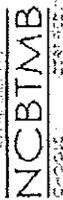
430 East Grand Ave. – Floor 3  
Des Moines, IA 50309-1920

Attachment

ATTACHMENTS

**National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork**  
**School Compliance: Denials, Suspensions and Revocations**

Last Effective Date: 2/1/2016



**Denied School Code:** School does not meet NCBTMB requirements or has been found to be operating illegitimately. Schools currently carrying an assigned school code may be found on our website.

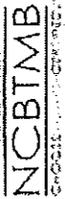
**Suspension:** A temporary action which prevents a school's graduates from being made eligible for Certification with NCBTMB. Suspension is based on several factors including gravity and credibility of allegations and risk that a school poses to NCBTMB's educational or operational requirements. Based on subsequent review of the school and related findings, a school code may be reinstated or withdrawn.

**Revocation:** A final decision taken after a full review by NCBTMB which prevents a school's graduates from being made eligible for Certification with NCBTMB. Revocation is based on evidence compiled during an investigation that a school does not meet NCBTMB's operational or educational requirements.

**Updates to this report are noted in bold type and are highlighted.**

SCHOOL	CITY	DATE OF ACTION	ACTION TAKEN
<b>ARKANSAS</b>			
American University of Healing Arts	Maumelle	7/27/11	5 Year Suspension
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>			
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America	Los Angeles	3/18/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/25/09
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America	Arcadia	3/18/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/25/09
Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America	Hacienda Heights/Rosemead	3/18/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/25/09
Advance Beauty College	Garden Grove/Laguna Hills	6/18/15	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 4/22/15
American International Vocational College	Monterey Park	8/18/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/03/09
Americana College	Los Angeles	6/30/11	Suspension
America's Institute of Traditional Medicine	Rosemead	8/29/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/28/09
Andrew Health	Pasadena	12/20/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 12/06/09
California Professional College	Los Angeles	5/28/14	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 1/28/11
Cal Lion Institute	El Monte	3/9/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 12/10/09
Diamond Beauty College	El Monte	6/14/11	School Code Revoked
The East-West Institute of Hand Therapy	El Monte	4/25/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/29/09
Hahn Therapeutic Massage Institution	Los Angeles	2/10/11	School Code Revoked
Oriental Medicine Institute of America	San Gabriel	5/24/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 8/27/09
Question College of America	Los Angeles	5/12/15	Denied: Formerly known as America's Institute of Traditional Medicine which was revoked on 8/25/2010
Royal Irvin College	Monterey Park	5/27/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/29/09
School of Healing Touch	Castro Valley	2/22/11	School Code Revoked
Select Therapy Institute	Rosemead	4/12/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended 11/04/09
Tammy Beauty Academy	Stanton	6/25/09	Suspension
UBC/El Monte	El Monte	6/29/09	School Code Revoked
United States Alternative College	Santa Ana	11/30/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/8/10
Unique Wellness	El Monte	6/15/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 6/25/09
ZMS The Academy	Los Angeles	2/17/15	Denied: Prior to denial the school code was suspended on 1/27/15
<b>COLORADO</b>			
Majestic Vocational Training Center	Denver	12/14/12	School Code Revoked 12/14/12
<b>FLORIDA</b>			
Academy of Health & Beauty	Orlando	5/9/12	School Code Revoked
ASM Beauty World Academy	Dave	2/29/12	School Code Revoked
OH Beauty School	Orlando	2/24/12	School Code Revoked
Tokyo Beauty & Massage School	Coconut Creek	2/29/12	School Code Denied
VIP Beauty School	Margate	5/12/15	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was placed in pending status on 10/27/2014
<b>GEORGIA</b>			
Georgia Academy of Massage	Martinez	7/2/11	School Code Denied
Georgia Massage & Holistic Institute, Inc.	Chamblee	10/9/12	School Code Denied

**National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork**  
**School Compliance: Denials, Suspensions and Revocations**  
 Last Effective Date: 2/1/2016



**Denied School Code:** School does not meet NCBTMB requirements or has been found to be operating illegitimately. Schools currently carrying an assigned school code may be found on our website.  
**Suspension:** A temporary action which prevents a school's graduates from being made eligible for Certification with NCBTMB. Suspension is based on several factors including gravity and credibility of allegations and risk that a school poses to NCBTMB's educational or operational requirements. Based on subsequent review of the school and related findings, a school code may be reinstated or withdrawn.  
**Revocation:** A final decision taken after a full review by NCBTMB which prevents a school's graduates from being made eligible for Certification with NCBTMB. Revocation is based on evidence compiled during an investigation that a school does not meet NCBTMB's operational or educational requirements.

State	School Name	Location	Effective Date	Notes
ILLINOIS	First Choice International, Inc.	Glenview	1/2/12	School Code Revoked
INDIANA	American College Massage School	Crown Point	2/10/15	School Code Revoked
NEW JERSEY	Academy of Oriental Therapy	West Windsor	6/4/15	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 2/28/2014
	Barbiero School of Massage Therapy	Linwood	4/5/13	School Code Denied
	The American Training School for the Medical Professionals	West New York	1/19/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 8/13/10
	Body Concepts Wellness Institute	East Rutherford	4/8/11	School Code Revoked
	New Wave Myotherapy	Fort Lee	3/25/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 2/7/11
	Xincom America School	Edison	4/25/11	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 1/12/11
NEW YORK	Wall Street Institute	New York	7/1/10	Revoked: Prior to revocation the school code was suspended on 12/30/09
OKLAHOMA	Uniquely Yours Therapeutic Massage School	Tulsa	3/30/12	School Code Revoked
TENNESSEE	Brightness Massage School for the Blind	Memphis	5/21/15	School Code Denied
TEXAS	In't Health Center	Richardson	5/14/14	School Code Denied
VERMONT	Empire Institute of Massage Therapy, Inc	Brattleboro	1/11/2012	School Code Revoked

*Received in WI, on CANTZ site as well.  
 on CANTZ site as well.*

**UN-APPROVED MASSAGE SCHOOLS****NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:**

For applicants who have completed education at **Twin Lakes College of the Healing Arts** on or before December 31, 2012, CAMTC will accept that education for purposes of CAMTC certification. Please note that CAMTC cannot accept education completed at Twin Lakes College of the Healing Arts during the time it was not BPPE approved, which is on or after January 1, 2013.

**NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:**

CAMTC will not accept transcripts from schools that are not approved by BPPE or by another agency or institution listed in Business and Professions Code section 4601(a). The following schools fail to meet the definition of a CAMTC approved school as set forth in Business and Professions Code section 4601(a)(1)-(5):

1. Manhattan College (a.k.a. Westlake College)
2. Andrew University
3. American States College
4. American States University
5. Twin Lakes College of the Healing Arts for education received on or after January 1, 2013
6. East West Massage School, LLC (SC)
7. International Institute of Cosmetics School
8. Healing Arts Institute - Tuina program - San Francisco Location (Education received at the Citrus Heights location may still be used for CAMTC certification purposes.)

