

(Effective until September 1, 2021)

WAC 246-830-430 Training. (1) A massage school, massage program or apprenticeship program education and training must have a curriculum and system of education and training consistent with its particular area of practice. The education and training in massage therapy will consist of a minimum of five hundred hours. An hour of education and training is defined as fifty minutes of actual instructional time. Certification in American Red Cross first aid and American Heart Association CPR or the equivalent is required. CPR training must be in person. This requirement is in addition to the five hundred hours of education and training in massage therapy. These five hundred hours are not to be completed in less than six months and must consist of the following:

(a) One hundred thirty hours of anatomy, physiology, and kinesiology including palpation, range of motion, and physics of joint function. There must be a minimum of forty hours of kinesiology.

(b) Fifty hours of pathology including indications and contraindications consistent with the particular area of practice.

(c) Two hundred sixty-five hours of theory and practice of massage to include techniques, remedial movements, body mechanics of the therapist, and the impact of techniques on pathologies. A maximum of fifty of these hours may include time spent in a student clinic. Hydrotherapy must be included when consistent with the particular area of practice.

(d) Fifty-five hours of clinical/business practices, at a minimum to include hygiene, recordkeeping, medical terminology, professional ethics, business management, human behavior, client or patient interaction, and state and local laws.

(2) To receive credit in an apprenticeship program for previous education and training, this education and training must have been completed within the five-year period prior to enrollment in the apprenticeship program.

(3) A student attending a massage school, massage program, transfer program or apprenticeship program outside the state of Washington must pass a jurisprudence exam.

(4) A massage school, massage program, transfer program or apprenticeship program may exempt a student from curriculum requirements when the student's successful performance on an examination that the massage school, massage program, transfer program or apprenticeship program administers demonstrates that the student has attained competency in that subject area as a result of prior postsecondary learning or training.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-430, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1). WSR 95-11-108, § 246-830-430, filed 5/23/95, effective 6/23/95; WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-430, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025. WSR 92-15-153 (Order 291B), § 246-830-430, filed 7/22/92, effective 8/22/92; WSR 91-01-077 (Order 102B), recodified as § 246-830-430, filed 12/17/90, effective 1/31/91; WSR 88-13-038 (Order PM 739), § 308-51A-040, filed 6/9/88.]

(Effective September 1, 2021)

WAC 246-830-430 Education and training. (1) A massage school, massage program, transfer program, or apprenticeship program education and training must have a curriculum and system of education and training consistent with its particular area of practice. The education and training in massage therapy will consist of a minimum of six hundred twenty-five hours. An hour of education and training is defined as fifty minutes of actual instructional time. Certification in American Red Cross first aid and American Heart Association CPR or the equivalent is required. CPR training must be in person. This requirement is in addition to the six hundred twenty-five hours of education and training in massage therapy. These six hundred twenty-five hours are to be completed in no fewer than twenty-four weeks and must consist of the following minimum requirements:

(a) Ninety hours of anatomy and physiology, to include orientation to the human body, and the integumentary, skeletal, fascial, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular and other body systems.

(b) Sixty hours of kinesiology to include muscle identification and palpation, location and attachment(s), actions, range of motion, and joint classification and function.

(c) Seventy hours of pathology to include general terminology and classification of diseases, the indications, contraindications, cautions and common adaptations to massage including, but not limited to, arthritis, bursitis, cancer, headaches, skin cancer and other skin conditions, diabetes, fasciitis, sprain, strain, tendinopathy, nerve compression syndromes, osteoporosis, stress, fibromyalgia and other chronic pain syndromes, common neurological diseases, autoimmune disorders, bloodborne pathogens, common cardiovascular diseases, reproductive systems, pregnancy, and any other health care issues as they relate to the practice of massage as defined in RCW 18.108.010.

(d) Two hundred sixty hours of theory, principles, and practice of massage to include history of massage, benefits and effects, techniques and strokes, body mechanics of the therapist, application methods and styles, concepts of basic research, session planning and the adaptation of techniques appropriate to stages of healing, to include the safe use of superficial heat, cold, lubricants and salts, and considerations relevant to special populations.

(e) Fifty hours of mandatory student clinic to be directly supervised as defined in WAC 246-830-005(9) and in accordance with WAC 246-830-420 (1)(d), with a ratio of no less than one instructor to no more than six students who are actively performing massage. For those education and training programs beyond six hundred twenty-five hours, in no case may the number of student clinic hours exceed seventy-five hours.

(f) Fifty-five hours of clinical/business practices, at a minimum to include hygiene, sanitation, draping, recordkeeping, billing and insurance concepts, medical terminology, business models and management, and laws and rules relevant to massage and massage businesses.

(g) Forty hours of professional ethics to include the therapeutic relationship of the massage therapist and client or patient, human behavior, communication skills, professional boundaries, standards of ethical practice, and state laws and rules related to massage and health care ethics.

(2) To receive credit in an apprenticeship program for previous education and training, this education and training must have been completed within the five-year period prior to enrollment in the apprenticeship program.

(3) Only a board approved transfer program may exempt a student from curriculum requirements and grant credit or clock hours when the student's successful performance on an examination that the transfer program or apprenticeship program administers demonstrates that the student has attained competency in that subject area as a result of prior postsecondary learning or training. Any credits or clock hours granted pursuant to this subsection must be documented and retained in the student's record.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-430, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025 (1)(a), 18.108.085 (1)(a), 43.70.041 and chapter 18.108 RCW. WSR 17-14-062, § 246-830-430, filed 6/29/17, effective 7/30/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025(1). WSR 95-11-108, § 246-830-430, filed 5/23/95, effective 6/23/95; WSR 94-13-181, § 246-830-430, filed 6/21/94, effective 7/22/94. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.025. WSR 92-15-153 (Order 291B), § 246-830-430, filed 7/22/92, effective 8/22/92; WSR 91-01-077 (Order 102B), recodified as § 246-830-430, filed 12/17/90, effective 1/31/91; WSR 88-13-038 (Order PM 739), § 308-51A-040, filed 6/9/88.]