



FCCPT Re-authorization and Type I Requirements

On March 22, 2017 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) **re-authorized the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCPT) to issue the Health Care Workers (Type I) Certificate for immigration.** The approval is retroactive to March 22, 2015 and lasts until March 2020.

In the re-authorization, USCIS clarified its position regarding requirements for FCCPT to issue the Health Care Worker's Certificate. USCIS stated that it does not mandate a minimum degree title or number of credit hours required for the Type I certificate. USCIS referred to federal regulations at 8 CFR Section 212.15(f)(1)(i), requiring that foreign-educated physical therapists (PTs) demonstrate a level of education comparable to the U.S. educated PT.

Based on the USCIS guidance, the FCCPT Board of Directors approved the following eligibility requirements for the Type I certificate. Effective **April 1, 2017**, FCCPT will consider the education of foreign-educated PTs comparable or substantially equivalent to the U.S. educated PT if the education demonstrates the following:

1. **Post-bachelor's degree:** The first professional degree in physical therapy must be a bachelor's degree or higher. If the first professional degree is a bachelor's degree, the candidate must also possess a Master's degree or higher in any subject. Transitional DPT (tDPT) post-professional degrees offered by regionally-accredited universities that also have a CAPTE-accredited professional DPT program are accepted as post-bachelor's degrees.
2. **Meets CWT6 Requirements:** The education meets the content requirements of the Coursework Tool 6 (CWT6); and
3. **Minimum Credits – 210:** The education (general + professional education) possesses a minimum of the equivalent of 210 U.S. semester credits. The professional education component of the education must contain a minimum of 90 credits. *(These credit requirements do not apply to application for licensure).*

The April 1, 2017 effective date applies to all Type I services currently In Review or Pending (for Immigration), and all new applications for the Type I Reviews received on or after April 1st.

If you have any additional questions please contact us through the Call Center at 1.703.684.8406. Please be aware that many people will be trying to call. If you cannot get through, please contact us with your file # through e-mail at Help@FCCPT.org.