



Clemson University - Center for Corporate Learning  
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### Education & Training Plan

## Massage Therapy & Holistic Healing Professional Certificate Program with Externship

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Program includes National Certification & an Externship Opportunity**  
**Mentor Supported**

### Massage Therapy & Holistic Healing Professional Certificate Program with Externship

Course Code: CLEM-MT-MSGHL  
Program Duration: 6 Months  
Course Contact Hours: 375  
Student Tuition: \$3,999

#### **The Massage Therapy & Holistic Healing Professional**

In today's industry of massage therapy, it is more important than ever to have knowledge and skills necessary for a successful career. There are a wide range of opportunities available for massage therapists and there are many different potential business relationships that will be encountered throughout a typical career. Learning more about the business will serve to equip the massage therapist with information and tools that will be required as you begin your career.

#### **The Massage Therapy & Holistic Healing Professional Program**

This program provides an overview of the theoretical principles for common massage therapy systems and manual techniques. The course discusses the historical influences from a variety of cultures in order to best understand the massage therapy industry and profession today. The program also serves to introduce both the theoretical basis as well as the demonstration of fundamental manual techniques in the traditional discipline of Western Massage, Myofascial Massage, Trigger Point Therapy, and Reflexology. This program further overviews anatomy and physiology, and pathology in order to understand all the inner working of the human body, how you think about the human body as a health care professional, how they communicate to colleagues and clients respectively about their bodies. In addition, this program discusses each body system, structure and function relative to homeostasis. Finally, the program discusses major pathologies, including disease definitions and causes, signs and symptoms, diagnostic procedures, and possible treatments and changes in the body throughout the human lifespan.

## Education and National Certifications

- Students should have or be pursuing a high school diploma or GED.
- There are no state approval and/or state requirements associated with this program.
- There is a National Certification exam available to students who successfully complete this program:
  - **Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Certification Exam.**

## Program Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, students will:

- Comprehend foundational knowledge for understanding and applying massage therapy.
- Gain insight into the philosophical and historical background of massage therapy.
- Explain the effects and benefits as well as clinical applications of massage.
- Understand the principles, and explain the techniques used in Western Massage
- Understand the principles of joint range of motion and Myofascial Massage
- Understand the basic physiology of trigger points, and explain the manual techniques used to treat trigger points
- Understand the principles of Reflexology and explain the basic techniques used to treat the various systems of the body with the application of manual reflexology methods.
- Define and differentiate Anatomy, Physiology, Kinesiology, and Pathology.
- Understand the basic knowledge of the major body systems and homeostasis
- Describe selected human diseases in terms of definition, cause, signs and symptoms, diagnostic procedures, and possible treatments for each of the body systems
- Describe common issues or changes for each body system throughout the lifespan
- Massage Therapy career and professional development
- Use Microsoft Office

## National Certification

Upon successful completion of this Clemson University program, students would be eligible to sit for the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) exam. Although there are no state approval, state registration or other state requirements for this program, students who complete this program at Clemson University will be prepared and are eligible to sit for this national certification exam. Students who complete this program are encouraged to complete the externship option with their program. Students who complete this program can and do sit for the MOS national certification exams and are qualified, eligible and prepared to do so. Clemson University works with each student to complete the exam application and register the student to take their national certification exam.

## Externship / Hands on Training / Practicum

Although not a requirement, once students complete the program, they have the ability to participate in an externship and/or hands on practicum so as to practice the skills necessary to perform the job requirements of a professional in this field. Students will be assisted with completing a resume and/or other requirements necessary to work in this field. All students who complete this program are eligible to participate in an externship and will be placed with a participating organization near their location. Clemson University works with national organizations and has the ability to place students in externship opportunities nationwide.

**Clemson University contact:** If students have any questions regarding this program including national certification and externships, **they should call Juanita Durham of Clemson University at 864.656.3984 or via email at [jdrhm@clemson.edu](mailto:jdrhm@clemson.edu).**

Note: No refunds can be issued after the start date published in your Financial Award document.