**NOTICE TO APPLICANTS:**

CAMTC will consider the following massage schools as not meeting the definition of an "approved school" in CAMTC's enabling law. Other schools may be added to this list from time to time so please continue to check this website before submitting a transcript. Applicants whose applications are received before the effective date listed here, and which include education from the following schools remain eligible to provide additional proof of their education. Applications received on or after the date listed below will not be able to use education from an un-approved school or program to meet the educational requirements for certification.

**Effective July 1, 2016**

1. Healing Arts Institute - Tuina program - Milpitas, J Street and Stockton Blvd locations (Education received at the Citrus Heights location may still be used for CAMTC certification purposes)

**Effective June 28, 2016 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Academy of Oriental Therapy
2. Americana College
3. VIP Beauty School
4. ZMS Academy

**Effective January 28, 2016 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Academy of Somatics and Massage

**Effective December 1, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Barberio School of Massage Therapy
2. Lifestream Massage School

**Effective September 30, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. California Trinity University

**Effective September 21, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Advanced Pro Nursing Institute
2. BodyConcepts Wellness Institute
3. Empire Institute of Massage Therapy
4. Georgia Massage & Holistic Institute
5. Majestic Vocational Training Center
6. Xincon America School

**Effective July 9, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. L.A. Vocational Institute

Key

Applied to WI

Also on NCBTMB

**Effective June 23, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Glamour Beauty College (a.k.a. Topline Beauty College)

**Effective April 14, 2015 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Mir Institute School of Massage and Pain Management Therapy

**Effective December 23, 2014 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Oak English College (a.k.a. Royal Healing Academy)

**Effective October 1, 2014 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Napa Valley School of Massage

**Effective August 9, 2013 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. First Choice International Medical Academy

**Effective July 16, 2013 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Academy of Health & Beauty
2. American University of Healing Arts
3. American Training School for Medical Professionals
4. ASM Beauty World Academy
5. Georgia Academy of Massage
6. New Wave Myotherapy
7. QH Beauty School
8. Tokyo Beauty and Massage School
9. Uniquely Yours Therapeutic Massage School

**Effective February 21, 2013**

1. Massage Technical Center

**Effective February 21, 2013**

1. School of Traditional Medical Thai Massage

**Effective September 24, 2012 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Professional School of Massage (Transcripts received with graduation date after 10/30/2011)

**Effective August 2, 2012 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Han's Academy of Massage (a.k.a Han's Career College)
2. Northern California Vocational College (a.k.a. California Vocational Cosmetology College)

**Effective May 21, 2012 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. American Heritage University of Southern California
2. America's Institute of Traditional Medicine (a.k.a. Queenston College of America, a.k.a. Queenston University of America, a.k.a. California College of Health Sciences)
3. American Purlinton Institute
4. Andrew Health Institute
5. Cal Lion Institute
6. California Professional College (a.k.a. Los Angeles Health Institute)
7. California Union University
8. Diamond Beauty College
9. Dynasty School (a.k.a. Dynasty Institute)
10. East-West Institute of Hand Therapy
11. Golden Acupressure Therapeutic Massage College
12. Milpitas Electrolysis College
13. Min Jian Healing Institute (a.k.a Perfect Day Spa)
14. National Institute Of Massage Therapy (NIMT)
15. Oriental Medicine Institute of America (Oriental Medical Institute in America)
16. Royal Irvin College
17. San Francisco College of Alternative Therapies
18. School of Healing Touch
19. Select Therapy Institute
20. United States Alternative College (a.k.a. Golden Acupressure Therapeutic Massage College)
21. USA Pain Care College
22. US Acupressure & Shiatsu School

**Effective May 10, 2012 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. Acupuncture and Massage Institute of America
2. College of Physical Arts and Cosmetology
3. Sunflower Advanced Beauty Institute

## 4. Tammy Beauty Academy

**Effective February 1, 2012 (90 days from posting this announcement)**

1. American International Vocational College
2. Hahm Therapeutic Massage Institute
3. Linda Beauty School
4. San Diego Beauty College
5. Sunset College of Healing Arts
6. UBC - South El Monte
7. Yunique Wellness Center

Applicants who submit transcripts from un-approved schools will be told that their application is incomplete and that they will have up to one year in which to submit a transcript from a school which is approved. If an acceptable transcript is not submitted within one year, the incomplete application will be purged and the applicant will have to start over if he/she chooses to apply again after that date.

**Notice to applicants:** Transcripts from out-of-state schools will not be accepted if that out-of-state school is not approved by the corresponding agency in that school's state. Applicants will not have the opportunity to prove education from such an out-of-state transcript.

**INADEQUATE EDUCATION MASSAGE SCHOOLS**

Applicants with education from certain California schools are required to provide more than just a transcript and diploma as proof of education. If you attended and/or graduated from one of the following schools, please plan to provide additional evidence of your education beyond just the diploma and transcript.

1. East West Institute in America
2. International Qi Gong Research Association
3. J.H.J. Education College
4. Orange Valley College
5. St. Luke University
6. West Pacific Institute of Body Therapy

Updated October 8, 2012

The above list applies to all locations for these schools.

CAMTC will consider any documents, letters, receipts, statements, etc. which might provide evidence of your education. **NOTE: MATERIAL SUBMITTED TO PROVE EDUCATION WILL NOT BE RETURNED. PLEASE SUBMIT CLEAN, LEGIBLE COPIES AND RETAIN YOUR ORIGINALS.** There are no absolutes regarding what will qualify as sufficient additional evidence of adequate education, but the following is a sample list of the types of evidence that might be helpful to our evaluation:

- Massage licenses held in other states
- National certification
- Licenses held (or previously held) in related fields
- Proof of participation in school volunteer events
- Transcripts showing education from other institution
- Notes or exams from the massage classes attended
- Test results from massage exams or tests (local or national)
- Transcripts from other related types of professional education
- Documentation of continuing education in massage (additional seminars, courses)
- Copies of tax returns proving employment as a massage professional
- Proof of liability insurance and/or massage association membership
- Letters of recommendation from employer or customer (must include contact information)

The foregoing is not meant to be an exhaustive list of the types of evidence CAMTC might accept as proof of adequate education, nor does it mean we always accept the above types of evidence, but we hope it gives applicants some idea about the types of items we consider. Applicants should provide as many items of additional evidence as they have, not just one of the above.

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**4D. How many schools are accredited?**<sup>18</sup>

*Seventy-three percent of schools report being accredited, the same as 2014.*<sup>17</sup>

Between 2012 and 2015, the total number of massage schools accredited by nationally-recognized accrediting organizations declined 17 percent while the number of campuses in these accredited institutions declined 18 percent. Note that this only includes those national accrediting agencies that list programs including massage therapy. There are many other national or regional accrediting bodies that have schools that may have massage programs. Note that schools that have programmatic accreditation through agencies such as COMTA will oftentimes also have institutional accreditation from another accrediting body. In the past year many schools have either gone out of business or ceased their massage program as the government is being more strict with schools that allow federal funding, especially for-profit institutions, which could lead to a decline in the number of accredited schools listed below. (See Figure 37.)

