

# Hippotherapy Certification Examination



## Candidate Handbook 2022

Application Deadline*	Testing Window
April 13, 2022	May 14 – May 28, 2022
August 31, 2022	October 1 – October 15, 2022

**\*Applications will not be accepted after this deadline**

Administered by:



1350 Broadway, Suite 800 | New York, NY 10018  
[www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact)

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*This Handbook contains necessary information about the Hippotherapy Certification Examination. Please retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This Handbook is subject to change.*

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Who to Contact	Topics, Actions, Requests
<b>Professional Testing Corporation (PTC)</b> <a href="http://www.ptcny.com">www.ptcny.com</a> (212) 356-0660	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for examination</li> <li>• Obtain general application policy and procedure information</li> <li>• Obtain information about testing policies and procedures</li> <li>• Transfer to a new testing period</li> <li>• Request Test Accommodations</li> <li>• Request Hand Score</li> <li>• Question about score reports</li> <li>• Miscellaneous inquiries</li> </ul>
<b>Prometric</b> <a href="http://www.prometric.com/AHCB">www.prometric.com/AHCB</a> (800) 741-0934	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule test appointment</li> <li>• Reschedule test appointment (within a testing period)</li> <li>• Cancel test appointment</li> <li>• Find directions to test site</li> <li>• Questions regarding testing sites and appointments</li> </ul>
<b>AHCB</b> <a href="https://hippotherapy-certification.org/">https://hippotherapy-certification.org/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam content outline/reference list</li> <li>• Recertification information</li> </ul>

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## ATTENTION CANDIDATES

This Handbook contains necessary information about the AHCB Hippotherapy Certification Examination. It is required reading for those applying for and taking the Examination. All individuals applying for the examination must comply with the policies, procedures, and deadlines in this Handbook and attest to this by signing the Candidate Attestation found on the application. Please retain this Handbook for future reference. This Handbook is subject to change. See [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) for Handbook updates.

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## HIPPOTHERAPY

The term hippotherapy refers to how occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology professionals use evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning in the purposeful manipulation of equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to achieve functional outcomes. Best practice principles dictate that occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology professionals integrate hippotherapy into the patient's plan of care, along with other therapy tools and/or strategies.

The American Hippotherapy Certification Board (AHCBS) is the certifying body of the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. (AHA, Inc.). The AHCBS is comprised of Hippotherapy Clinical Specialists® and represents the physical, occupational, and speech and language therapy professions. For more information, visit [www.hippotherapy-certification.org](http://www.hippotherapy-certification.org).

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## CERTIFICATION

The American Hippotherapy Certification Board (AHCBS) endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification by examination for all professionals who incorporate hippotherapy in their practice. This examination is specifically for professionals who utilize hippotherapy in their practice and meet the eligibility requirements to take this examination. Certification is one part of a process called credentialing. It focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of current knowledge in a specialized area of practice in the use of hippotherapy as a treatment tool. (However, AHCBS does not warrant the performance of any individual.) AHCBS Hippotherapy Certification designation provides recognition of basic knowledge in hippotherapy.

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## PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION

The purpose of certifying qualified therapists and therapy assistants is to promote delivery of safe, effective treatment incorporating hippotherapy. Specifically, certification:

1. Recognizes those individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of the American Hippotherapy Certification Board and pass the AHCBS Hippotherapy Certification Examination.
2. Encourages continued personal and professional growth in the use of hippotherapy within professional practice.
3. Measures and validates the level of knowledge required for certification in utilizing hippotherapy as a therapy tool.
4. Provides a standard of knowledge requisite for certification, thereby assisting employers, the public, and members of the health professions in the identification of professionals who are certified in utilizing hippotherapy as a therapy tool.

