

September 9, 2015

Bob Jantsch  
Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy  
3600 Laketon Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Dear Bob,

I am writing to praise Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy and your instructors. I graduated July 2014 and this year, I moved to Oregon. The licensing process for Oregon is a bit more complicated than Pennsylvania. They don't require as many education hours as Pennsylvania, so that requirement was easy for me. However, they do require a board practical exam. They are one of the few states that do. I was nervous about the exam, but confident in the education I received at Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy.

The exam tests communication and assessment skills, massage skills and kinesiology. It includes a ten minute massage demo in the modality of your choice, draping skills, communication about your modality, instructions for the client, pathology indications and contraindications and finally the kinesiology portion. For the kinesiology part you randomly choose five muscles from a large list and you have to outline them on a client's bare skin, and then demonstrate and name all the actions, you also must show a stretch and shortened position of two additional muscles.

From researching the exam prior to moving here, I knew that a majority of out-of-state candidates fail the exam on the kinesiology questions. Out of the 94 muscles that were listed that you must be ready to outline and name actions, there were only two that were not covered at the school. I felt really prepared for the exam. I credit Kenn Howard and his Anatomy 1 class for this preparation. The knowledge I gained in that class was invaluable as I prepared for this exam.

The skills and instruction I received from Diane Brinsko and Sharon Parisi in Swedish prepared me for the massage demo portion. Solid draping skills, confidence in showing a strictly Swedish massage demo and good communication skills all came right from their awesome instruction. I had just spoken with Diane last spring at a CEU class, and when I told her I was nervous about this upcoming practical, she reassured me and gave me encouragement and even offered to talk me through my nerves about the pathology portion of the exam over the phone. I'm not sure many teachers out there would care so much and be so generous with their time. She reminded me of things she'd already taught me, asking the client questions about signs and symptoms and evaluation those to make sure that massage is indicated. After talking to her, I felt so much better about the exam. And, I was so proud to be a graduate of the Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy and the student of these really special instructors.

So, a very big thank you to the school, to you as Director, and especially to my instructors during my time there, Kenn Howard, Diane Brinsko, Sharon Parisi, Timothy Kocher-Hillmer, Pete Burrows and Jim Battista. The education they provided me truly got me through the rigorous Oregon Board exam process and most importantly have helped me give safe and effective massages during my short time as a Licensed Massage Therapist.

I am enclosing a copy of my scores, although I did request that the Oregon Board send you my scores when I applied for the exam, so you may receive something from them. I'm proud to have scored an overall 95%, and a 99% on the kinesiology section.

Thank you,

  
Duanea (Dee) Myers

Enclosure