Accrediting Organization	2012 Numbers		2013 Numbers		2014 Numbers		2015 Numbers	
	Institutions	Campuses (Including Main)						
ABHES	68	68	68	71	39	65	36	57
ACICS	65	240	65	225	56	197	57	182
ACCET	22	75	25	63	23	73	22	73
ACCSC	85	170	85	154	77	142	71	119
COMTA	57	87	57	81	49	68	49	57
NACCAS	62	99	62	109	72	122	66	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>603</b>

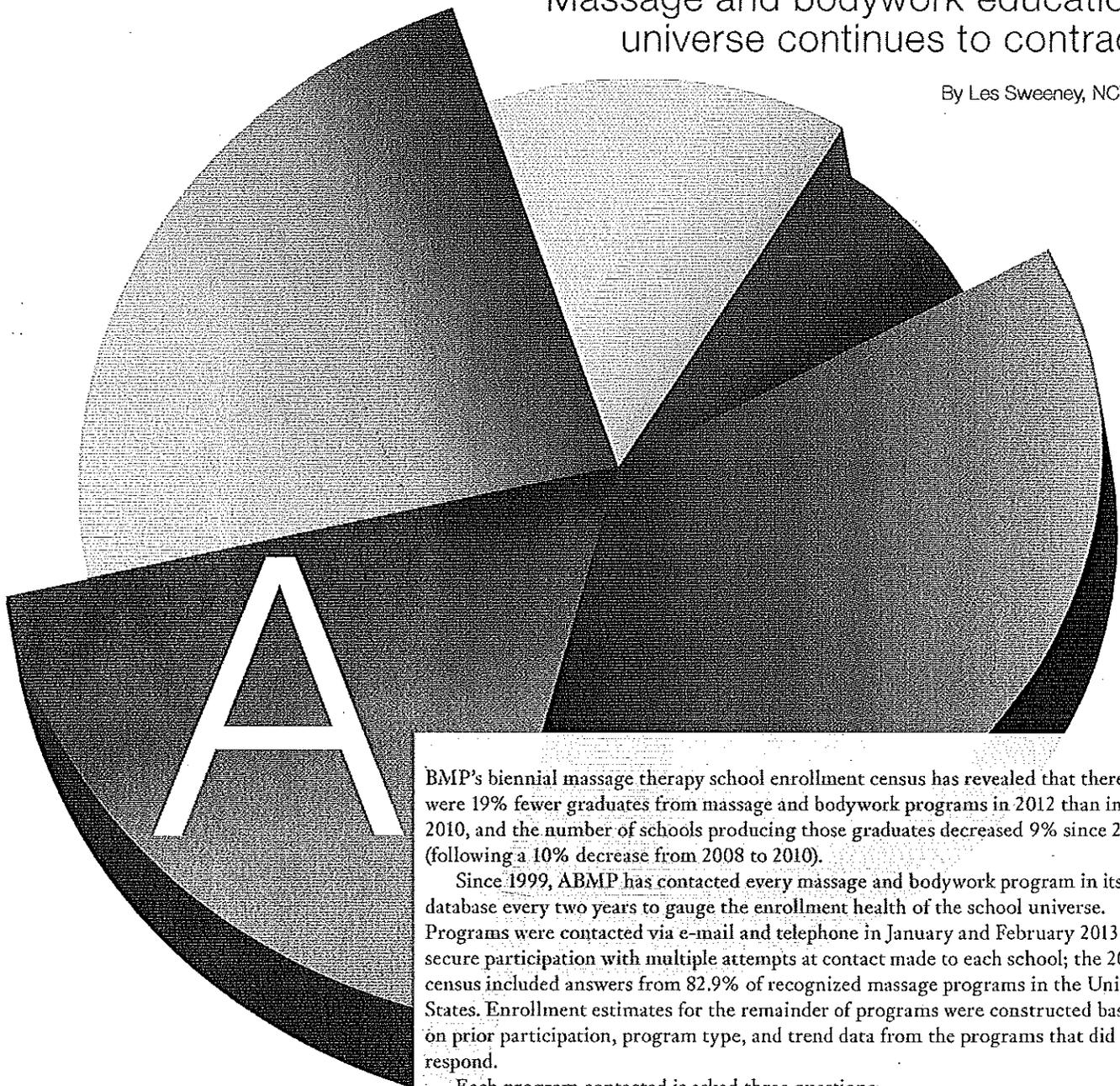
Figure 37. Accreditation numbers



# The <sup>Still</sup> Shrinking Pie

Massage and bodywork education universe continues to contract

By Les Sweeney, NCTM



BMP's biennial massage therapy school enrollment census has revealed that there were 19% fewer graduates from massage and bodywork programs in 2012 than in 2010, and the number of schools producing those graduates decreased 9% since 2010 (following a 10% decrease from 2008 to 2010).

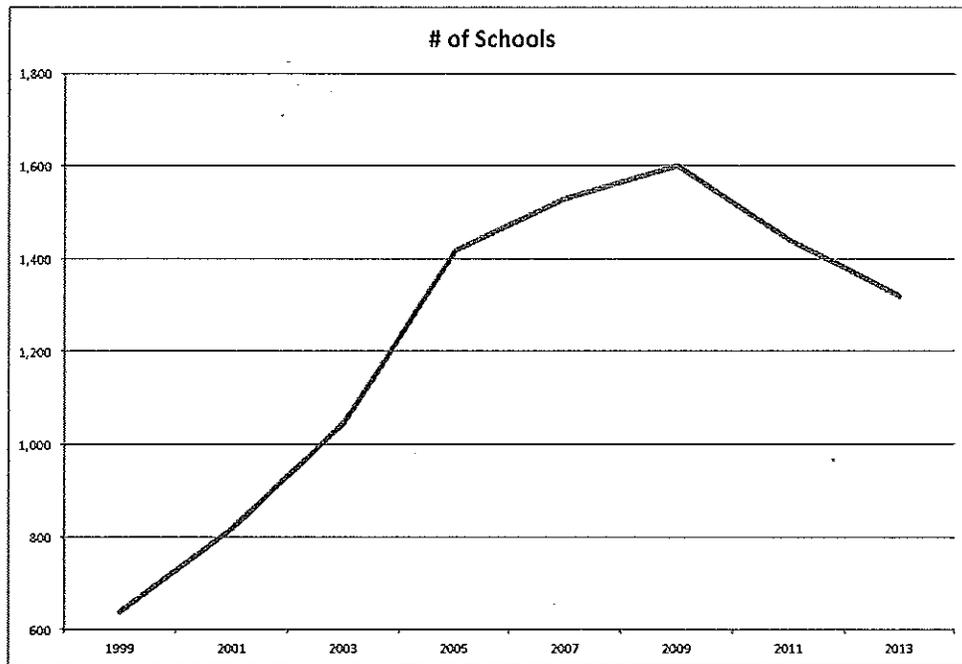
Since 1999, ABMP has contacted every massage and bodywork program in its database every two years to gauge the enrollment health of the school universe. Programs were contacted via e-mail and telephone in January and February 2013 to secure participation with multiple attempts at contact made to each school; the 2013 census included answers from 82.9% of recognized massage programs in the United States. Enrollment estimates for the remainder of programs were constructed based on prior participation, program type, and trend data from the programs that did respond.

Each program contacted is asked three questions:

1. How many students are enrolled in your primary training program?
2. Is that number up, down, or about the same as a year ago?
3. How many people graduated from that program in 2012?