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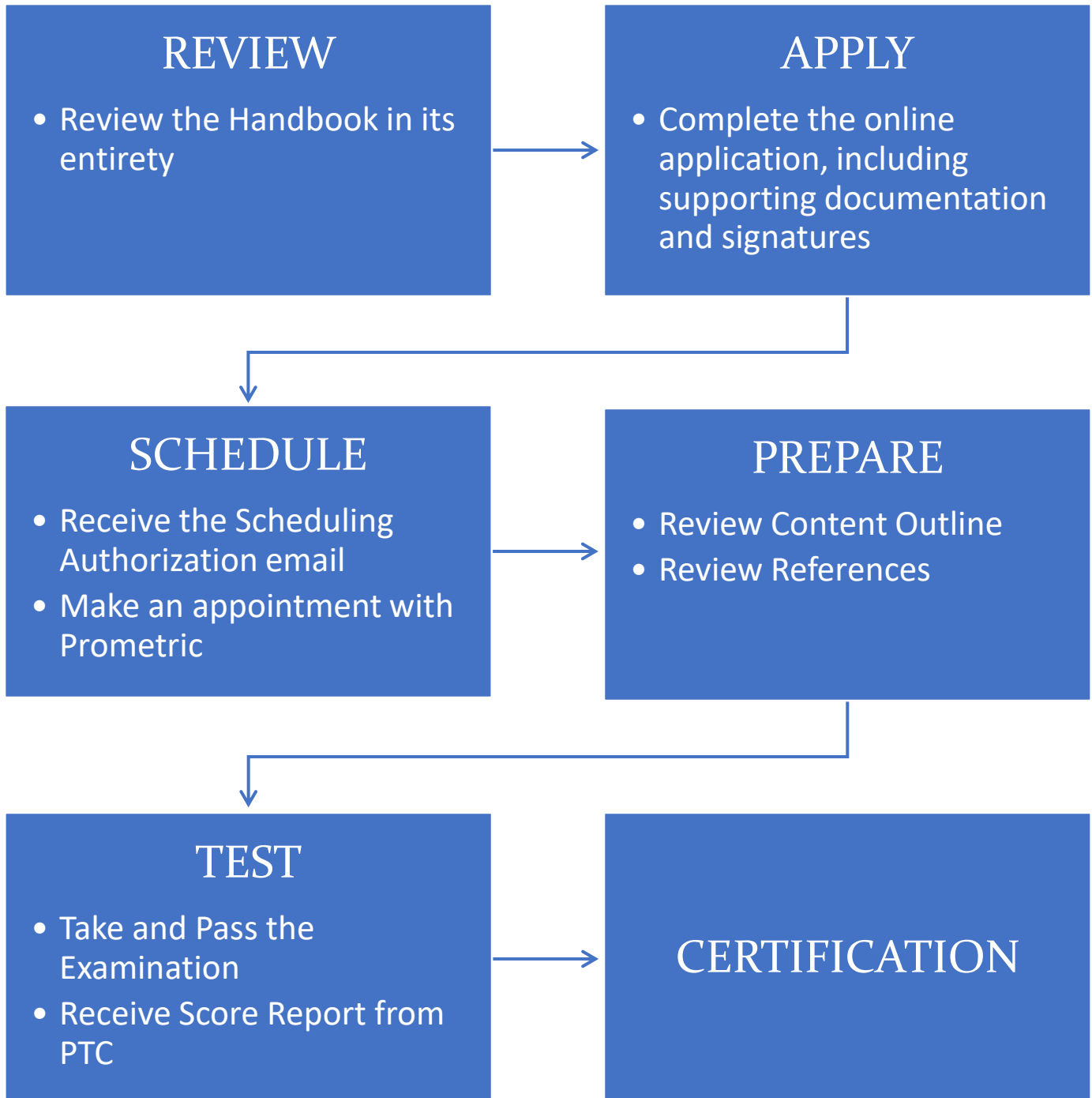
## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Currently licensed or certified to practice as a therapist or therapy assistant in the fields of physical or occupational therapy, or speech and language pathology, in the United States or the equivalent in other countries. **Upload your current license to the application.**
2. Completed at least one year of full-time or the equivalent (2,000 hours) experience in the practice of physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech and language pathology beginning from receipt of licensure, prior to the application deadline (refer to cover of this Handbook).
3. Completed American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) Hippotherapy Treatment Principles Level/Part I and Level/Part II courses or equivalent graduate level courses. **Upload copies of your certificates to the application.**
4. Completed a minimum of 25 hours of one-on-one direct patient treatment incorporating hippotherapy prior to the application deadline. Please note that treatment experience that is part of an educational course does not qualify for this eligibility requirement. See Attestation Statement for verification.
5. Experienced and comfortable working with horses and able to safely ride independently at the walk and trot. See Attestation Statement for verification.
6. Agrees to abide by the AHCB Testing Agreement.
7. **Uploaded** a completed and signed **Hippotherapy Certification Examination Attestation Statement** to the application.
8. Submitted a completed and signed Application for the Hippotherapy Certification Examination.
9. Payment of required examination fee.