## **About Clemson University!**

Clemson Online, a unit reporting directly to the Provost, works closely with leadership teams across the University to develop, market, and deliver top-quality courses and programs in blended and online formats. The office provides vision, leadership, coordination, and expertise in support of faculty design, delivery, and evaluation of technology-enhanced, blended, and fully online courses and instructional materials. Dynamic, transformative, and unique eLearning opportunities characterize Clemson's approach to online teaching and learning.

**Our Mission:** Clemson Online provides strategic leadership for online education, emphasizing innovative teaching and superior learning outcomes to maximize student success in 21st-century academic and professional contexts.

**Our Vision:** Clemson Online will define the public web-grant university through measurable achievements in online education, research, and service.

The office is committed to pursuing strategic opportunities, providing supportive resources, promoting superior educational quality, and ensuring faculty involvement and responsibility in shaping Clemson's online future.



## **Clemson University and Pearson Education**

The Clemson University's Office of Professional and Continuing Education eLearning programs were developed in partnership with Pearson Education to produce the highest quality, best-in-class content and delivery necessary to enhance the overall student learning experience, boost understanding and ensure retention. Pearson Education is the premier content and learning company in North America offering solutions to the higher education and career training divisions of colleges and universities across the country aimed at driving quality education programs to ensure student success. Please visit us at [www.pearson.com](http://www.pearson.com).

## **About Pearson Education**

Welcome to Pearson. We have a simple mission: to help people make more of their lives through learning. We are the world's leading learning company, with 40,000 employees in more than 80 countries helping people of all ages to make measurable progress in their lives. We provide a range of education products and services to institutions, governments and direct to individual learners, that help people everywhere aim higher and fulfil their true potential. Our commitment to them requires a holistic approach to education. It begins by using research to understand what sort of learning works best, it continues by bringing together people and organizations to develop ideas, and it comes back round by measuring the outcomes of our products.

## **Massage Therapy & Holistic Healing Professional Program Detailed Student Objectives:**

### **HISTORY AND PERSPECTIVE OF MASSAGE THERAPY**

- Describe massage in the context of a natural healing art, and understand the traditional influences that helped to shape today's massage therapy profession.
- Define massage and describe fundamental massage techniques commonly used.
- Explain the concept of wellness, and understand how massage therapy is complimentary to Western medicine.
- Comprehend the basic terminology used to describe the various types of massage styles and techniques commonly used.

### **THE BENEFITS AND APPLICATIONS OF MASSAGE**

- Explain the various massage techniques and the effects they have on the body, mind, and emotions.
- Identify how and when massage therapy fits into the healing process of tissue repair.
- Explain the primary effects that massage has on each of the body systems, and on the organism level overall.
- Explain how massage therapy is used in treating human pathologies.
- Understand how research literacy and the evidence-based practice is important for the massage therapy profession.
- Explain the basic massage applications for each system of the body, and how massage is used to compliment standard medical treatment in hospitals and nursing homes.

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS AND MASSAGE GUIDELINES**

- Describe the major endangerment sites of the body, which require knowledge and caution to avoid injury during massage.
- Explain the principles for general, regional, and local contraindications for massage.
- Explain the common medications and understand the implications for giving massage to medicated clients.
- Describe the major components for maintaining a professional presence, including sanitation and hand washing practices.
- Explain the primary considerations for self-care as a massage therapist.
- Describe the primary elements of massage applications, including topical substances, proper draping, safety and comfort of the client, and use of techniques.
- Explain the paramount ethical and moral considerations for the professional of massage therapy, and confidentiality as a client's right to privacy.