**PROGRAMS**

One result of the census exercise is a refined list of programs in operation; the number of entities offering programs decreased from 1,440 in 2011 to 1,319 today. This represents the second consecutive decline in the number of massage therapy programs as reported by the census.



In order to better analyze the results, ABMP organizes schools into five different categories, as defined below:

**Career Training Institution**—Multi-program institutions offering many career training programs in addition to massage therapy (typically medical and dental assisting, medical record-keeping, etc.), nearly all accredited by U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting programs, either privately-held or publicly-traded.

**College**—Massage programs offered at state-run community or technical college. Institutions are regionally accredited.

**Corporate Massage School**—Institutions offering massage therapy and spa programs, typically multi-campus, multi-state. Nearly all accredited by U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting programs. Each campus is counted as a distinct program.

**Proprietary**—Institutions offering massage therapy (and sometimes also spa) programs, typically single campus, single owner.

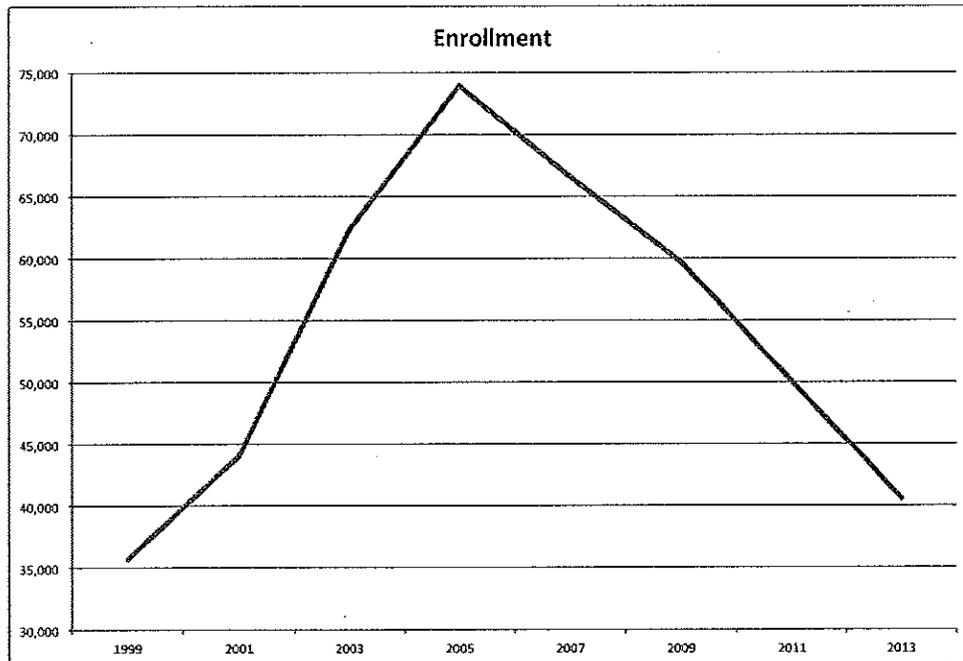
**Public School**—Massage programs offered at institutions that are part of the local public school system. Institutions are regionally accredited.

Grads by School Category	Schools
Career Training Institution	370
College	185
Corporate Massage School	60
Proprietary	686
Public	18
	1,319

The number of career training institutions declined 9% since 2011, while the number of proprietary schools declined slightly over 4% during the period.

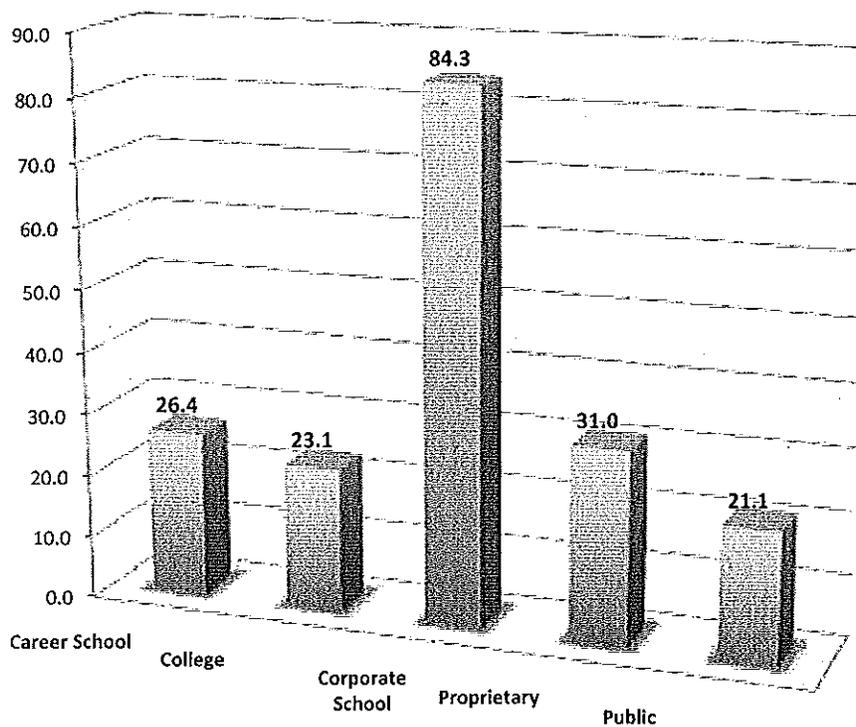
## ENROLLMENT

The student population at massage therapy programs declined 18.8% from 2011 to 2013, continuing a decline from the historical peak reported in spring 2005.



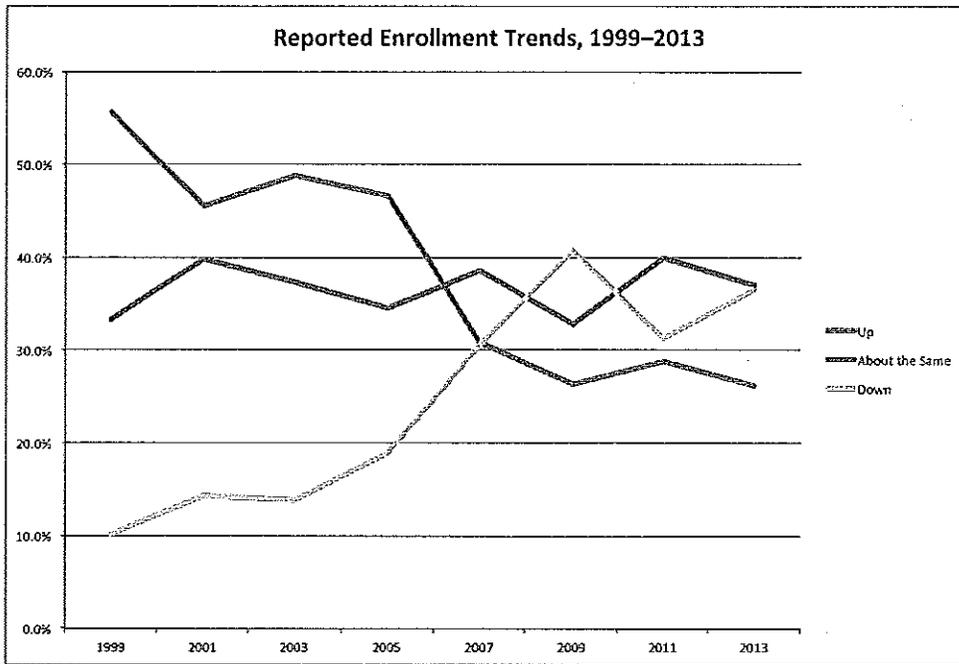
The five school categories show different enrollment averages:

