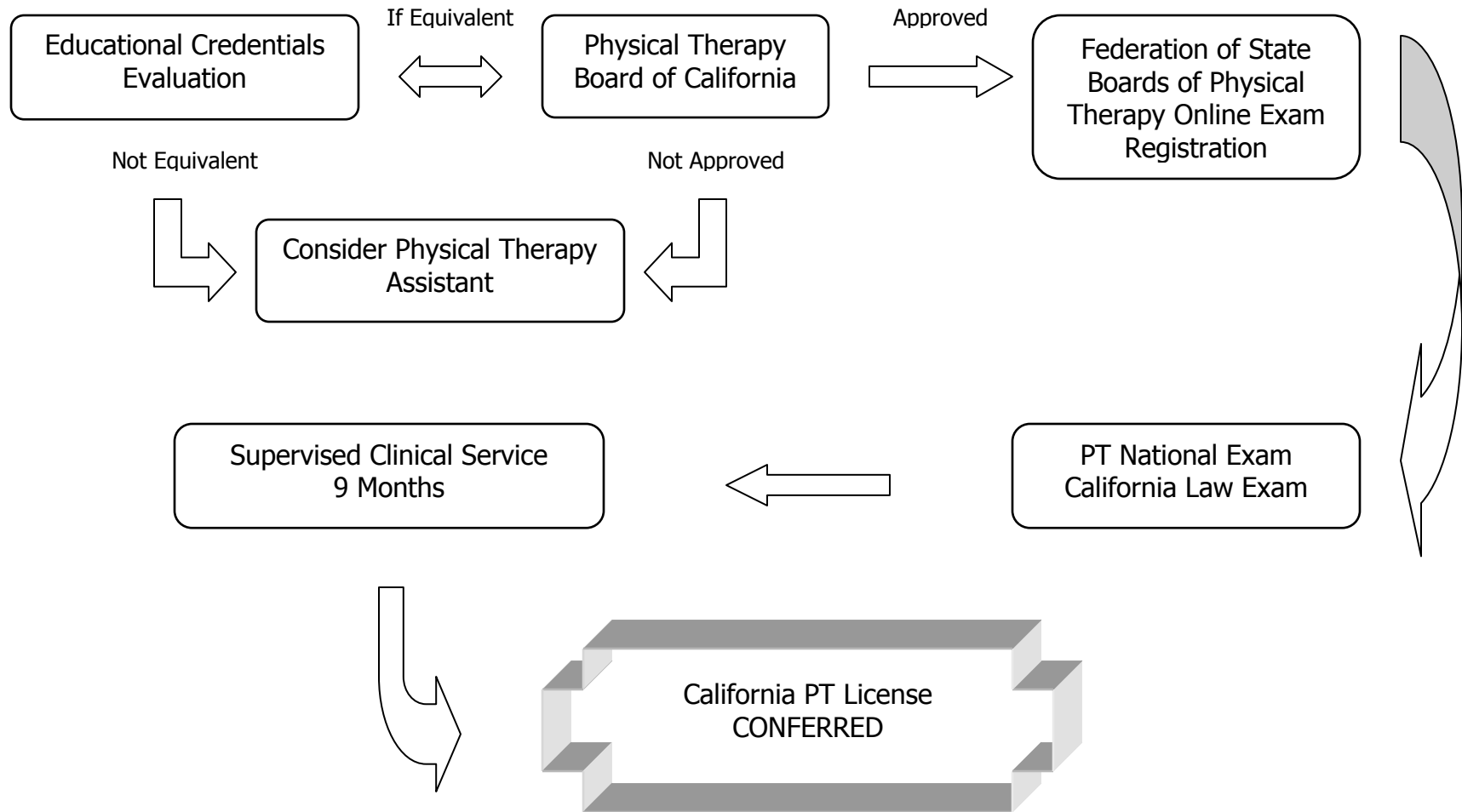




# U.S. Licensing Process for Foreign Physical Therapists

## Overview



**Disclaimer:** This information is provided only as an overview. All programs, processes, and/or fees are subject to change. Please verify above information with appropriate agency or governing body.

