

Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board

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New Name and New Logo



**ALABAMA MASSAGE THERAPY
LICENSING BOARD**

AMTLB Statistics

As of May 23, 2024, the following licensure statistics were reported to ABN:

- 2,208 - Active massage therapists
- 741 - Active establishments
- 339 - Active instructors
- 15 - Active massage therapy schools



ABN Leading Change for the AMTLB

What is coming soon!

- **Full transparency**
- **Communication like never before**
- **Changes to the application system**
- **Revisions to the Administrative Code to support changes related to the New AMTLB included in Alabama Act 2024-361**
- **Self assessment tools for education programs to meet criteria**
- **FAQs for each area of licensing**
- **New Board Members fully oriented to the role, open meetings act, duties, and responsibilities**
- **New certificates for licensure and unique licensing numbers**
- **Fingerprint background check requirements**
- **New internal processes based on best practices in regulation**
- **Consistent application of processes and rules for discipline**
- **A Strategic Plan for the future**

Contacting the
AMTLB

EMAIL US
PLEASE!!!

We prefer that you utilize the established email address listed below in lieu of call; please send your inquiries through the email address.

MassageTherapyBoard
@abn.alabama.gov



Rationale:

Email allows us to identify the issue and direct your request to the most effective person for response. Remember, we also are learning all things related to massage therapy and we want to give you the best customer service possible, as well as the correct answer in writing.

§34-43A-6. Powers and duties of the board

Understanding what your Board can do.



- (1) Qualify applicants to take the licensing examination and issue licenses to successful applicants.
- (2) Adopt a seal and affix the seal to all licenses issued by the board. All licenses shall be on pre-printed, sequentially numbered certification forms.
- (3) Create application forms for examination and licensing and assess and collect fees pursuant to this chapter.
- (4) Maintain a complete record of all massage therapists and annually prepare a roster of the names and addresses of those licensees. A copy of the roster shall be provided to any individual upon request and the payment of a fee established by the board in an amount sufficient to cover the costs of publication and distribution.
- (5) Provide for the investigation of any individual who is suspected of violating this chapter.
- (6) Adopt and revise rules as necessary to implement this chapter pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. All administrative rules of the former Alabama Board of Massage Therapy existing on June 1, 2024, which reference Chapter 43, unless in conflict with existing law, shall remain in effect as rules of the Alabama Massage Therapy Licensing Board until amended or repealed by that board.

Board Member duties continued

- (7) Provide a copy of this chapter, upon request, to any licensee or applicant for a license.
- (8) By rule, require massage therapists, massage therapy establishments, and massage therapy schools to carry professional and general liability insurance with an "A" rated or better insurance carrier in the amount of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000). Proof of coverage shall be provided to the board upon request.
- (9) Perform other functions necessary and proper for the performance of official duties.
- (b) The board may do any of the following:
 - (1) Accept or deny the application of any individual applying for a license as a massage therapist upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the board.
 - (2) By rule, establish criteria for certifying massage therapy instructors.
 - (3) Adopt an annual budget and authorize necessary expenditures from fees and other available appropriations. The expenditures of the board may not exceed the revenues of the board in any fiscal year.
 - (4) Adopt a code of ethics.
 - (5) Provide for the inspection of the business premises of any licensee during normal business hours, upon complaint.

Massage Therapy Upcoming Changes

1

Licensure and Renewal will be extended until June 21, 2024, when new emergency Administrative Code changes take effect.

There will be new requirements for fingerprint background checks at that time so please wait until June 22, 2024, to begin the license or renewal application.

2

Fingerprint background checks for licensure and renewal.

This process will be defined in the new rules with a notice to licensees on June 21st.

3

Massage Therapist linked to the facility license.

Every massage therapist shall be registered with the board and one of them shall be designated as the individual who will ensure that the massage therapy establishment complies with state law and all applicable administrative rules.

Education
program changes
coming

Website listing
with links

Coming Soon

1. New Administrative
Code chapter
dedicated to
education programs.
Expect the following:

2. Clear educational
program curriculum
requirements

3. Site surveys for
compliance

4. Educational
program self survey
tools for compliance

5. Board
communication with
all Directors



Massage Therapy Facility Licensure Key Points



New Administrative Code
changes coming soon!

- 34-43A-9. Licensing of massage therapy establishments; initial inspection.
- (a) No massage therapy establishment shall operate in this state without a license issued by the board.
- (b) A sexually-oriented business may not operate as a massage therapy establishment or be licensed by the board pursuant to this chapter.
- (c) A massage therapy establishment shall contract with or **employ only licensed massage therapists to perform massage therapy.** Every massage therapist shall be registered with the board and one of them **shall be designated as the individual who will ensure that the massage therapy establishment complies with state law and all applicable administrative rules.**
- (h) If the physical location of a massage therapy establishment has been shut down by the board or by local, state, or federal law enforcement, the physical location **is permanently prohibited from being licensed or operating as a massage therapy establishment.**

Massage Therapy Instructor

§34-43A-10. Application forms; issuance of license; display of license.

a) Applications for licensing and renewal of a license shall be on forms provided by the board and shall be accompanied by the applicable fee. A recent two-by-two inch photograph showing a frontal view of the head and shoulders of the applicant for a massage therapy or therapy instructor license and applicant for a massage therapy establishment license, taken no more than six months earlier, shall be submitted with each application. All documents shall be submitted in English.

