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January, 2011

APENS National Certification Exam

Eligibility Criteria and Review Procedures

Candidates applying for the national CAPE certification must meet the following criteria established by the APENS Board of Directors and supported by the APAC/AAPAR *Highly Qualified Adapted Physical Education Teacher* Position Paper. There are three options available for Adapted Physical Educators/Physical Educators, persons in Higher Education and professionals (directors of Special Olympics, sport programs, etc.) who work with individuals with disabilities in physical activity/education to become CAPE certified.

Option 1: Sit for the APENS exam.

Candidates must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible to sit for the APENS exam.

1. Bachelor's degree with a major in Physical Education or equivalent (e.g., Sport Science, Kinesiology, etc.).
2. A minimum of *twelve semester hours (credits) specifically addressing the educational needs of individuals with disabilities. It is required that nine semester hours (credits) be specific to the area of adapted physical education or meet the following criteria:
 - A. Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 9 credits in APE coursework and 3 credits of coursework from a related field (e.g. special education, speech, OT, PT, recreation, psychology) as documented with official college/university transcripts.
 - B. Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 6 credits in APE coursework and 3 credits in coursework from a related field as documented with official college/university transcripts; and up to 3 credits awarded for professional experience teaching APE as documented in writing from a local education agency.
 - Note: Up to 3 credits can be awarded with documented years experience teaching APE. The following formula would apply and must be documented in writing from a local education agency. For every two years of full-time teaching in APE, 1 credit of requirement can be earned/awarded. The total amount of professional experience teaching APE that can be applied to the 12 credit eligibility is 3 credits (i.e., acknowledgment of up to 6 years of teaching experience in APE).
3. A minimum of 200 hours of documented experience providing physical education instruction to individuals with disabilities.

4. A current valid teaching certificate in physical education.

*Evidence of coursework must relate to physical activity and students with disabilities as set forth by state and/or national standards for professional preparation in adapted physical education. The National Consortium for Physical Education and Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPERID) and the Adapted Physical Activity Council (APAC) believe that coursework in adapted physical education should provide evidence of competency in the following areas:

- a. Disability studies
- b. Motor assessment of individuals with disabilities
- c. Report writing
- d. Special education law
- e. Development of individualized education programs (IEP)
- f. Adaptations and modifications for physical education
- g. Behavior management
- h. Collaboration and consultation skills
- i. Advocacy skills
- j. Instructional design and planning
- k. Individual teaching and learning styles
- l. Inclusion practices
- m. Community and family resources
- n. Professional leadership
- o. Assistive technology for physical education

Review Procedures

The aforementioned criteria shall be reviewed by the APENS standing committee members. Results of their review will be sent to the APENS administrative office who will report the findings in letter format to the candidate to determine eligibility to sit for the APENS exam.

Where necessary, it will be up to the APENS standing committee members to request additional information (e.g. course syllabus, title of text book used, etc.) in order to meet the 12 credit criteria.

Option 2: Non Exam Option (Physical/Adapted Physical Educators with more than 10 years experience)

Option 3: Non Exam Option (Professionals and Higher Education Faculty)