## Enrollment by School Category



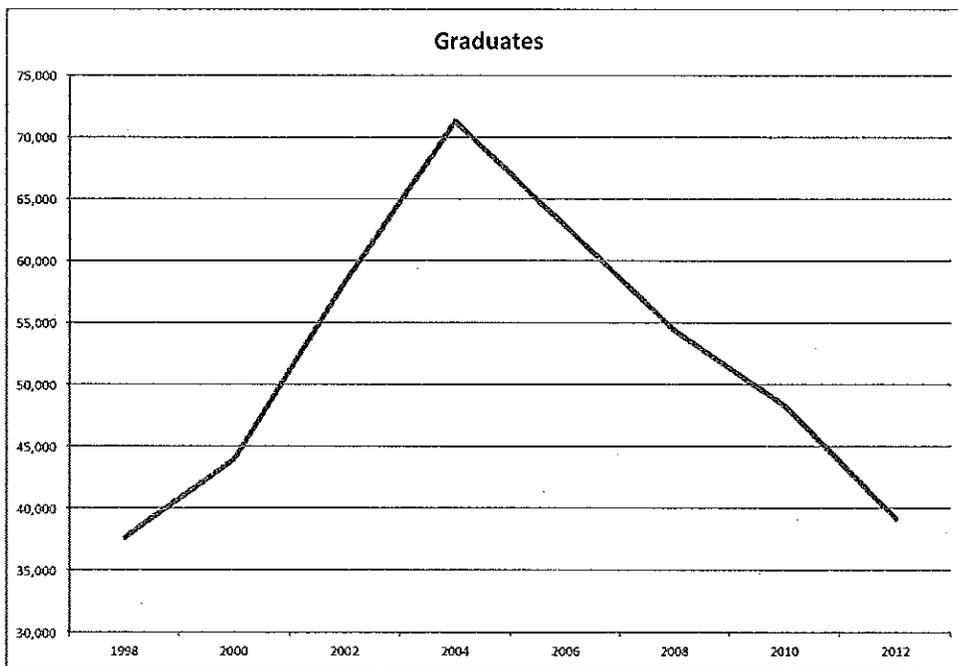
**SELF-REPORTED TRENDS**

Those programs that participated in the survey provided a self-assessment regarding their enrollment by answering question #2 (“Is that total up, down, or about the same as last year?”). The 2013 responses show a decline in positive reporting over 2011 results, with just 26.2% of respondents reporting growth in enrollment from 2010.

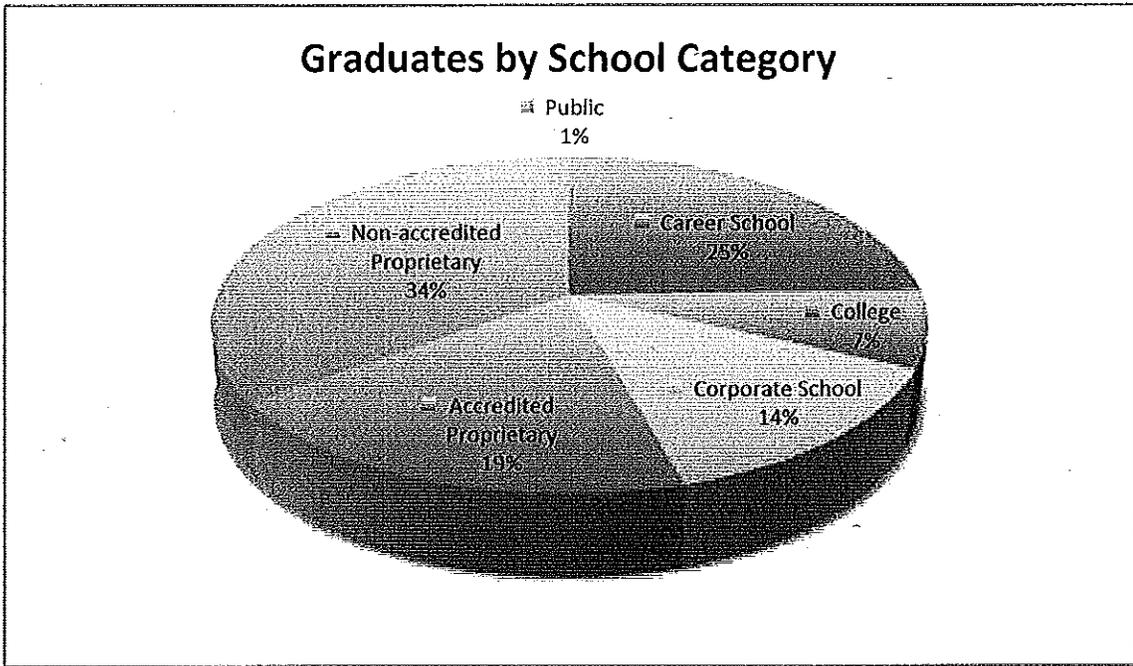


**GRADUATES**

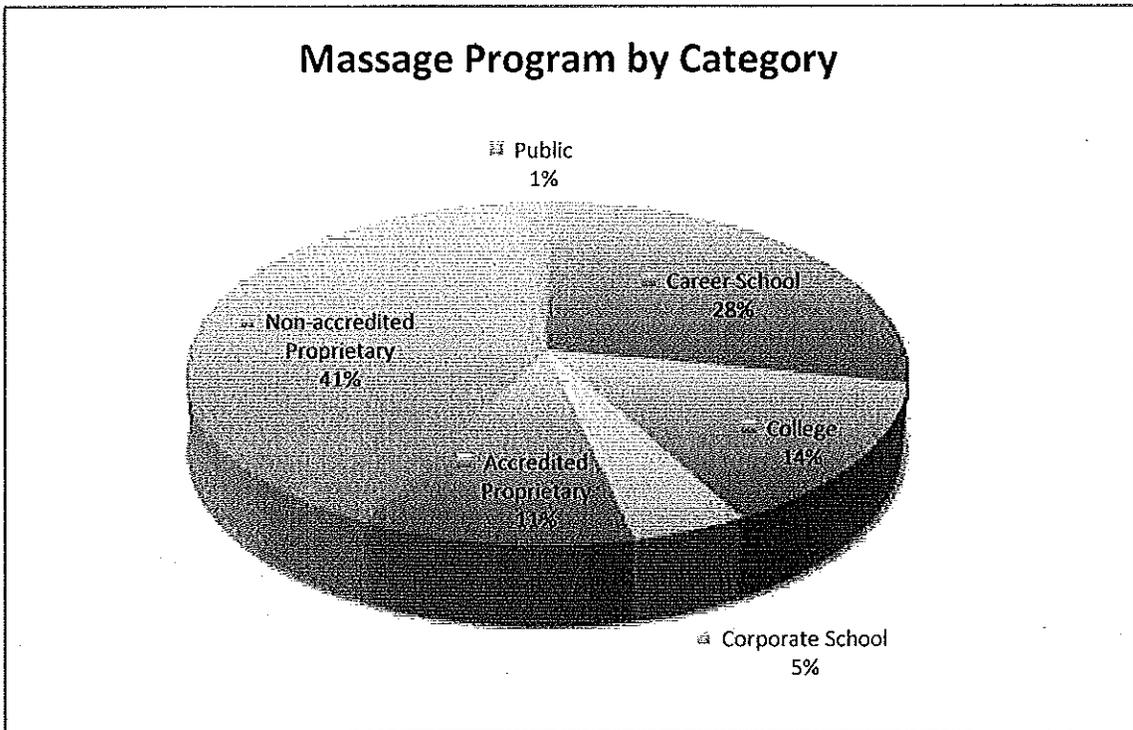
The number of graduates in 2012 extended a now eight-year decline from the historical peak of 2004, representing a 45% drop during the eight-year period. The number of graduates from massage therapy programs in 2010 dipped below 40,000 for the first time since 1998. However, the last time fewer than 40,000 students graduated from massage therapy programs in a year, there were nearly 700 fewer schools (in 1998).