### **WESTERN MASSAGE TECHNIQUES & JOINT MOVEMENTS**

- Identify the primary manual techniques used in Western Massage, and the variations for each
- Describe the variations of each of the primary western massage techniques, and how they can provide specific effects
- Understand how to use western massage techniques appropriately in a session
- Distinguish between active and passive movements, joint mobilization techniques, and stretching
- Explain the therapeutic benefits of massage
- Understand the application of mobilizing and stretching techniques for different joints and areas of the body, as well as the guidelines for applying joint movements

### **CONTEMPORARY MASSAGE AND BODYWORK**

- Identify three contemporary massage and bodywork systems that are popular within the industry
- Explain the basic history and physiological basis of myofascial massage

- Identify the primary guidelines, contraindications, and basic myofascial techniques used
- Explain the basic history and physiological basis of trigger point therapy
- Explain how to locate trigger points, and how they can radiate pain in predictable patterns
- Identify the primary deactivation techniques used to treat trigger points
- Explain the basic history and energetic basis of reflexology
- Explain zone therapy and the guidelines in giving reflexology sessions, including positioning the receiver and body mechanic considerations for the therapist
- Identify the primary foot reflexology techniques

### **CONSIDERATIONS FOR A MASSAGE THERAPY CAREER**

- Explore the massage therapy career
- Define helping professions and identify characteristics of a helping professional
- Examine the importance of balance
- Evaluate a massage career in the context of one's life
- Explore aspects of a massage therapy employee, and aspects of an entrepreneur
- Contrast the benefits and drawbacks of employment and business ownership
- Define an elevator pitch and its importance to your career
- Identify and explore options for massage careers
- Describe employment venues
- Contrast status of employee, independent contractor, and room renter
- Identify ways to find jobs
- Create a captivating cover letter and winning résumé
- Explore interviewing and communications skills
- Relate the concept of culture and the importance of "fit"
- Evaluate the fine points of negotiation and examine your rights and obligations as an employee
- Illustrate why marketing still matters as an employee
- Explain the importance of continuing education and professional development

### **PROFESSIONAL ISSUES AND SELF-CARE**

- Define and explore ethics and professionalism for the massage therapist
- Distinguish important documentation and the importance of keeping records
- Explore the complexity of relationships between massage therapist and client
- Define different boundaries for the massage therapist
- Characterize sexual misconduct and identify preventative courses of action
- Analyze gender and the massage therapist
- Evaluate opportunities for the male therapist
- Identify requirements for licensing, certifications, and national exams
- Explore relevant professional associations and trade publications
- Illustrate the importance of taking care of the caretaker
- Explain the concept of "healthy selfish"
- Identify foreseeable stressors for massage therapists
- Examine techniques to manage stress
- Define and create a self-care mission statement
- Craft a self-care plan
- Develop a good support system
- Examine internal versus external nurturing
- Review the importance of boundaries

**MARKETING FOR MESSAGE**

- Define marketing
- Explain the marketing mix and define the “four Ps” of marketing
- Define product and placement, and explain how to structure price
- Explore the various components of promotion, and learn how to leverage customer service as a marketing strategy
- Explain the purpose and makeup of a marketing plan
- Write a mission statement
- Examine trends in the massage industry
- Identify a target market
- Describe a company analysis and identify and assess competition
- Define and explore a SWOT analysis
- Introduce implementation tactics to help achieve marketing goals
- Discuss why marketing is important for the massage professional
- Evaluate marketing considerations and challenges unique to the massage industry
- Identify essential marketing materials for massage therapists
- Examine the anatomy of a business card
- Introduce cooperative marketing, low-cost and no-cost marketing techniques and tools
- Illustrate how to craft and deliver an elevator pitch for the massage therapist
- Explore niche marketing for different massage modalities and different target markets
- Examine the role of communications in marketing massage
- Learn ways to “recession-proof” your practice through marketing
- Identify ways to manage marketing information overload and exhaustion

**ETHICS AND PROFESSIONALISM IN MASSAGE THERAPY**

- Define ethics and professionalism within the context of the bodywork and massage therapy professions
- Identify some things that are often misconstrued to be the same as professional ethics
- Explain the relationship between ethics and professionalism
- Explain the purpose of codes of ethics and standards of practice
- Define the principles underlying the code of ethics for massage therapy and bodywork professions
- Identify the character traits that provide a solid foundation for ethical behavior
- Identify common things that present challenges to ethical behavior
- Explain the types of justifications and rationalizations people use to defend unethical behavior
- Explain the components of the ethical problem solving model and the importance of using a standard approach

**INTRODUCTION TO KINESIOLOGY**

- Define kinesiology and explain the foundational concepts that contribute to the study of human motion.
- Explain why the study of kinesiology has relevance in the application of therapeutic methods.
- Identify the areas of the body, positions in space, and the frame of reference for directional terminology.
- Describe basic neuromuscular concepts and therapeutic applications to improve neuromuscular patterning

**THE SKELETAL SYSTEM AND JOINT MOTION**

- List the structures and functions of the skeletal system.
- Identify the four primary types of connective tissue found in the body.
- Name and describe the three classifications of joints in the body.

