Recreational Therapy Certification Requirements by State

National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC)

November 2018
Any person looking to practice as a Recreational Therapist can become board certified by successfully passing the board certification examination presented by The National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC).

In addition, the following states require a license in order to practice. There requirements are as followed:
New Hampshire

New Hampshire Employment Security (NHES)
45 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603) 224-3311

New Hampshire Requirements
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Be of good moral character
- Successfully complete an academic program with a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in therapeutic recreation or a major in recreation or leisure with an option in therapeutic recreation
- Successfully complete a field experience as defined by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) approved by the educational institution where the applicant has met academic requirements
- Successfully pass an examination administered by the NCTRC
- The board may issue a license to recreational therapists who were certified by the NCTRC prior to July 1, 2007, and who hold an active CTRS credential
- Military experience shall not be considered when determining whether an applicant meets the educational requirements for licensure
- Completion of 30 hours of professional education is required biennially for license renewal

Please visit [https://www.nhes.nh.gov/](https://www.nhes.nh.gov/) for more information.
North Carolina

North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure
P.O. Box 2655
Durham, NC 27715

Phone: (336) 212-1133

Contact: becky@ncbrtl.org

North Carolina Requirements

- a candidate for licensure as a recreational therapist shall have graduated from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree or higher and with a major or specialization in recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation. The academic major or specialization shall be verified by an official transcript.
  - In addition to the coursework required in Subparagraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this Rule, a field placement course shall be required for a major or specialization in therapeutic recreation or recreational therapy.
- Candidates for licensure who have been certified as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, (CTRS™) by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) since 1990 and have completed all recreational therapy or therapeutic recreation content courses, and all support content course requirements, but have not completed an internship or field placement course shall be issued a license to practice as a recreational therapist if they verify a minimum of one year of successful performance as a recreational therapist or therapeutic recreation specialist during which time they were a "CTRS™" by the NCTRC

- Successful passage of the NCTRC examination shall be determined by the NCTRC. Applicants for licensure shall submit evidence of successful passage of the NCTRC examination to the NCBRTL.

Please visit http://www.ncbrtl.org/ for more information.
Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
101 NE 51st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4519

Phone (405) 962-1400

Oklahoma Requirements
To be eligible for licensure as a therapeutic recreation specialist pursuant to the provisions of the Therapeutic Recreation Practice act, an applicant shall:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
- Be of good moral character;
- Have successfully completed an academic program with a baccalaureate degree or higher from an accredited college or university with a major in therapeutic recreation or a major in recreation or leisure with an option and/or emphasis in therapeutic recreation;
- Have successfully completed a period of field experience under the supervision of a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) or a licensed therapeutic specialist approved by the educational institution where the applicant has met his or her academic requirements; and
- Successfully completed the proctored examination approved by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision within the past year.

Please visit [http://www.okmedicalboard.org](http://www.okmedicalboard.org) for more information.
Utah

Utah Department of Commerce
Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing
160 E 300 S
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Phone: (866) 275-3675

Utah Requirements
In accordance with Section 58-40-302, the educational requirements for licensure include:
An MTRS applicant shall:
- complete an approved graduate degree as defined in R156-40-102(1);
- have a current NCTRC certification as a CTRS or a current license as a TRS; and
- document completion of the education and 4000 hours of paid experience while nationally certified as a CTRS or licensed as a TRS.

A Therapeutic Recreational Specialist, TRS, applicant shall:
- have a current NCTRC certification as a CTRS; and
- document completion of the education and practicum requirements for licensure as a TRS on an official university transcript.

A Therapeutic Recreational Technician, TRT, applicant shall:
- have an approved educational course in therapeutic recreation taught by an MTRS, as required by Subsection 58-40-302(4)(b)(i), which shall consist of 90 hours of structured education under the instruction and direction of a licensed MTRS, or if completed out of state, under the direction of a nationally certified CTRS, which includes:
  - theories and concepts of recreational therapy;
  - the therapeutic recreation process;
  - characteristics of illness and disability and their effects on leisure;
  - medical and psychiatric terminology including psychiatric, pharmacology, gerontology, and abbreviations;
  - ethics;
  - role and function of other health and human service professionals, including: agencies, medical specialists and allied health professionals; and
  - health professionals; and
  - health and safety; and
- complete a two-hour pre-licensure course, as required by Subsection 58-40-302(4)(e), which shall meet the requirements of this Subsection.
  - The course provider shall be one of the following:
    - a recognized accredited college or university;
    - a county, state, or federal agency; or
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- a professional association, society or organization representing a licensed profession.
  - The content of the course shall be relevant to recreational therapy and include one or more of the following subject areas:
    - suicide concepts and facts;
    - (B) suicide risk assessment, crisis intervention, and first aid;
    - (C) evidence-based intervention for suicide risk;
    - (D) continuity of care and follow-up services for suicide risk; or
    - (E) therapeutic alliances for intervention in suicide risk.
  - Each hour of education shall consist of 50 minutes of education in the form of classroom lectures and discussion, workshops, webinars, online self-paced modules, case study review, or simulations.
  - A course provider shall document and verify attendance and completion.
  - An applicant for licensure is responsible for submitting evidence of course completion to the Division as a prerequisite for licensure.

Please visit [https://dopl.utah.gov/laws/](https://dopl.utah.gov/laws/) for more information.