

North Carolina Board of Podiatry Examiners Annual Report 2020-2021

PURPOSE

The Board of Podiatry Examiners for the State of North Carolina (NCBPE) was established by North Carolina General Statute (90-202.2 to 90-202.14) as North Carolina's licensing and registry board for the profession of podiatry. The NCBPE consists of four members, three North Carolina licensed podiatrists and one member from the community. All members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms.

The purpose of NCBPE is to serve the best interests of the public and medical profession by evaluating the initial and continuing qualifications of podiatrists in the state of North Carolina. All candidates are expected to have completed a baccalaureate degree. This is normally required for admission to colleges of podiatric medicine. All podiatrists licensed by the NCBPE have attained the Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) degree from an accredited college of podiatric medicine. All candidates are expected to have completed or be working towards completion of a postdoctoral residency program. The Board reviews the qualifications of candidates; conducts oral, practical and written examinations; and issues licenses. In addition to issuing licenses, the Board also on occasion suspends, revokes or cancels licenses of podiatrists in the state of North Carolina.

All podiatrists in the state are required to renew their licenses annually. NCBPE renewal of licensure indicates that the podiatrist has completed a process that requires participation in 25 hours of continuing education related to podiatry from an accredited provider/s.

GENERAL STATUTE REFERENCE

North Carolina General Statute (90-202.2 to 90-202.14)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT REFERENCE

 $\frac{http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp?folderName=\Title\%2021\%20-\\ \%20Occupational\%20Licensing\%20Boards\%20and\%20Commissions\Chapter\%2052\%20-\\ \%20Podiatry\%20Examiners$

Title 21-Occupational Licensing Boards and Commissions, Chapter 52-Podiatry Examiners

HISTORY; BOARD COMPOSITION; STAFFING; HEADQUARTERS

Established February 1, 1919 by North Carolina General Assembly.

The NCBPE consists of four members, three North Carolina licensed podiatrists and one member from the community. All members are appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Members and officers of the Board of Podiatry Examiners of the State of North Carolina are as follows:

Dr. James Judge, DPM (Term II ends 6/30/2024)

President

Wake Foot and Ankle Center

833-C Wake Forest Business Park

Wake Forest, NC 27587

Dr. Alan Bocko, DPM (Term I ends 6/30/2023) **Vice President** Chapel Hill Foot & Ankle Specialists 1506 E Franklin St, Ste 104 Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dr. J. Scott Stancil, DPM (Term I ends 6/30/2022) **Secretary-Treasurer** Family Foot & Ankle Physicians 1432 E Fire Tower Rd Greenville, NC

Tanzy Wallace (Term I ends 6/30/2023) **Public Member**Shelby, NC 27565

Executive Secretary & Official Board Address:

Tracy Steadman NC Board of Podiatry Examiners 1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102 Raleigh, NC 27607

The North Carolina Board of Podiatry Examiners (NCBPE) contracts annually with a management firm, FirstPoint Management Resources, Inc., in Raleigh and, therefore, does not employ any staff members directly nor lease office space directly. The management firm's office is used as the NCBPE's headquarters and Executive Secretary's address: 1500 Sunday Drive, Suite 102, Raleigh, NC 27607.

CURRENT STATISTICS

As of May 31, 2021, there were 441 North Carolina licensed podiatrists. Two (2) of these were temporary licensees working on a military installation in the state, and three (3) others were temporary licensees in a clinical residency program at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital. A total of 96 N.C. licensed podiatrists practiced outside the state and 345 in the state. There were 188 Professional Corporations and PLLCs registered with the Board for 2019. Of the 188 corporations, 43 have multiple offices. Zero (0) corporate Administrative Suspensions were issued in the first part of 2021 (non-payment of fees), and there were zero new corporations opened in the first part of 2021. We have noticed a trend of podiatry offices either joining medical practices or other podiatry practices to offer more locations but fewer corporations.

2020-2021 RENEWALS

427 licenses were renewed for the 2020-2021 renewal period.

- 16 persons were granted new licenses (1/9/21)
- 3 persons were granted temporary restricted licenses.
- 0 person applied for license by reciprocity or comity
- 0 persons were granted license by reciprocity or comity
- 2 licenses were retired or surrendered voluntarily (6/30/20)
- 5 licenses were revoked due to non-payment of renewal fees (1/1/21)
- 1 license was terminated due to death.
- 0 license is pending suspension/revocation
- 0 license was terminated for any other reason other than failure to pay the required renewal fee.

2021 NEW LICENSEES

On January 11, 2021, 16 podiatrists who passed the 2020 exam were granted licenses to practice podiatry in North Carolina following a practice- and ethics-training and exam via Zoom on January 9, 2021.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The Board received 8 formal complaints about licensees between June 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. There are seven (7) grievances that were still under investigation at the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year. There were no disciplinary hearing during the year.

2020 LICENSURE EXAM

A total of 18 candidates applied for the exam and 16 examinees sat for the modified one-day oral, written and practical examination. 15 of the 16 candidates who took the first part of the exam passed, of which 15 returned for the virtual practice-and-ethics exam which all passed. Sixteen (16) initial licenses were issued. No one was refused for examination if all their application materials were received in a timely manner.

MILITARY APPLICANTS

A total of 0 applications were received for a military spouse.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

25 Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit hours are required for license renewal, including one (1) hour of controlled substances/opioid prescribing. The Board of Podiatry Examiners issued an amendment to its Administrative Rule, 21 NCAC 52.0208, which, added the one additional hour pursuant to S.L. 2015-241, s. 12F16(b) and (c).

RENEWAL

Renewal fees are \$200.00 annually. The fee for new licensee certificates is \$100.00. Currently, late fees are \$25.00 per month beginning July 1 of the renewal year. Late fees were assessed to all incomplete applications.

PROPOSED STATUTORY AMENDMENTS

No statutory amendments are proposed at this time.

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AMENDMENTS

No administrative rules are proposed at this time.