**Payment is due at the time of application. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility once payment is received. Candidates found to be ineligible or applications incomplete as of 14 days before the start of the chosen testing period will be refunded their examination fee minus a \$75.00 administrative fee.**

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## THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS



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## COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

### ***Step 1 – Complete Application***

Go to <http://www.ptcny.com/test-sponsors/ahcb> to view examination testing periods, application deadlines, and link to the online application. You must complete the examination application in full, using your name exactly as it appears on your current government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or a passport. Applications are not considered complete until all information and payment has been provided. The completed application can be submitted and paid for online. Retain the link to the application and your login information.

**Please note**, for new applications you will be asked to create a PIN number. This PIN will be used when going into your existing application.

### ***Step 2 – Submit Examination Fee and Application for Review***

Receive email from PTC stating that your payment and application has been received and under review.

### ***Step 3 – Receive Approval of Application***

Receive email from PTC stating that your application has been approved.

### ***Step 4 – Receive Scheduling Authorization and Schedule Testing Appointment***

Within eleven (11) weeks prior to the start of the testing period, candidates will receive a Scheduling Authorization from PTC via email from [notices@ptcny.com](mailto:notices@ptcny.com). The Scheduling Authorization includes an eligibility number and information on how to set up your examination location, date, and time through Prometric. Retain this document.

You must present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. Military ID at the testing center at the time of your examination appointment or you will be refused admission. The first and last name on the ID must exactly match the first and last name on the Scheduling Authorization.

**Applicants who are not approved to sit for the examination or whose applications are incomplete 21 days prior to the first day of the testing window will receive a refund of their application fee minus the \$75 administrative fee. Refunds will be processed approximately 30 days after the end of the testing period.**

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## EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

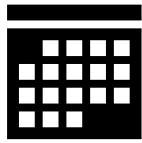
The AHCB Hippotherapy Certification Examination is administered during an established two-week testing window on a daily basis, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by Prometric.

### **Scheduling Authorization**

PTC will send approved candidates an email called the Scheduling Authorization. These emails are sent out about 11 weeks before the first day of the testing window. The emails come from [notices@ptcny.com](mailto:notices@ptcny.com). Candidates cannot make an appointment until they receive a scheduling authorization. If you don't receive your email 3 weeks before the start of your testing window contact PTC.

## Scheduling Examination Appointments

The Scheduling Authorization will indicate how to schedule your examination appointment with Prometric as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-served, so



schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Scheduling Authorization in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date. **Candidates who wait until the last minute run the risk of missing out on their preferred date, time, and testing center. Candidates unable to schedule an appointment will forfeit their fees.**

After you make your test appointment, Prometric will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your exam. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. Contact Prometric at (800) 741-0934 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

**Note: International candidates may also schedule, reschedule, or cancel an appointment online at [www.prometric.com/AHCB](http://www.prometric.com/AHCB).**

### **IMPORTANT!**

You **MUST** present your current driver's license, passport, or U.S. military ID at the test center. Expired, temporary, or paper driver's licenses will **NOT** be accepted.

The first and last name on your Scheduling Authorization **MUST** exactly match the first and last name on your photo ID.

**Fees will not be refunded for exams missed because of invalid ID.**

## Rescheduling Examination Appointments within a Testing Period

Candidates are able to reschedule their examination appointments within the same testing period as long as the request is submitted within the timeframe described below. Reschedule within the permitted time frame by calling or going to the Prometric website: [www.prometric.com/AHCB](http://www.prometric.com/AHCB).

Time Frame	Reschedule Permitted?	Stipulations
Requests submitted 30 days or more before the original appointment	Yes	None
Requests submitted 29 to 5 days before the original appointment	Yes	Candidate must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee of \$50.
Requests submitted less than 5 days before the original appointment	No	Candidates who do not arrive to test for their appointment will be considered a no-show and all their examinations fees will be forfeited. Candidates will need to reapply and pay fees for a future testing period.



## Transferring to a New Testing Period

Candidates unable to take the examination during their scheduled testing period may request a **ONE-TIME** transfer to a future testing period. **There is a transfer fee of \$220.00.** After you have transferred once by paying the \$220.00 fee, you will need to pay the full examination fee in order to transfer a second time; so, ***please plan carefully.***

**Please note:** requests to transfer to a new testing period must be received within 30 days of your originally scheduled testing period.

Candidates wishing to transfer to a new testing period need to follow the steps below.