The distribution of graduates by program category shows Corporate Massage Schools graduate 14% of all students, despite only representing 5% of all programs. Note that Proprietary schools are segmented into two subsets—Accredited and Non-accredited.



The significance of accreditation status for Proprietary schools can be seen by comparing the above graphic with the following one, which shows the proportion of all schools by category.



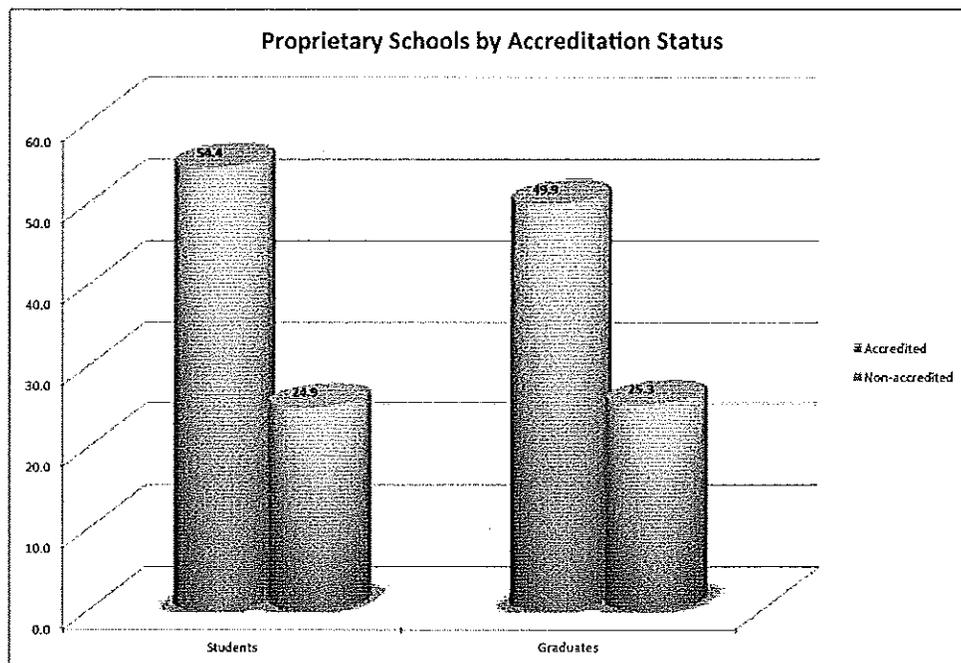
Two categories stand out because they have a larger market share than their program count would indicate. As previously mentioned, Corporate Massage Schools represent 5% of all programs, but graduate 14% of all students. Accredited proprietary schools represent 11% of all programs but graduate 19% of all students.

The converse exists for non-accredited proprietary schools and colleges—both graduate a smaller proportion than their program count represents.

### MORE FOCUS ON PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS

In four of the five school categories identified, access to federal (Title IV) financial aid is essentially automatic—only a couple Career Training Institutions are not Title IV-eligible, and all Corporate Massage School, College, and Public Institution programs are Title IV-eligible.

A significant segment of non-Title IV programs populate the Proprietary school category. Of the 686 programs in this category, only 141 (20.6%) of programs are accredited and Title IV-eligible. The enrollment survey gives insight to the difference accreditation and Title IV funding can make in a school's enrollment profile.



Accredited programs on average graduate nearly twice as many students as their non-accredited colleagues.

### CONCLUSIONS

Several items stand out when reviewing the data gathered:

- The attrition in the number of programs hit each school category—each of the five program categories declined from 2011 totals.
- The average number of graduates per school is half the total of 14 years ago.
- A formerly held opinion was that accreditation was a lifeline to smaller programs, and that future viability could be contingent upon offering Title IV financial aid. Interestingly, more career training institutions (all Title IV-eligible) ceased offering massage therapy programs (37, or 9% of the 2011 total) than proprietary schools (30, 4%). The actions of the U.S. Department of Education to reel in reckless behavior among “for-profit” educators undoubtedly is having an effect on all participants in Title IV-granting vocational education institutions, regardless of their past behaviors towards students. In other words, the “belt-tightening” has and will continue to effect all aid-eligible schools.

One reading the 2013 edition of this report might be inclined to dread the 2015 edition. But will this contraction trend continue? Are the 2013 results just the most recent stop on a continuing down escalator?

In our 2011 report, we asked, “How many students and graduates overall would be healthy for the massage profession? Did the boom years leave a glut of educated massage therapists who have been unable to sustain an economically viable career—meaning a continued decline in the number of graduates will help the market stabilize and help those remaining find sustainable work?”

We then added, “Eventually, as Adam Smith preached, the marketplace will find its equilibrium—demand and supply will match.”

Our prediction—which is a semi-educated guess based on our efforts in the massage education arena for the past 16 years, including conducting this census biennially—is that the decline will continue. We’re not yet at the bottom.

Massage is a viable career for the right individuals, and during the past decade the mushrooming growth of training options, combined with increased ease of federally-funded tuition assistance, has created a bubble of students that was unsustainable. The field is returning to a more normalized number of graduates—and may not yet be at that “normal” number. Given the activity within the education community as well, we believe that the attrition affecting the number of schools has lagged the enrollment number, and we would not be surprised to see 2015 results showing 30,000–35,000 graduates coming from 1,100 schools.

If that is the prediction, how will we get there? Continued attrition, school by school? An unbiased observer—such as an analyst—might look at this data and realize, “this field needs consolidation.” In 1998, fewer than half the number of schools produced more graduates than in 2012. The hundreds of small schools with minimal student populations have less cushion than ever to withstand the bumps of competition and a sluggish U.S. economy. Perhaps if more of these schools joined forces, a more robust training environment would emerge.

Our continuing professional challenge is to keep educating the public about the value of a life that includes massage therapy, attract and keep more customers (students and clients), and keep that equilibrium point as high as possible.



