

## **MESSAGE THERAPY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL “Career and School Information You Should Know”**

### **Illinois Licensing Requirements for Massage**

Each applicant must meet the following requirements in order to qualify for a license in Illinois:

1. The applicant has applied in writing on the prescribed forms and has paid the required fees.
2. The applicant is at least 18 years of age and of good moral character. In determining good moral character, the Department may take into consideration conviction of any crime under the laws of the United States or any state or territory thereof that is a felony or a misdemeanor or any crime that is directly related to the practice of the profession. Such a conviction shall not operate automatically as a complete bar to a license, except in the case of any conviction for prostitution, rape, or sexual misconduct, or where the applicant is a registered sex offender.
3. The applicant has met one of the following requirements:(A) has successfully completed the curriculum or curriculums of one or more massage therapy schools approved by the Department that require a minimum of 500 hours and has passed a competency examination approved by the Department; (B) holds a current license from another jurisdiction having licensure requirements that meet or exceed those defined within this Act; or (C) has moved to Illinois from a jurisdiction with no licensure requirement and has provided documentation that he or she has successfully passed the National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork's examination or another massage therapist certifying examination approved by the Department and maintains current certification.

**Safety Requirements:** The practice of massage therapy involves the use of implements as well as chemicals that could be hazardous. Attention to proper safety procedures, which protect both client and technician, are very important, and will be taught during the course.

**Physical Demands:** The physical demands for a massage therapist are primarily the extensive use of the hands for body manipulation related to massage services and the application of skin care products.

**Compensation:** Did you know Americans spend three to four times as much for salon services as they do for clothing? A recent study conducted for the National Accrediting Commission of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences, Job Demand in the Cosmetology Industry, 2007 found this, and many other important facts to be true. Due to an increasing client base, salons are presently experiencing a severe shortage of workers. A license in massage therapy offers you many career opportunities, such as: massage therapist, spa therapist, body treatment specialist, health club therapist, medical facility or medi-spa technician, and salon/spa manager or owner. Massage Therapists may choose to work in a salon setting, independently or as booth rental contractors. Most massage therapists work on commission, so earnings vary depending on the length of time in the business, and the ability to build and retain clientele. Many salons offer guaranteed salary to start, often \$7.00 or more per hour, with benefit packages, including insurance, retirement, vacation pay, and bonuses. Increased earnings are also available in salons where management-level positions are available. Massage Therapists are in demand. A fun and successful career is in your future!

**NACCAS Completion Rates:** Out of 9 students scheduled to graduate in 2018, 8 graduated within 150% of the scheduled course time, or 89%. Out of the 9 students scheduled to graduate in 2018, 1 student did not complete the program.

**NACCAS Licensing Exam Pass/Fail Rates:** Out of 8 graduates who took the exam in 2018, 8 passed, for a pass rate of 100%.

**NACCAS Placement Rates:** Out of 8 graduates in 2018, 7 responded to surveys that they had found a job in their field, or 88% responded that they found jobs.