1. Go to <http://secure.ptcny.com/apply>.
2. Click “Start New Application.”
3. Choose AHCB-HCT in the first drop-down menu; then choose the new examination period in the second drop down menu and fill out the rest of the information on the page.
4. Fill out the application making sure you answer yes to the question asking if you are transferring.
5. When you have finished the application, click “Submit Transfer Request.”
6. PTC Support will send you an email letting you know your transfer application was approved and that you can log back into your application and pay the one-time \$220.00 transfer fee.

Call 212-356-0660 if you have any questions regarding the transfer process.

If candidates are unable to attend the examination on the date for which they registered and elect not to transfer to another testing period the application will be closed and all fees will be forfeited. There will be no refund of fees.

The transfer fee is based on costs and is not punitive in nature. The transfer fee must be paid at the time the request is approved. The candidate is responsible for contacting Prometric and canceling the original examination appointment, if one was made.

**Exams may only be transferred to a new testing period once; please plan carefully.**

**Please note:** Transferring your Examination only refers to instances when a candidate is unable to take their exam during a testing period for which they have already applied. Candidates who did not pass their examination and are retaking the examination need to pay the full Examination Fee.

## Failing to Report for an Examination



If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit all fees paid to take the examination. A new completed Application Form and examination fee are required to reapply for the examination.

## EXAMINATION FEES

Fee Type	Amount	Details
Application Fee – AHA Members (Upload AHA Membership Card to application)	US \$390.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-refundable<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Non-transferable</li> <li>• Includes testing center fees</li> <li>• Includes non-refundable \$75 administrative fee</li> </ul>
Application Fee – Non-AHA Members	US \$490.00	
Transfer Fee (Moving to a new testing window; see page 8)	US \$220.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who request transfer to a new testing period</b></li> <li>• Must submit new Application &amp; fee to PTC</li> </ul>
Rescheduling Fee (29-5 days prior to scheduled appointment; see page 7)	US \$50.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Applies to candidates who need to move their appointment within their current testing period</b></li> <li>• Payable directly to Prometric</li> <li>• Reschedule with Prometric online or over the phone</li> </ul>



- **There will be no refund of fees unless applicants are ineligible for the examination.**
- **Ineligible candidates will be refunded their fees minus an administrative fee.**
- **No refunds will be issued for applying for the incorrect examination or testing period, for failing to make an examination appointment, or for failing to appear at your scheduled appointment.**

**Please be advised: Prometric does not have the authority to grant transfers to another testing period or refunds.**

## TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

AHCB and PTC support the intent of and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). PTC will take steps reasonably necessary to make certification accessible to persons with disabilities covered under the ADA. According to the ADA, an individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity (such as seeing, hearing, learning, reading, concentrating, walking) or a major bodily function (such as neurological, endocrine, or digestive system). The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and test accommodations will be held in strict confidence.

<sup>1</sup> Applicants who are ineligible to take the examination or whose applications are incomplete by the application deadline will have their examination fees returned minus an administrative fee

All approved testing accommodations must maintain the psychometric nature and security of the examination. Accommodations that fundamentally alter the nature or security of the exam will not be granted.

Testing accommodations may be made upon receipt of the application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Testing Accommodations Form, available from [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660. This Form must be submitted with the application no later than 8 weeks prior to the start of your chosen testing window. Candidates who do not submit their Request for Testing Accommodations Form with their application may not be able to test during their chosen testing period and therefore be subject to rescheduling or transfer fees.

**Only those requests made and received on the official Request for Test Accommodations Form will be reviewed. Letters from doctors and other healthcare professionals must be accompanied by the official Form and will not be accepted without the Form. All requests must be made at the time of Application. Accommodations cannot be added to an existing exam appointment.**

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## PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

- Check your government issued photo ID (driver's license, passport or U.S. Military ID) when you make your examination appointment. Is it expired? Does the first and last name on your ID match the name on your Scheduling Authorization email? Proctors at the Prometric testing center will refuse admission to candidates with expired IDs, IDs with names that do not match their records, and temporary paper IDs. Candidates will be marked as no-shows and will forfeit their exam fees.
- Check your PTC Scheduling Authorization email and Appointment Confirmation email from Prometric to make sure everything is accurate (i.e. your name, exam name, appointment date, time and location).
- Make yourself familiar with the location of your chosen testing site and any requirements they may have for parking and check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave for the testing center. Allow plenty of time to arrive as late arrival may prevent you from testing.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the Prometric website for site closures: <https://www.prometric.com/closures>.
- Prometric's website provides information on what you can expect on your test day, including a walkthrough of check in and security procedures: [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com).
- Use the Content Outline as a guide for studying for the examination.
- Review What to Expect at the Test Center and Rules for the Examination on the next pages before your appointment.

