

Massage Therapy (A.A.S. and Certificate)

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

A. **Massage Therapy Information Session:**
Applicants must attend an admissions information session specific to massage therapy. It is strongly suggested that an applicant attend an information session before beginning the application process.

B. Academic Readiness

1. Applicants are required to take the college placement test in accordance with the application procedures stated on pages 14-15.
2. Admission to the Massage Therapy Program requires the ability to begin EN 101 and BI 130.
3. In addition, all Massage Therapy applicants must take the reading placement test and achieve a score of 80 or higher.
4. Students must have a GPA of 2.25 to enter MT 101, MT 102, and MT 110.
5. **Bodywork Requirement:** An applicant must submit documentation on an official college form, verifying that he/she has received one massage from a licensed massage therapist within the past two years. It is the applicant's responsibility to pay for the massage.
6. Students who do not meet all of the Massage Therapy program criteria, may not be accepted into the Massage Therapy program, but may be accepted into the college while completing prerequisites. Basic

skills course work is available for students who do not meet placement test criteria. Basic science courses (Human Biology or Introductory Chemistry) are available for applicants who do not have the prerequisites for BI 130.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A. **Health Assessment:** Massage Therapy students should be in good health to safely participate in the Massage Therapy program. An annual health assessment is required of all Massage Therapy students and must be submitted to the College Nurse. Students will be notified of the due date for the health assessment report at the time they register. Students with missing or incomplete health assessment reports will not be permitted to attend Massage Therapy classes or clinical experiences. Since attendance is a requirement of the Massage Therapy program, nonattendance can result in failing of the course.
- B. Students must have current certification in CPR/First Aid at the time of graduation. Current certification is a requirement to take the NYS licensing examination.
- C. Massage Therapy students must achieve a grade of C or better in AH 105, BI 130, BI 131, BI 134, BI 135, BI 234 and all MT courses.
- Students must maintain a 2.25 GPA to continue enrollment in the Massage Therapy program.

D. In order to qualify and remain enrolled in the Massage Therapy program, students must exhibit the following criterion-referenced behavior. This will be evaluated in a classroom evaluation tool which will be distributed with the course syllabus. There are four categories of criterion referenced behavior: Sensory/Observation, Communication, Motor/Strength/Coordination, and Behavioral & Interpersonal Attributes. (See expanded descriptions below)

Sensory/Observation: A student must demonstrate a touch sensitivity that is sufficient to perform palpation and to note changes in soft tissue tone and consistency. A student must demonstrate the ability to observe clients noting changes in skin, posture and gait (walking).

Communication: A student must be able to observe and communicate clearly with the client to elicit information, accurately describe changes in mood, activity and posture and be able to perceive verbal as well as nonverbal communications. A student must demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively in both oral and written form with clients and other members of the health care team.

Motor/Strength/Coordination: A student must show sufficient motor function and strength to elicit information and perform therapeutic massage procedures on clients by palpation and by skillful movement of the limbs, head and neck. A student must also possess the strength and coordination necessary to assist clients to assume comfortable positions. A student must have the dexterity to handle equipment, devices and

assistive materials such as sheets, lubricants, orthotic pillows, etc. A student must be able to execute motor movements required to provide emergency and first aid care to clients such as CPR, applying pressure to stop bleeding and opening an obstructed airway. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and the sense of touch.

Behavioral & Interpersonal Attributes: A student must demonstrate the ability to work with empathy, compassion, integrity, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation. A student must demonstrate the ability to fully utilize his or her intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the care of clients. Students must be able to function effectively under stress. Students are also expected to accept appropriate suggestions and criticisms offered by faculty members and if necessary, respond by modification of behavior.

If a faculty member identifies a challenge for any of the above 4 criteria, the following procedure will be initiated.

- Student will be notified to stop the behavior.
- The behavior will be documented in writing
- Student will receive notification of what needs to change and in what time frame. Failure to meet the above criteria may result in a failing grade in the course.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Any applicant who has been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony under New York State law, Federal Law, or the law of another jurisdiction will be subject to a review by an investigator for the Office of Professional Discipline, New York State Education Department, prior to a licensing decision. Upon acceptance to the program, students must immediately notify the Vice President and Dean of Students and Enrollment Management of any convictions. A graduate of the program may apply for and take the New York State Licensing Exam for Massage Therapy. However, the license will be held by the State Education Department until any necessary investigation or hearing is completed and the Commissioner of Education makes a decision.

CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITIES

1. To challenge courses a student must be matriculated with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00.
2. A minimum of 30 semester hours of C-GCC in-classroom instruction must be completed for a degree to be awarded at C-GCC. In addition, New York State has very specific requirements governing hours of classroom instruction related to Massage Therapy to qualify for the New York State Licensing Examination. Prior approval is required from the Massage Therapy advisor before making challenge decisions. Documentation of equivalent hours and relevant course outlines and descriptions must be submitted.
3. CLEP examinations are recommended for students who wish to show proficiency in EN 101 (Composition), EN 102 (Composition and Literature), PY 101 (General Psychology), Social Sciences, Humanities and Mathematics. Departmental Challenge Exams are available for students who want to show proficiency in BI 130 (Anatomy & Physiology I), and BI 131 (Anatomy & Physiology II).
4. Permission to challenge MT 101 (Western Massage I) is granted to a student who is a licensed massage therapist or persons who have completed equivalent course work. Copy of the license or official transcript must be provided. Students must be matriculated into the Massage Therapy Program. The student must complete the challenge application form and pay a \$75 non-refundable fee prior to the challenge examination. The student must first successfully complete a written examination and then a campus clinical examination to be awarded credit for MT 101.