

North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure, NCBRTL

2020-2021 Year-end Summary Report

During 2020-2021 NCBRTL as all entities continued through the pandemic, Recreational Therapy faced impacts on internships, applicants and licenses.

NCBRTL follows national certification board's internship standards due to out of state internships and an alternative Internship guide was developed. This guide set parameters for interrupted internships to be completed at alternative sites or remotely. North Carolina Recreational Therapy Educators adopted position paper on the interrupted Internships continued through the year. The educators included representatives from NCBRTL during this development to ensure standards were met. This was viewed as a positive movement for the best practices within the profession.

NCBRTL continued with allowances for licensee extensions of 90 Days to submit all fees and continuing education documents upon request until March 31, giving licensees 90 days notice (August 6-2021) to complete missing fees and Renewal documents. As of June 30th, 43 licensees made this request and 32 have already completed the requirements; 11 remain open.

The Records Manager continues to receive mail, file and assist with online training sessions.

Board members Dr. Russ Greenfield, the physician member has submitted his resignation effective June 30, 2021.

Rules: NCBRTL Is beginning to review possibility of changing education requirements to 6 RT content courses from present 5. The plans to survey current licensees to review impact of possible rule change on course requirements.

NCBRTL issued new 113 licenses to applicants, a 30% decrease.

However, have a greater number of "open" or incomplete applications. 53 applications are currently open.

Out of State applicants 27 this year. A 62% increase of out of state applicants.

As well, as 24 Inactive Status Requests, 0 return to active from Inactive

Issued 13 Reinstatements (___% increase)

Issued 5 Reentries (past Reinstatement period)

Issued 2 Denials

LRT requests reasons

-one did not have RT coursework

- one did not have Internship Course documented on Official transcript

No Military Trained licensees were issued, to date, there is no Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Training for Recreational therapy in the military, NCBRTL does have a Rule, 21 NCAC65 .0902 Military Exemption to accept any MOS military applicants if received.

Total Licensees as of June 30, 2020

New issue LRT 113 a 24 % decrease from 2020-21

New issue LRTA 2 a 66% decrease

Inactive Status 18

Reinstatements 9 a 30% decrease

Reentries 5

New Licensees by NC School

ECU 21 50% decrease

UNCG 16 50% decrease

UNCW 21 remained the same

WCU 14 remained the same

WSSU 7 remained the same

Catawba 3 50% decrease

NCCU 1

Mt Olive 0

Out of State Schools 23 different schools 4 from Clemson, 27 out of state applicants accepted

Two-year NC Schools (Assistant level)

WPPC 2

Licenses issued by month

July 2020 10

Aug 2020 9

Sept 2020 8

Oct 2020 7

Nov 2020 2

Dec 2020 6

Jan 2021 15

Feb 2021 18

Mar 2021 8

Apr 2021 9

May 2021 10

June 2021 11

NCBRTL On average, NCBRTL approved 9.5 licenses per month, the larger months being, February (18), January (15) viewed as a result due to completion of internships and exam offering dates. July (10), August (9) and April (9) being the next larger months. The least received in Nov (2) and December (5). Given the pandemic, interrupted internships and closed testing sites, there was a drop from last year however only a slight dip of, a 30% decrease. The amount of incomplete applications that are currently pending, the numbers are anticipated to continue to rise as testing sites reopen.

The required Compliance and Ethics Training continues to assist licensees in understanding the Chapter 90C, 21 NCAC 65 Rules, and annual requirements. NCBRTL offers the required training for first year licensees. Registration for existing licensees is open for continuing education credit and increased knowledge of the law and requirements. The NCBRTL Compliance and Ethics Training was offered virtually via Zoom with 240 participants. NCBRTL will be offering Compliance and Ethics Training through Zoom webinars due to limitations of groups and pandemic standards. NCBRTL continues to Review how best to educate licensees to compliance.

Disciplinary Actions take in 2020-2021

Compliance Issues:

Nine licensees allowed licenses to expire and returned by Reinstatement.

Unsubstantiated Report investigated. No unfounded reports taken this year.

Misconduct:

- 1) One LRT self reported taking prescription drugs from a patient. License was Revoked.
- 2) One LRT was dismissed from employment for inappropriate interactions with clients and placed on probation and requested to work under supervision of LRT. 2nd employer dismissal for inappropriate interactions and leaving a treatment room while patient was acting out, License suspended and medical Fitness for Duty report requested. (pending)
- 3) Two LRTs were “horseplaying” with safety alert systems and set them off 3 times.

Future Goals and Plans

NCBRTL identified inconsistencies in internship ratings and offerings across NC and developed an Internship Manual development Training to narrow the inconsistencies. The first training was offered via Zoom in a 3 part series 26 participated Summer of 2021.

NCBRTL moved website to new server sharing with NC OT Board and Massage Board. Transition was somewhat problematic and caused site to be down for several days. Licensees were notified and those due were given an extension until the end of the month NCBRTL updated the website to improve functionality and allow for additional option for online payments, ability to upload required documents and ease of use. Response has decreased “mailing” of hard copy document issues and increased efficiency and speed of license approvals. The improved functionality has increased and ease of online Renewals as well. These efforts were extremely beneficial and timely during the pandemic. NCBRTL never had to cease operations throughout any of the phases of State of Emergencies. NCBRTL was able to allow the continuation of healthcare workforce throughout the pandemic.