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## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE TESTING CENTER

PTC has partnered with Prometric Testing Centers to deliver examinations to candidates. Here is what you can expect when you arrive at your Prometric Testing Center.

- Candidate Check-In
  - Candidates will be asked to present their IDs
  - Candidates will be asked to empty and turn out their pockets
  - Candidates will be “wanded” or asked to walk through a metal detector
  - Inspection of eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories will be conducted. Jewelry other than wedding and engagement rings is prohibited.
  - Religious headwear may be worn into the testing room; however, it may be subject to inspection by a testing center administrator before entry into the testing room is permitted.
  - Prometric provides lockers for candidates to store their purses, mobile phones, jackets, food, drinks and medical supplies.
  
- During the Exam
  - No breaks are scheduled during the exam. Candidates who must leave the testing room to take a break will not be given extra time on the exam.
  - Candidates who take an unscheduled break are subject to additional security screenings before being permitted to reenter the testing room.
  - Accessing mobile phones or study materials during the examination is prohibited.
  - Smoking is prohibited at the testing center.
  - All examinations are monitored and may be recorded in both audio and video format.

Please keep in mind: other exams will be administered at the same time as your examination. Therefore, examinees may hear ambient noises such as typing, coughing, or people entering and exiting the testing room that cannot be avoided. Prometric is unable to provide a completely noise-free environment. However, headphones may be requested to minimize impact.

Please see [Prometric’s website](#) for more information about what to expect on testing day.

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## RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

Please read the information below carefully. You are responsible for adhering to the examination rules while at the testing center.

- ⇒ You must present your current driver's license, passport, or US Military ID at the testing center. Candidates without valid ID will NOT be permitted to test. Temporary or paper copies of your ID will not be accepted.
- ⇒ No electronic devices that can be used to record, transmit, receive, or play back audio, photographic, text, or video content, including but not limited to, cell phones, laptop computers, tablets, Bluetooth devices; wearable technology (e.g., fitness/smart watches or glasses), media players, pagers, cameras, and voice recorders are permitted to be used and cannot be taken in the examination room. Prometric provides lockers for your personal items.
- ⇒ No papers, books, or reference materials may be taken into or removed from the testing room.
- ⇒ No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
- ⇒ Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the sole exception of going to the restroom.
- ⇒ Bulky clothing, such as sweatshirts (hoodies), jackets, coats, and hats (except hats worn for religious reasons), and most types of jewelry may not be worn while taking the examination. Proctors will ask you to remove such items and place them in your locker. Please see [Prometric's statement on Test Center Security](#) for more information.
- ⇒ All watches and "Fitbit" type devices cannot be worn during the examination.
- ⇒ No food/beverages are permitted inside the testing room. Leave these items in your assigned locker.



Contact PTC at (212) 356-0660 or [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) with any questions about the Examination Rules.

**Violation of any of the rules listed above may lead to forfeiture of fees, dismissal from the testing room, and cancellation of your test scores.**

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## TESTING CONDITIONS OR EXAMINATION FEEDBACK

Any candidate who feels that the examination effort was negatively impacted by the test center conditions should notify the proctor immediately. The situation should also be reported to PTC at [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) within 3 business days of the test appointment. Any comments about the test itself should also be reported to PTC at [www.ptcny.com/contact](http://www.ptcny.com/contact) within 3 business days of the test appointment.

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## REPORT OF RESULTS

At the end of the examination, candidates will receive information on how to receive their unofficial test score report. Candidates are not eligible to claim certified status until their official score is received. Candidates will be notified via email by PTC within four weeks after the close of the testing window whether they have officially passed or failed the examination. This is necessary to allow for the psychometric review and administrative time required to ensure accurate and reliable scores. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will also be reported.

### Setting the Passing Score

The passing score for the Hippotherapy Certification Examination has been reviewed and approved by AHCB and has been determined using a criterion-referenced methodology.

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## REQUESTING A HANDSCORE

Candidates who fail the examination may request a hand scoring of their data file. Hand scoring is a manual check of the data file by the testing service to determine if there have been any errors in scoring. Although the probability of such an error is extremely remote, this service is available. Requests for hand scoring must be received by PTC no later than 90 days after the date of the examination by completing and returning the Request of Handscore form on [www.ptcny.com](http://www.ptcny.com) with payment of \$25. Candidates who fail the examination will not be permitted to see the examination questions. For reasons of test security, no candidate is allowed to review the examination or any of its items.