1. **Educational Credentials Evaluation** - If you are a physical therapy graduate from a school outside of the United States, the first step is to go to the American Physical Therapy Association website ([www.apta.org](http://www.apta.org)) and see if your school is on the accreditation list. As of 2007, this list is very small. If your school is not on the list, you must have your educational credentials evaluated by an approved credential evaluation service. Request a Subject Breakdown of your education. Please note that the evaluation must not be sent directly to the Physical Therapy Board of California by the evaluation service. If approved, Credentialing Evaluation Service will send in a sealed envelope to applicant the P1F. The approved Credential Evaluation Services in 2007 are:
  - Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy**- 124 West Street South, Alexandria, VA, Tel- (703) 684-8406
  - International Consultants of Delaware, Inc.**, - 3600 Market Street, Suite 450, Philadelphia, PA, Tel- (215) 349-6023
  - International Credentialing Associates, Inc.**, - 7245 Bryan Dairy Rd, Largo, FL, 33777 Tel- (727) 549-8555
  - International Education Research Foundation, Inc.**, - PO Box 3665, Culver City, CA 90231, Tel- (310) 258-9451 [www.ierf.org](http://www.ierf.org)
2. **Physical Therapy Board of California**- You should submit the “Application for Physical Therapist Examination and/or Licensure” form to the Board after receiving the sealed envelope with the P1F. The Board advises foreign trained physical therapists from a non-accredited PT program to submit only the application processing fees (\$200 in 2010) and fingerprint card fees (\$51 in 2010) with the application. Do not submit the Initial License Fee or Examination Fee until the Board approves you to take the exam. An application cannot be accepted without a social security number. The address for the Physical Therapy Board of California is 2005 Evergreen Street Suite 1350, Sacramento, CA 95815. Tel- (916) 561-8200; Fax- (916) 263-2560. You can go to their website at [www.ptb.ca.gov](http://www.ptb.ca.gov).
3. **Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy**- Once you receive notification from the Physical Therapy Board of California that you are eligible, follow their instructions on how to register to take the **National Physical Therapy Examination**. If you are instructed to register on line go to the Federation of State Boards on Physical Therapy website at <https://www.fsbpt.net/pt> and follow their instructions. FSBPT will send you an “Authorization to Test” letter that will give you instructions on how to schedule taking the exam at one of the Prometric test centers. The Prometric Web site is [www.2test.com](http://www.2test.com).
4. **National Physical Therapy Exam**- The online registration cost for the National Physical Therapy Exam in 2010 is \$370. The physical therapy exam has 225 questions and you are allowed 4 ½ hours to answer the questions. You can go to the FSBPT web site at [www.fsbpt.org](http://www.fsbpt.org) for a description of the exam. The results of the exam will be sent directly to the Physical Therapy Board of California. You must also register to take the **California Law Examination** which cost in 2010 is \$50. You can find a study guide for this exam at [www.ptb.ca.gov](http://www.ptb.ca.gov). Click on Licensing, then on Licensing Application Process.
5. **Supervised Clinical Service**- After you pass both the National Physical Therapy Exam and the California Law Examination, you are required to complete nine months of supervised clinical service under the direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist. The Physical Therapy Board of California must approve the clinical site. After your supervised clinical service, your clinical supervisor must submit a completed APTA Physical Therapist Clinical Performance Instrument (evaluation of your clinical service) to the board for approval. If this is satisfactory, you will then be able to obtain your license as a physical therapist in California.

\*\* If your education does not meet the Board requirements for Physical Therapists or if after several attempts you are unable to pass the exams, you can consider applying for a license to the Physical Therapy Board of California as a Physical Therapy Assistant. Obtaining a license as a Physical Therapist Assistant also requires a national exam.