As you move closer to graduation it is important to educate yourself about the massage therapy licensure/certification exams and regulations/requirements of the state in which you wish to practice.

**MBLEx Information:**

- The MBLEx is a 125 multiple choice exam that is state specific. This means your state will include questions on the exam that address their specific licensure guidelines.
- The exam is offered through Pearson, an online educational testing company. If you are unfamiliar with taking computerized exams you may prepare for one through pearson.com/fsmtb
- When you sign up to take the exam you will receive an email prompting you to select a time, date and location. Sign up early as spots will fill up quickly.
- Be sure to have two forms of identification with you when going to the testing center.
- You will be given two and a half hours to take the exam and the cost is $195. You may retake the exam if necessary but you will be charged.
- You may not wear any jewelry or watches when taking the exam and you may not take anything into the testing room with you. Check in advance to find out if your testing location provides a locker to store your items.
- When taking the exam you can flag questions if you wish to come back and review them at the end of your exam.
- The exam is graded electronically so you will know on the day of your exam if you have passed. You must score at least 600 out of 900 to pass the exam. You will receive a report which includes a breakdown of the exam categories and how you performed in each area. If you do not pass, use this information to study for your re-take.

**NCBTMB offers two types of exams: State Licensure exam and a Board Certification exam.**

**State Licensure Exam:**

- The licensure exam is a 125 question entry level exam and the cost is $185.
- You sign up for the exam directly through the website and you have two options for the exam*.
  
  Option 1: NCETM-Therapeutic Massage which includes western modalities.
  
  Option 2: NCETMB-Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork which includes eastern and western modalities. *Be sure to check with your state directly to determine which exam(s) they accept.

- NCBTMB offers a practice exam for the licensure exam that is not timed and allows you to review and study specific skill areas.

amtamassage.org
Board Certification:
In early 2013, the Board Certification credential replaced the National Certification credential. In order to become Board Certified you must pass the Board Certification exam and complete the following requirements as well as submit payment of $250.

- Upload proof of 750 hours of education from an approved massage therapy school (http://www.ncbtmb.org/tools/find-approved-school). Note: If you have completed courses from an accredited College/University, NCBTMB may accept these.

- Complete 250 hours of hands on professional work experience. Note: Your clinic hours will not count toward this requirement and you must become licensed in any state that requires licensure.

- Submit to the criminal and background check, show proof of CPR Certification and sign that you will abide by the Standards and Ethics of the NCBTMB.

So, how should I prepare for graduation?

- At least 3 months prior to graduation, visit the AMTA website State Regulation Page and find out what your state requires in order to practice massage therapy.

- Explore your options for becoming licensed and choose the one that is best for you and meets your state’s requirements. Begin making preparations to meet the requirements of licensure and to follow any other steps needed to practice in your area.

- Once you are licensed, practice in your field, network with peers and other professionals, attend AMTA chapter events and find a mentor. Once you feel more comfortable, explore your options of continuing education and commit to lifelong learning through professional development.

NCBTMB website: www.ncbtmb.org
MBlex website: www.fsmtb.org

American Massage Therapy Association online resources:
State Regulations: amtamassage.org/regulation/stateRegulations.html
Mentor Program: amtamassage.org/mentor
Continuing Education: amtamassage.org/education
AMTA Job Bank: amtamassage.org/jobbank

amtamassage.org