*Les Sweeney, NCTM, is President of Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals. For more information, email [les@abmp.com](mailto:les@abmp.com) or call 303-679-7612.*



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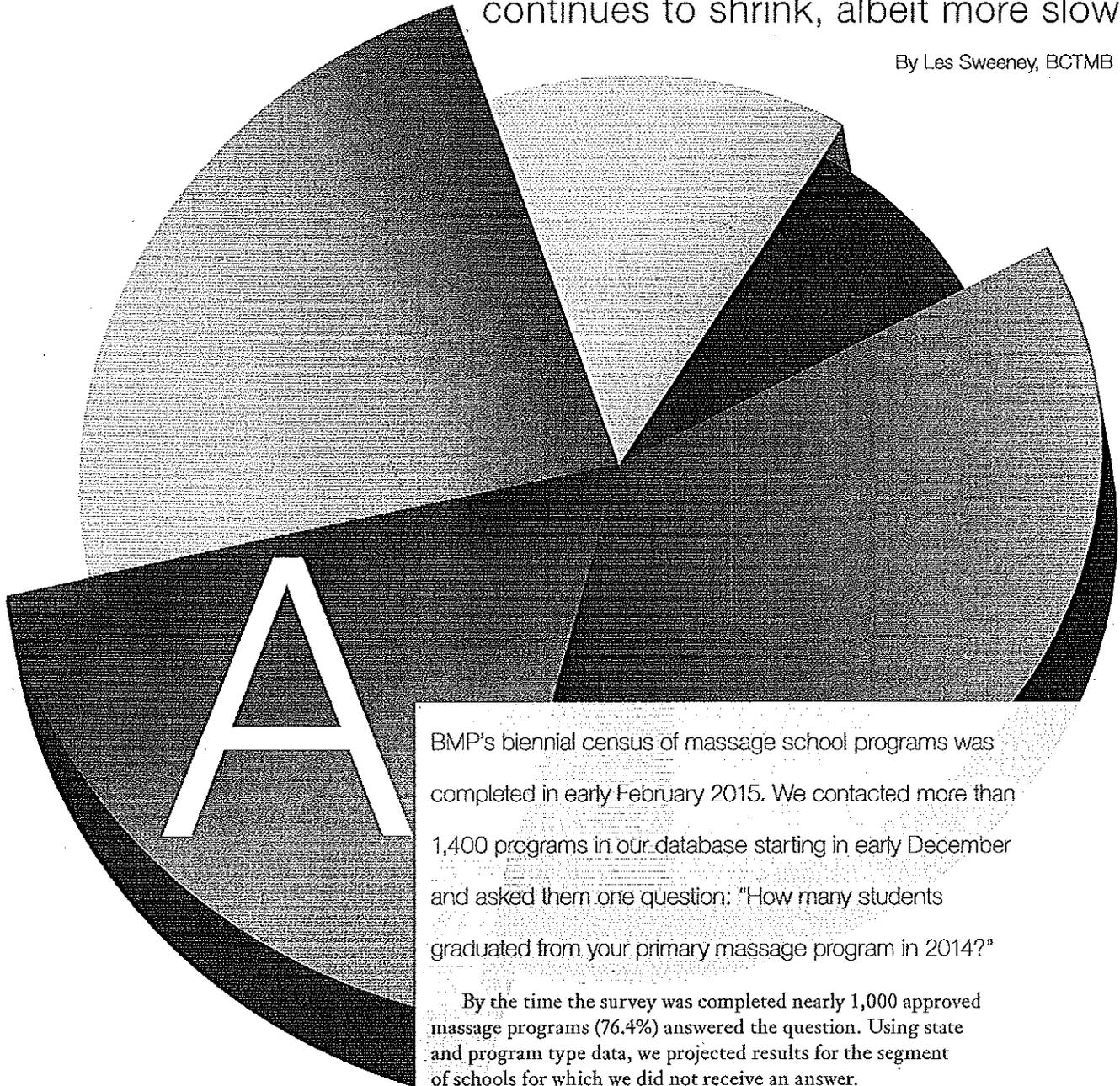
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# The Shrinking Pie

Version 3.0, 2015

Numbers of graduates and programs continues to shrink, albeit more slowly

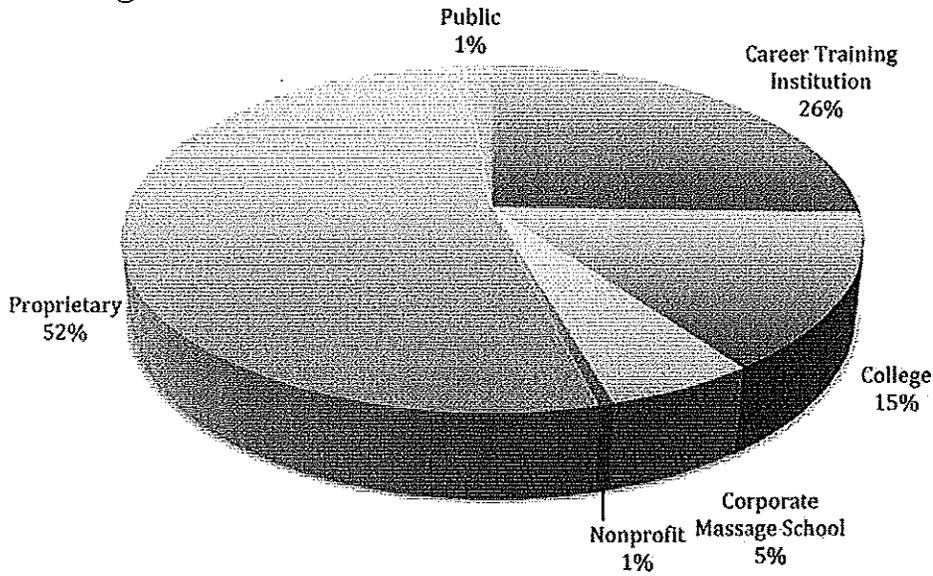
By Les Sweeney, BCTMB



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The current total of approved massage programs in the United States is 1,274. This is down 3.4% from 2012's total of 1,319, and down 20% from the peak of 1,600 recorded in 2008.

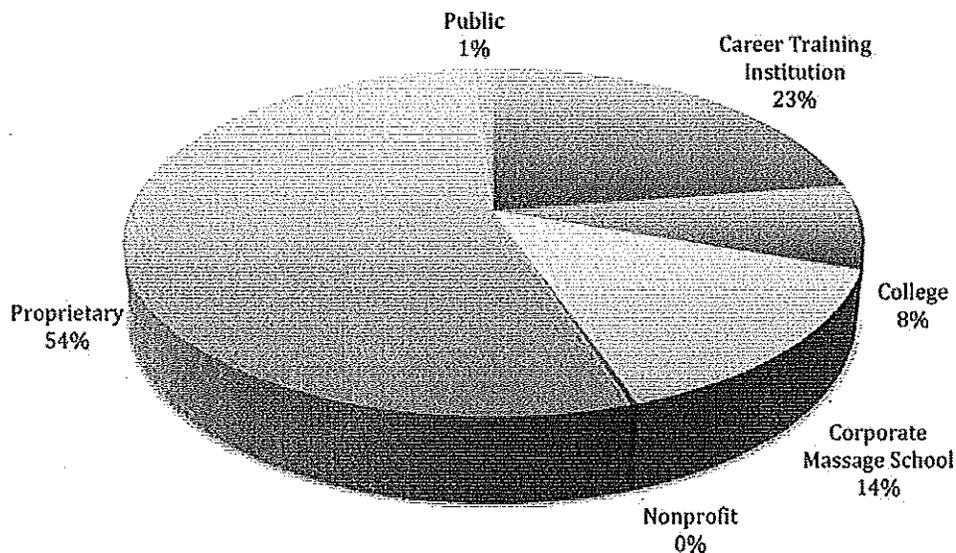
## Types of Programs



In 2014, those 1,274 programs graduated 36,305 students, resulting in an average number of graduates of 28.5 per program, down 4.2% from 2012's average of 29.8. In 2012, there were 39,251 graduates, meaning the number of new entrants into the field fell by just over 8%—the lowest percentage drop since graduation totals reached their peak in 2004.