(b) The board may deny the application of any applicant who refuses to complete a criminal history background check as required by the board and provided in Section 34-43A-13(c).



Animal Massage Approval

Excerpt form 2024-361

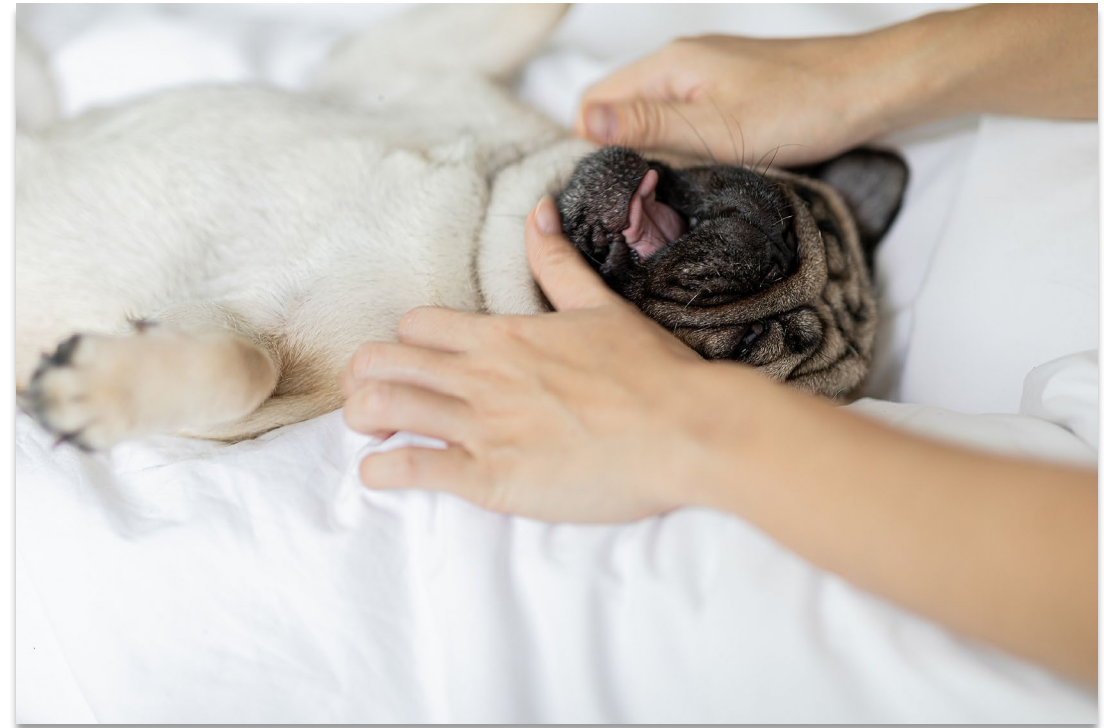
§34-43A-8. Application for license; licensing

c. In addition to paragraphs a. and b., to perform therapeutic massage on an animal, a massage therapist shall have also graduated from a nationally approved program and completed at least 100 hours of postgraduate training and education in animal anatomy, pathology, and physiology for the specific type of animal upon which he or she will perform therapeutic massage.

2) Successfully passed a state board exam or a national standardized examination approved by the board. The board may approve other state exams on a case-by-case basis.

3) Completed a criminal history background check pursuant to Section 34-43A-13(c).

(4) Paid all applicable fees.



Committee to Review Complaints

34-43A-13.
Complaints;
grounds for suspension,
revocation, etc., of
license; penalties;
rulemaking
authority.

The Law

(a) Any individual may file with the board a written complaint regarding an allegation of impropriety by a massage therapist, massage therapy establishment, or other individual. Complaints shall be made in the manner prescribed by the board. Complaints received by the board shall be referred to a standing investigative committee consisting of a board member, the board attorney, and the board investigator. If no probable cause is found, the investigative committee may dismiss the charges and prepare a statement, in writing, of the reasons for that decision.

(b) If probable cause is found, the board shall initiate an administrative proceeding. Upon a finding that the licensee has committed any of the following misconduct, the board may suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew a license or impose a civil penalty after notice and opportunity for a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act:

COMMUNICATION

- Expect emails and be sure you check your spam filter.
- Be sure we have the correct email address on file.
- We will set up list serv groups for all categories of licensure if you want a copy of everything be sure to sign up for all messaging opportunities.
- Social media accounts will be established for communication to be sure you get agency updates; please share our posts!
- We will notify you when everything is ready to go.