To ensure correct reporting of results, PTC automatically performs handscores of examinations of candidates who score within 3 points of passing as a quality control measure. Thus, it is extremely doubtful that any examination results will change from “fail” to “pass” through handscoreing.

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## CONFIDENTIALITY OF EXAMINATION SCORES

AHCB will release the individual test scores ONLY to the individual candidate. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to AHCB or PTC.

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## RE-EXAMINATION

The Hippotherapy Certification Examination may be taken as often as desired, upon filing of a new Application and fee. There is no limit to the number of times the examination may be repeated.

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## ATTAINMENT OF CERTIFICATION

Eligible candidates who pass the Hippotherapy Certification Examination may describe themselves as AHCB Hippotherapy Certified, **BUT** do not receive initials to be placed after their names. Successful candidates will receive certificates acknowledging certification from AHCB. A database of those who are AHCB Hippotherapy Certified is maintained by the AHCB and will be reported to the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. (AHA, Inc.). Candidates must answer 120 out of 150 questions correctly to pass the examination.

The AHCB Hippotherapy Certification is recognized for a period of five years. At that time, the candidate must retake the current examination or meet alternative requirements as are in effect at that time to retain certification.

For more information regarding recertification, visit [www.hippotherapycertification.org](http://www.hippotherapycertification.org).

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## REVOCAION OF CERTIFICATION

Certification will be revoked by the AHCB for any of the following reasons:

1. Falsification of an Application.
2. Revocation or suspension of current professional license.
3. Misrepresentation of certified status.
4. Violation of any other rule as adopted by AHCB.

The appeals process of the AHCB provides the mechanism for challenging the revocation of Board Certification. It is the responsibility of the individual to initiate this process.

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## CONTENT OF THE EXAMINATION

The AHCB Hippotherapy Certification Examination is a computer-based examination composed of a maximum of 150 multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of three (3) hours. The content for the examination is described in the Content Outline on the next page.

The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in hippotherapy and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the AHCB.

AHCB, with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation, prepares the examination.

The AHCB Hippotherapy Certification Examination will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	Program Administration	15%
II.	Basic Horsemanship	30%
III.	Posture and Movement Principles	30%
IV.	Hippotherapy Application	25%

## **I. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

- A. Evolution of Hippotherapy as a Treatment Strategy
  - 1. History
  - 2. General Principles
  - 3. Best Practice Statements for the Use of Hippotherapy by OT, PT, SLP Professionals
    - a. Treatment Team
    - b. Professionalism
    - c. Safety
    - d. Other
- B. PATH International Standards for Certification and Accreditation
- C. Selecting and/or Starting a Program Incorporating Hippotherapy
  - 1. Facility Suitability and Safety
    - a. Treatment Area
    - b. Stable Area
    - c. Mounting Ramp and Block
    - d. Maintenance
  - 2. Personnel
    - a. Horse Professionals
    - b. Treatment Team
    - c. Barn Staff
    - d. Other
  - 3. Role of Therapist/Assistant
- D. Clinical Documentation
  - 1. Written Evaluation and Plan of Care
  - 2. Progress Notes
  - 3. Discharge Summary
- E. Record Keeping
  - 1. Patient
    - a. Attendance
    - b. Patient Billing
    - c. CPT Codes
    - d. Occurrence Reports
  - 2. Equine
    - a. Health/Veterinary
    - b. Farrier
    - c. Training
    - d. Use/Schedule for Hippotherapy
  - 3. Releases
- F. Reimbursement Issues
- G. Legal and Ethical
  - 1. Liability
    - a. General
    - b. Professional