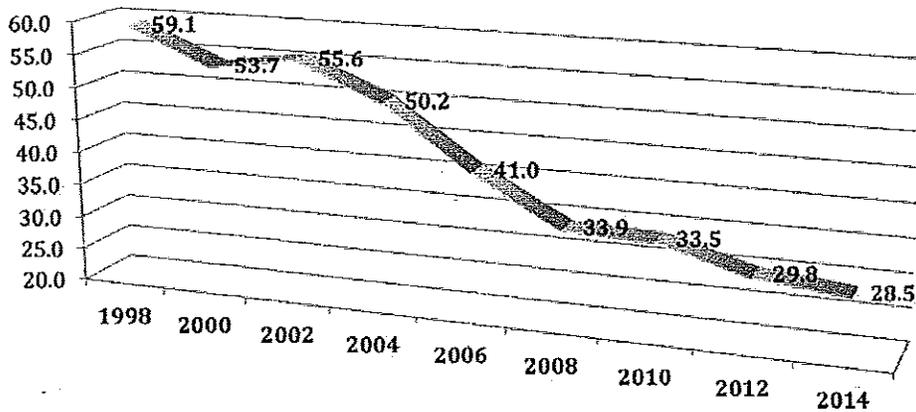
The number of “career institutions” that offer massage therapy—defined as multi-program institutions offering several career training programs in addition to massage therapy (typically medical and dental assisting, medical record-keeping, etc.)—fell 12.2%, from 370 to 325 programs. This is the lowest number of career institution programs since ABMP began tracking program type in 2004, and down 30% from the peak in 2006.

## Graduates by Program Type



Perhaps the most significant number identified is the overall trend of the average number of graduates per school, which has declined from a peak of just over 59 in 1998, to its low of 28.5 in the 2014 survey. The median number of graduates in 2014 was 20, which means that more than 600 programs are graduating fewer than 20 students per year. While program tuition has increased over the 16-year period, the number of smaller student cohorts portend a continued volatility in the massage program marketplace.

## Graduates Per Program

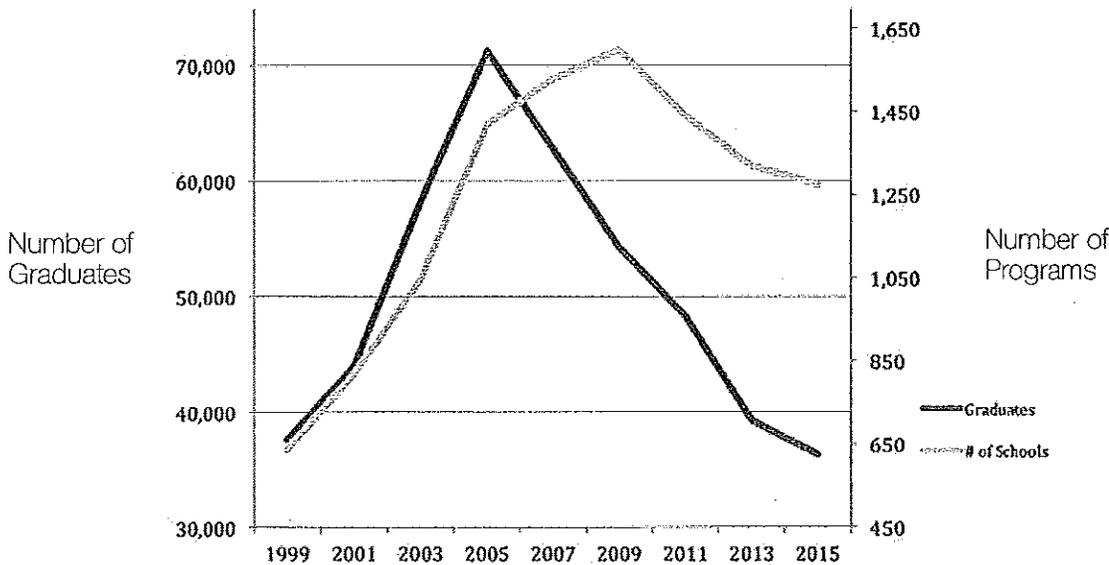


### Other survey highlights:

Programs that are Title IV aid-eligible reported a higher number of graduates (30.9) than non-eligible programs (25.3), but the margin was not as significant as in past years. In addition, the proportion of programs that are accredited/aid-eligible decreased slightly over 2012, down to 56.9% from 58.7%.

Specifically looking at Proprietary programs (institutions offering massage therapy and sometimes also spa programs, typically single campus, single owner), accredited/aid-eligible programs graduated on average 43.3 students, while non-accredited/aid-eligible programs graduated 25.6. This disparity shrank compared to 2012 (49.9 v. 25.3).

## Programs & Graduates



Les Sweeney, BCTMB, is President of Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals. For more information, email [les@abmp.com](mailto:les@abmp.com) or call 303-679-7612.

## **Accreditation – Benefits & Drawbacks**

Probably the main benefit of accreditation is the ability to offer Title IV funding to students. Readily available funds make the decision to attend a training program easier for many potential students & tend to increase enrollment numbers for schools. We are happy to remain a small school, in fact it is part of who we are. Many schools report that the availability of federal financial aid changes their student demographic & even their campus culture. We are happy with our primarily “non-traditional” students. School program length is also somewhat dictated by Title IV funding, as financial aid eligibility is based on students’ course load.

Some schools seek accreditation because they feel it lends prestige & legitimacy to their program, often promoting accreditation in marketing campaigns. Accreditation, however, is not an absolute mark of a program’s quality, as there are many examples of exceptional programs that are not accredited, along with examples of accredited institutions that are substandard. Accreditation does ensure that certain benchmarks (including program completion & career placement) are met & that a school conducts business according to accepted principles. This structure ensures that curricula & procedures are consistent with other schools accredited by the same agency, but it also removes some of the school’s flexibility. In Iowa, we already are held accountable to governmental bodies that ensure these standards.

The accreditation process provides a structure for a school to compare itself to an approved standard & to identify areas of strength & weakness, often leading to improved operational & educational procedures. On the flip side, is the increased workload for the school’s administrative staff, with the entire application process & record keeping consuming considerable time. This would surely increase the costs of operation, which would translate to higher tuition costs.

At this time, Inspirit has chosen to not be accredited, simply to be able to offer Title IV funding. We are aware that doing so, would ultimately increase the overall costs of our tuition. There are many options available to finance tuition, please see the financial matters section of this catalog for more information!