Education in Leadership

- The Leadership Institute (LI) was developed to improve regulatory knowledge, public protection, and patient care through a series of educational opportunities that are foundational to professional growth and development as a leader. The broad curriculum begins at the individual level and focuses on improved communication to patients, families, peers, the entire care team, and throughout organizations.
- The next slides are related to leadership training that is available to you free of charge through the ABN. I personally encourage you as a Massage Therapist to take these free courses and prepare yourself to be a leader like none other, in your chosen field and profession. The ABN has opened the Leadership Institute to other professionals to help individuals grow in communication, collaboration and team work. These courses are not limited to nursing.

Leading Change and Access to Information



ABN Center for
Nursing Excellence

Leadership Institute

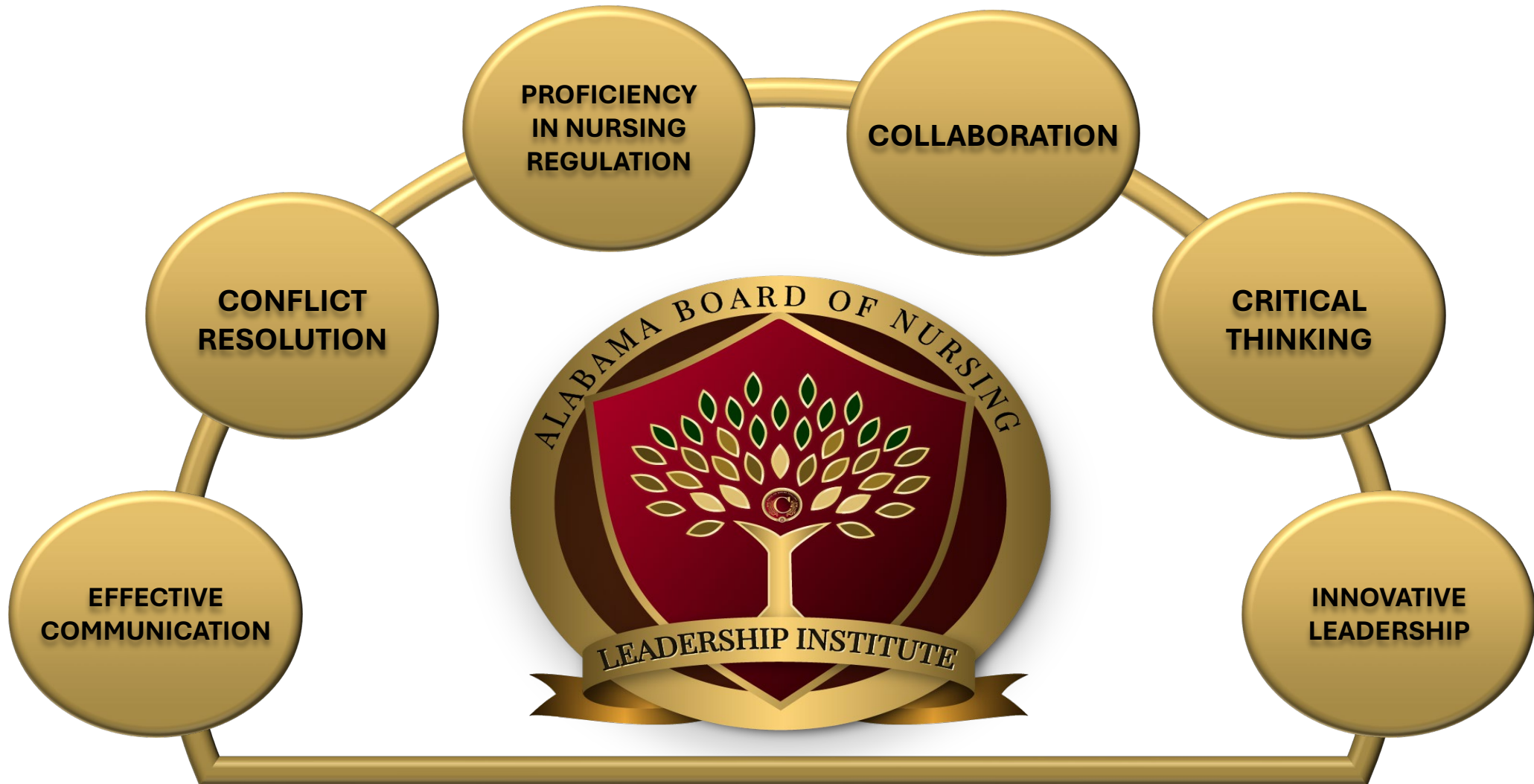


3 Tiers of Training

Individual, Team and Organizational



Six Competencies



The Leadership Institute

[Access information non-nurse](#)

- [Out-of-State – Alabama Board of Nursing](#)
- The address above will give access to all course links. A nursing license is NOT required to complete this valuable education.



Contact Us

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