



Dear Massage Therapy Applicant:

We at River Valley Community College welcome your interest in the Massage Therapy Program. This late afternoon/evening program can be completed in 1 year (12 months) full time or in 2 years (24 months) part time at our Keene or Lebanon Campus. All classes begin in the Fall Semester, which usually starts the last week in August.

Below is a check list for applying for the Massage Therapy Program.

1. Prior to your admission into the program you will need to make an appointment for an interview. You may call 603-542-7744 ext 5401 or email [sprasch@ccsnh.edu](mailto:sprasch@ccsnh.edu)
2. Complete an application and submit with fee, either online (<http://www.rivervalley.edu/admissions/application-process-forms>) or at any of our campuses.
3. 3.Submit evidence of graduation from high school along with an official transcript of courses and grades; or official transcript of courses and grades; or official documentation of a General Equivalent Diploma (GED) or its satisfactory equivalent. Official documents must be received directly from the granting institution in a sealed envelope. (NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to request that official transcripts of previous study be mailed directly to the Admissions Office.)
4. Submit official transcripts of all previous college work. Official documents must be received directly from the granting institution in a sealed envelope.
5. Take the Accuplacer Assessment test for Reading Comprehension and Sentence Skills. (<http://www.rivervalley.edu/admissions/testing-assessment>)
6. Make an appointment with the program director to register for classes. (sprasch@ccsnh.edu)

Please review the Massage Therapy Program website carefully

(<http://www.rivervalley.edu/academics/academic-programs/massage-therapy>) as it contains a great deal of information about the program

I am looking forward to meeting you and helping you begin your new career. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

***Sue***

Susan G. Prash, M.Ed., LMT  
Massage Therapy Program Director  
[sprash@ccsnh.edu](mailto:sprash@ccsnh.edu)  
603-542-7744 ext. 5401

## **Massage Therapy Certificate Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How long is the River Valley Community College Massage Therapy Program?**

The minimum educational requirement for the State of New Hampshire is 750 hours. Our program is generally completed in 4 consecutive semesters or 16 months. Some of our students take longer to complete the program if they are unable to take 4 classes per semester. The college catalog describes in detail what courses will be offered each semester. The Massage Program has two starting dates, in September and January.

### **2. What if I want to start by taking a summer course?**

If you begin the program in the summer semester, you should register for Basic Anatomy and Physiology Essentials Course.

### **3. What if I want to spread the program out over more than four consecutive semesters?**

You can take fewer courses each semester and take longer to complete the program in order to meet your needs. The program has a great deal of flexibility to accommodate your schedule.

### **4. What should I register for when I start the program?**

In order of priority, you should register for Basic Massage Theory and Application, Basic Anatomy and Physiology, Self Care and Stress Management and Oriental Theory. Please meet with the program director to complete the registration forms.

### **5. Are there any prerequisites to becoming a massage therapist?**

Yes. In NH you must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent and be in good mental and physical health.

### **6. Do I need a license or certificate to practice massage?**

Yes and No. It depends on the state in which you plan to practice massage therapy. 41 states require some form of credentialing for massage therapists.

### **7. If I earn my NH license, does that mean I can practice in any state?**

No. If you plan to move to another state you must check with that state licensing board to find out the educational requirements even though this program does exceed most state requirements.

**8. What is the difference between certification and licensing?**

Upon completion of any program that is a minimum of 500 hours (750 for NH) you are eligible to sit for a Certification Written Exam. In NH, once you have graduated successfully from an accredited massage therapy program and have passed a National Certification Exam, you may apply for a state license.

**9. What kind of job can I expect to acquire after graduation?**

Many massage therapists are self-employed, but with the emergence of massage in mainstream health care settings, many opportunities are available for employment. Clinics, spas, chiropractic offices, hospitals and corporate wellness programs are employing massage therapists.

**10. What kind of income can I expect to earn as a massage therapist?**

The self-employed massage therapist can charge anywhere from \$45 to \$75 per hour the first year of business. These rates are influenced and dictated by region, type of service and the experience level of the massage therapist. Overhead and taxes average 40 – 60% based on many different factors such as office space, tax bracket, insurance, vehicle use and such. The average number of massages per week is 20 clients if you are full time and 10 clients if you are part time. This may fluctuate with the seasons, location of your practice, and of course, how good you are!

Massage Therapists working in spas average between \$30 and \$40 an hour or are paid a percentage. Tipping is common in a spa setting.

**11. Does insurance cover massage therapy?**

It depends upon the situation and insurance company. Usually workman's compensation claims or acute injury due to a motor vehicle accident, with a referral from a doctor, will be covered. Have your client check with their insurance company first!

**12. Does it matter if I am a male or female therapist?**

Some clients have a personal preference for either a male or female therapist based on their comfort level and sometimes the practitioner's strength and ability to apply pressure. Your gender should not deter you from becoming a massage therapist. How you represent yourself is more important than being male or female.

**13. How much does the River Valley program cost?**

A NH resident will pay approximately \$8,500. in tuition, \$850. in books and \$500. for a massage table.

**14. Is there financial aid available for part time students?**

Yes. You must be matriculated into a program and take a minimum of 6 credit hours per semester to be eligible for financial aid. Scholarships and grants are also available. The RVCC Financial Aid department can advise you.

**15. Who do the students practice on?**

During class time the students practice on each other. During the clinic sessions members of the college community as well as the general public can sign up for a student massage clinic. Students are presented with a wide variety of clients to practice on in order to gain valuable experience.

**16. Who benefits from massage? Everyone!**

**For more information regarding massage therapy as a career please visit:**

**<http://www.amtamassage.org> <http://www.abmp.com>**