- 2. Contractual Issues

## **II. BASIC HORSEMANSHIP**

- A. Conformation
  - 1. Characteristics
  - 2. Relationship of Conformation to:
    - a. Soundness
    - b. Movement Quality
    - c. Selection
- B. Horse Psychology and Behavior
  - 1. Temperament and Personality Traits
  - 2. Age and Gender
  - 3. Responses to Environment
  - 4. Communication
  - 5. Causes and Signs of Stress
  - 6. Instinctive and Learned Behaviors
  - 7. Sensory Systems
  - 8. Breed Characteristics
- C. Equine and Stable Management
  - 1. Feeding and Nutrition
  - 2. Basic Health Maintenance
    - a. Turnout and Exercise
    - b. Recognizing Unsoundness
  - 3. Basic First Aid and Vital Signs
  - 4. Hoof Care
  - 5. Grooming
  - 6. Safety
  - 7. Horse Welfare
- D. Equipment
  - 1. Storage, Repair, Maintenance
  - 2. Types (Purpose, Safety, Fit)
    - a. Lead Ropes/Lines
    - b. Bridles
    - c. Bits
    - d. Halters
    - e. Side Reins
    - f. Surcingles
    - g. Saddles
    - h. Stirrups
    - i. Pads
    - j. Whips
- E. Riding Skills – Balanced Seat
  - 1. Warm-Up/Cool-Down of Horse and Rider
  - 2. Mounting and Dismounting
  - 3. Rider Position/Biomechanics
  - 4. Center of Gravity of Horse and Rider
  - 5. Use of Natural or Artificial Aids



- F. Horse Handling
  - 1. Tying and Restraining
  - 2. Handling Techniques: Safety and Quality
    - a. Leading
    - b. Lungeing
    - c. Long Lining
  - 3. Emergency Situations
- G. Selecting a Horse for Hippotherapy
  - 1. Temperament and Behavior
  - 2. Movement Quality
- H. Training Requirements for the Hippotherapy Horse
  - 1. Handling
  - 2. Aids
  - 3. Equipment
  - 4. Patient Behavior
  - 5. Side-Walkers
  - 6. Mounts and Dismounts
  - 7. Desensitization
  - 8. Other

### III. POSTURE AND MOVEMENT PRINCIPLES

#### A. Human Posture, Balance, Mobility, and Function

- 1. Neuromotor Systems
- 2. Musculoskeletal Systems
- 3. Sensory Systems, including Organization and Processing
  - a. Visual
  - b. Proprioceptive/Kinesthetic
  - c. Auditory
  - d. Vestibular
  - e. Tactile
  - f. Olfactory
- 4. Limbic System
  - a. Arousal
  - b. Motivation
  - c. Fear
  - d. Emotion
  - e. Memory
  - f. Self-Concept/Body Image
- 5. Cognition
- 6. Communication/Language
- 7. Cardiovascular System
- 8. Respiratory System
- 9. Environmental Factors

- a. Support Surfaces
- b. Assistive Devices
- c. Natural Environment
- d. Other
- 10. Motor Control
  - a. Strategies
  - b. Praxis
  - c. Coordination
  - d. Other
- 11. Tasks and ADLs (Sitting, Standing, Walking, Speaking, Reaching, etc.)
- 12. Other
- B. Horse in Motion
  - 1. Therapeutic Qualities of the Walking Horse
    - a. Rhythmicity
    - b. Symmetry
    - c. Bilaterality
    - d. Multiple Planes of Movement
    - e. Multisensory
    - f. Movement Through Space
    - g. Repetition
  - 2. Gaits-Walk, Trot, Canter, Gallop
    - a. Biomechanics
    - b. Footfalls
    - c. Qualities
  - 3. Movement Qualities
    - a. Rhythm
    - b. Tempo
    - c. Energy
    - d. Impulsion, Engagement, Tracking Up
    - e. Calmness and Relaxation
    - f. Balance and Self-Carriage
    - g. Straightness
    - h. Suppleness
    - i. Freedom of Movement
  - 4. Movement Variations
    - a. Lengthening and Shortening
    - b. Accelerating and Decelerating
    - c. Transitions
    - d. School Figures
  - 5. Effects of Handling on Horse Movement
    - a. Leading
    - b. Long Lining
  - 6. Effects of Environment on Movement

- a. Ground Surface
- b. Sensory Inputs
- c. Other
- C. Human/Horse Interaction
  - 1. Effects of Human on Horse's Movement
    - a. Weight and Distribution
    - b. Position
    - c. Emotions and Behaviors
  - 2. Effect of Biomechanics of Horse's Gait on Human
    - a. Walk
    - b. Trot
  - 3. Sensory Effects of Horse's Movement Qualities and Characteristics
  - 4. Effects of Horse's Movement Variations

#### IV. HIPPO THERAPY APPLICATION

- A. Indications and Contraindications
  - 1. Indications
    - a. Diagnoses
    - b. Age Considerations
    - c. Weight Considerations
    - d. Potential for Functional Gains
  - 2. Precautions and Contraindications
    - a. Medical-Physical
    - b. Behavioral-Emotional
    - c. Sensory Processing
    - d. Cognitive-Communicative
    - e. Pharmacological
  - 3. Screening Potential Patients
- B. Patient Evaluation (standard therapy evaluation with specific emphasis on the following)
  - 1. Off the Horse
    - a. Relevant Medical History
    - b. Functional Abilities/Limitations
      - 1. Gross and Fine Motor
      - 2. Communicative
      - 3. Patient/Family Goals
      - 4. Assistive/Medical Devices
    - c. System Assessment
      - 1. Neuromuscular
      - 2. Biomechanical
      - 3. Sensory Processing
      - 4. Cardiovascular