- Define a joint and describe its function.
- Describe a synovial joint in the body, and explain range of motion, including factors that affect it.

### **THE NEUROMUSCULAR SYSTEM**

- Define the muscular system and describe its main kinesiological functions.
- Explain the primary structure and function of the skeletal muscles.
- Define and motor unit and the all-or-none law.
- Define how a muscle is named and the origin and insertion of a muscle.
- Define and describe the myofascial system and the manual techniques that address it.
- Describe and compare the major divisions of the nervous system.
- Define a sensorimotor loop and describe how it works in faulty movement patterns.
- Describe the stretch reflex and a reflex arc.
- Define a trigger point and its effects and describe the process of trigger point therapy.

### **BIOMECHANICS, POSTURE, GAIT, AND PALPATATION**

- Describe the primary biomechanical principles and concepts as they relate to massage therapists.
- Explain the various forces that act on the human body, and the effects they have on movement and posture.
- Describe several applications of biomechanics to effective and sound body mechanics for the massage practitioner.
- Define posture and describe the components of optimal upright posture.
- Explain the varying roles that skeletal muscles have in maintaining posture, as well as in creating movement.
- Describe the effects of faulty posture and the negative impact it has on the body.
- Define gait and explain the sequences of the full gait cycle.
- Describe basic gait assessment methods.
- Define palpation, and describe how palpation practiced as an art is useful in the massage therapy profession.

**Note: This program can be completed in 6 months. However, students will have online access to this program for a 24-month period.**

## **MICROSOFT OFFICE Module**

- Use an integrated software package, specifically the applications included in the Microsoft Office suite
- Demonstrate marketable skills for enhanced employment opportunities
- Describe proper computer techniques for designing and producing various types of documents
- Demonstrate the common commands & techniques used in Windows desktop
- List the meaning of basic PC acronyms like MHz, MB, KB, HD and RAM
- Use WordPad and MSWord to create various types of documents
- Create headings and titles with Word Art
- Create and format spreadsheets, including the use of mathematical formulas
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of computer database functions, including putting, processing, querying and outputting data
- Define computer terminology in definition matching quizzes
- Use the Windows Paint program to alter graphics
- Use a presentation application to create a presentation with both text and graphics
- Copy data from one MS Office application to another application in the suite
- Use e-mail and the Internet to send Word and Excel file attachments
- Demonstrate how to use the Windows Taskbar and Windows Tooltips
- Explain how copyright laws pertain to data and graphics posted on the Internet
- Take the college computer competency test after course completion
- Follow oral and written directions and complete assignments when working under time limitations

**Note:** Although the Microsoft Office Module is not required to successfully complete this program, students interested in pursuing free Microsoft MOS certification may want to consider completing this Microsoft Office Module at no additional cost.

### **System Requirements:**

#### **Windows Users:**

- Windows 8, 7, XP or Vista
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Firefox, Chrome or Microsoft Internet Explorer

#### **Mac OS User:**

- Mac OS X or higher (in classic mode)
- 56K modem or higher
- Soundcard & Speakers
- Apple Safari

#### **iPad Users:**

- Due to Flash limitations, eLearning programs are NOT compatible with iPads

#### **Screen Resolution:**

- We recommend setting your screen resolution to 1024 x 768 pixels.

#### **Browser Requirements:**

- System will support the two latest releases of each browser. When using older versions of a browser, users risk running into problems with the course software.
- Windows Users: Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Microsoft Internet Explorer
- Mac OS Users: Safari, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox

#### **Suggested Plug-ins:**

- Flash Player
- Real Player
- Adobe Reader
- Java