

Massage Therapist, State of Mississippi

Massage therapists are certified health workers who play an important role in injury rehabilitation, stress reduction, relaxation therapy, and as complementary treatment practitioners. Healthcare providers, hospitals, and medical practitioners are increasingly promoting and prescribing massage to their patients due to more scientific breakthroughs on the health benefits of massage therapy.

Massage therapists can specialize in over 80 modalities, or types of massage. Some examples of modalities include Swedish massage, Shiatsu massage, chair massage, acupressure, hot stone massage, rolfing, craniosacral, deep tissue massage, orthopedic, and several more.

Massage therapist training requires a combination of science and other educational courses and hands on training. Mississippi requires 700 hours of classroom training for massage therapists. In Mississippi and most other states, there are also continuing education requirements after initial training.

Massage therapy as a career is expected to grow faster than the average career in America through 2016 due to increased interest and appreciation for the therapy. In Mississippi, massage therapists make 30% more than the average massage therapists.

Massage therapy is in higher demand in Mississippi compared to many other states. This is partially because Mississippi has fewer total massage therapists than most states (between 500-1000) and has between 3,000-4,000 residents per practitioner.

How to Become Licensed as a Massage Therapist in Mississippi

In Mississippi, all certified massage therapists are required to be licensed. The Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy (MSBMT) is the accrediting body that one must apply to in order to receive a massage therapy license. The MSBMT requires 700 hours of study in an accredited program and several examinations including CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS, and NCETMB examinations.

Here are the steps to becoming a licensed massage therapist in Mississippi:

1. One must enroll in an accredited massage therapy program. The MSBMT has a list of the programs it accepts. 700 hours of classroom study are required from an accredited school that is recognized by the MSBMT.
2. Along with the classroom requirements, CPR, First Aid, HIV/AIDS information, and NCETMB (The National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork) examinations are required to be passed.
3. After the completion of a massage therapy program, and all of the required secondary examinations, a written application is submitted to the MSBMT along with an application fee and documentation showing that all license requirements have been met.

The MSBMT will then make a decision after all the above steps are completed. Also, if one is granted a license, a renewal is required every 2 years afterward.

Professional Associations For Massage Therapists in Mississippi

- Mississippi Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association (MSAMTA) – This organization is the Mississippi branch of the AMTA, a national massage therapy organization. It holds regular chapter meetings, has a board, conventions, and several members.

<http://www.amtamississippi.org/>

- American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) – The AMTA is the national organization for massage therapists. It is an informational resource for massage therapists and the public. It holds national meetings and events on a regular basis and allows licensed massage therapists to join the organization as members.

<http://www.amtamassage.org>

American Massage Therapy Association

500 Davis St.

Evanston, IL 60201

Mississippi Massage Therapist Salaries

As mentioned previously, Mississippi has one of the highest average massage therapist salaries in the nation. This is partially due to a lower number of massage therapists as a proportion to population compared to most other states. Depending on the city, average massage therapist salaries vary throughout the state.

Salary.com estimates that the average national massage therapist salary is \$45,887. This data is compiled from thousands of HR departments throughout the nation. According to Indeed.com, in Mississippi, massage therapists average \$66,000 per year, which is 30% higher than the reported Salary.com national average.

The salary averages per city tend to vary, and from our research some of the lower population cities seemed to have a higher salary average than some of the larger cities.

Here are some of the averages reported in Mississippi's largest cities by Indeed ranked from highest to lowest population:

Jackson: \$60,000

Gulfport: \$42,000

Biloxi: \$45,000

Hattiesburg: \$50,000

Greenville: \$45,000

Meridian: \$47,000

Tupelo: \$38,000

Southaven: \$45,000

Vicksburg: \$62,000

Pascagoula: \$48,000

Continuing Educational Requirements for Massage Therapists in Mississippi

Massage therapists in Mississippi have continuing education requirements that must be satisfied every year. The MSBMT states that 12 hours of continuing education units must be fulfilled every year in Mississippi. The MSBMT lists the accepted programs for continuing education on its website. Every licensed massage therapist is required to update the MSBMT every year with the programs that were taken for that year's continuing education requirement.

The CPR, First Aid, and HIV/AIDS information examinations do not qualify for a licensee's yearly continuing education requirements. Online classes are also not accepted as well, although 3 hours per year can be taken with a self-study course. Also, some programs may not be accepted unless they are listed by the MSBMT.

Some of the topics of the programs a licensed massage therapist might enroll in for continuing education as listed by the MSBMT may include: massage ethics, massage law, aromatherapy, Zen Shiatsu, sports massage, kinetic deep tissue, facial massage and topical applications, thai yoga bodywork, myoskeletal alignment, hot stone massage, anatomy, how to prevent HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B in the workplace, and several more.

After a licensed massage therapist completes their CEU requirements, they would have their program representative complete a CEU reporting form that records the program they took. This form would then be submitted to the MSBMT for the therapist to be credited for the year's requirements.

Massage Therapy in Mississippi Summary

Massage therapy is expected to grow at a higher rate than the average career, and in Mississippi massage therapists earn substantially more than the average massage therapist. Massage therapists in Mississippi must have 700 hours of classroom study to be licensed. They must also pass CPR, HIV/AIDS information, First Aid, and NCETMB examinations. After acceptance, 12 units of continuing education must be met each year by licensed therapists.

Massage therapists in Mississippi are in higher demand because of the fact that there are fewer massage therapists in Mississippi than elsewhere. And massage therapists as a whole can expect to enjoy career stability as the profession is expected to increase in demand by most studies.

Sources:

<http://www.indeed.com>

<http://www.salary.com>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos295.htm>

<http://www.inkworkx.com/massagemodalities.htm>

<http://www.amtamassage.org/>