- 5. Respiratory
- 6. Limbic System
- 7. Cognition
- 8. Linguistic
- 9. Behavioral
- 10. Communication
- 2. On the Horse
  - a. Baseline Response to the Horse and Equine Movement
  - b. Response to Equipment/Environment
  - c. Prognostic Indicators
- 3. Treatment Plan
- 4. Reassessment during Course of Treatment
- 5. Other
- C. Treatment
  - 1. Goals and Objectives
  - 2. Considerations
    - a. Hippotherapy Environment
    - b. Hippotherapy Team (Selection, Number, Roles)
    - c. Matching Patient to Horse
      - 1. Conformation and Size Considerations
      - 2. Movement Dynamics
      - 3. Temperament Considerations
      - 4. Training of the Horse
      - 5. Treatment Objectives
      - 6. Sensory Processing Issues
      - 7. Communication
    - d. Horse Handling Method
    - e. Equipment Selection for Patient
      - 1. Patient Response
      - 2. Safety
    - f. Patient Positioning
      - 1. Forward Astride
      - 2. Rear-facing Astride
      - 3. Alternative Positions
    - g. Mounting and Dismounting Procedures
    - h. Length and Frequency of Sessions Incorporating Hippotherapy

3. Implementation
  - a. Preparatory Activities
  - b. Intervention Strategies/Activities/Procedures
  - c. Safety Protocols
  - d. Emergency Procedures
  - e. Treatment Progressions
  - f. Post-Hippotherapy Activities
  - g. Discharge Considerations
  - h. Other

4. Treatment Outcomes
  - a. Documenting Treatment Effectiveness Within and Across Sessions
  - b. Objective, Functional Outcome Measures
  - c. Interpretation of Treatment Results

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## SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

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1. Which of the following is most important to consider in a potential horse being considered for use in hippotherapy?

1. Gender
2. Responsiveness
3. Movement quality
4. History of soundness

2. Which of the following is a sign of stress in a horse?

1. Ewe neck
2. On the forehead
3. Tail held high
4. Pinned ears

3. What is the sequence of footfalls for a left lead canter?

1. Left hind, right hind-right fore, left fore
2. Left hind, right hind-left fore, right fore
3. Right hind, left hind-left fore, right fore
4. Right hind, left hind-right fore, left fore

ANSWER KEY	
Q	A
1	3
2	4
3	4

## REFERENCES

The following list of references may be of some help in preparing for the examination. Please note there may be more recent editions available. This list does not attempt to include all acceptable references nor is it suggested that the Hippotherapy Certification Examination is necessarily based on these references.

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PTC21053



## Hippotherapy Certification Examination Attestation Statement

CANDIDATE FULL NAME:	CANDIDATE EMAIL:
CANDIDATE ADDRESS:	CANDIDATE PHONE:

### VERIFICATION OF HIPPO THERAPY EXPERIENCE BY OPERATING CENTER DIRECTOR OR EQUIVALENT

I certify that the candidate named above has a minimum of 25 hours of direct patient treatment using hippotherapy in addition to completing AHA Inc. Level/Part I and II courses or equivalent graduate level courses.

OPERATING CENTER DIRECTOR SIGNATURE	DATE:
PRINT NAME:	EMAIL:
OPERATING CENTER NAME WHERE CANDIDATE HAS INCORPORATED HIPPO THERAPY:	PHONE:

### VERIFICATION OF HORSE EXPERIENCE BY RIDING INSTRUCTOR WITH CREDENTIALS ACCEPTABLE TO AHCB\*

I certify that the candidate named above conducts the following activities safely and independently:

- a. groom and tack up a horse
- b. mount and dismount
- c. ride safely with control at a walk or trot
- d. work with horses in a comfortable and confident manner

CREDENTIALLED INSTRUCTOR/JUDGE SIGNATURE	DATE:
PRINT NAME:	EMAIL:
INSTRUCTOR/JUDGE CREDENTIALS:	PHONE:

\*Examples of acceptable credentials: USPC, USDF, PATH International, ARICB, CHA, BHSAI