

# **SUNY Morrisville Massage Therapy Program Student Handbook**

## **Welcome to the Massage Therapy Program at SUNY Morrisville**

The faculty believe palpatory skills that progress along this continuum foster the students' ability to analyze and synthesize information. The faculty believes they must engage in a variety of teaching/learning strategies that assure student competency in the areas of professional behavior, communication, assessment, decision-making, client education, health care team collaboration and care management in a variety of settings. We believe that experiences should be consistent with standards for massage therapy practice as described by the AMTA and the New York State Education Department Guidelines for Professional Practice. We believe that the Massage Therapy program prepares students as entry level practitioners that can work independently within the scope of massage therapy practice in a variety of settings.

The purpose of this handbook is to ensure proper communications between faculty and students in the Massage Therapy Program at SUNY Morrisville. The faculty in this program maintain a high expectation of professionalism due to the hands-on nature of this program and the licensure requirements.

### **SUNY Morrisville Vision**

SUNY Morrisville aspires to be a recognized leader in innovative applied education

### **SUNY Morrisville Mission**

SUNY Morrisville works to offer diverse learning experiences so that graduates may pursue rewarding lives and careers, become engaged citizens, and contribute to our collective future.

### **Morrisville Works to**

Inspire Learning through Experience

Build Community

Achieve a Sustainable Future

### **Massage Therapy Program Mission**

The mission of the Massage Therapy program is to support the mission of the college through the preparation of graduates prepared to enter the workforce as beginning practitioners through the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills specific to the practice of Massage Therapy incorporating knowledge from the arts and sciences.

## REQUIRED CLASSES FOR THE MASSAGE THERAPY PROGRAM

### Core Courses

MAST 100 (CPR for the Healthcare Provider)	
MAST 101 Eastern Anatomy and Physiology	First Fall Semester
MAST 102 Western Massage 1	First Fall Semester
MAST 103 Eastern Massage 1	Spring Semester
MAST 104 Western Massage 2	Spring Semester
MAST 201 Western Medical Massage	Fall Semester
MAST 202 Eastern Medical Massage	Fall Semester
MAST 203 Professional Issues	Fall Semester
MAST 204 Massage Clinical Experience	Spring Semester
MAST 205 Senior Seminar	Spring Semester
MAST 206 Professional Practice Issues	Spring Semester

### Additional Required

BIOL 150 Human Anatomy and Physiology 1	First Fall Semester, if needed
BIOL 151 Human Anatomy and Physiology 2	
BIOL 135 Myology 1	First Fall Semester, if needed
BIOL 136 Myology 2	Spring Semester
BIOL 137 Neurology	Fall Semester
<b>COMP 101</b>	
<b>COMP 110</b>	
<b>COMM 110</b>	
<b>PSYC 101</b>	

## PROGRESSION and ACADEMICS

Students can matriculate into the MAST program only in the fall semester, and are required to take MAST 101, MAST 102, BIOL 150 and BIOL 135 the first semester, if they have not already completed those courses. Once enrolled in MAST 101 and MAST 102, students must complete the program within 6 semesters of matriculation. The student's progress towards graduation within 6 semesters of matriculation defines satisfactory academic progression. This completion requirement is due to the professional and licensing standards set forth by the New York State Office of Professions. If a student is not progressing at a satisfactory rate, where they no longer are on schedule to graduate within 6 semesters of matriculation, the student will be dismissed from the program. It will be the decision of the faculty and the dean as to whether satisfactory progression is being made. If a student is dismissed or withdraws from the program, in order to return to the massage therapy program, the student will then need to complete the following:

1. Wait a period of at least 1 academic year before re-admission to the program.
2. Complete a minimum of 12 credits outside of the massage therapy core curriculum and earn a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.5 for those 12 credits.
3. Meet with a massage therapy advisor.
4. Re-enroll and be accepted back into the massage therapy program upon recommendation of the faculty members in the massage therapy program.
5. Once re-enrolled, all students need to start the sequence of courses from the beginning.
6. Students are only permitted to matriculate in the fall semester.
7. If a previously dismissed student should earn a grade lower than a C in any core course for the massage therapy program, that student may be dismissed from the massage therapy program at the end of any semester. These courses include all MAST and BIOL courses.

Students will not be eligible for admission or continuation in the massage therapy program if they repeat any of the following courses twice without earning a grade of C or higher, including dropping/withdrawal or failing, at this institution or another college: all MAST courses, BIOL 150, BIOL 151, BIOL 135, BIOL 136, BIOL 137.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

Students must maintain a minimum C average. Each student must demonstrate to the instructor that they are capable of performing each massage technique in a safe and accurate manner.

A = 93-100  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 87-89  
B = 84-86  
B- = 80-83  
C+ = 78-79  
C = 75-77  
C- = 71-74  
D+ = 68-70  
D = 65-67  
F = below 65

## **BODYWORK**

**Hands On:** All Massage Therapy students are required to both give and receive bodywork as a part of each MAST class. Students will be working in the client and therapist role. Students in the client role will be required to be active participants in order to provide constructive feedback to the students in the therapist role.

**Lecture/Lab:** Each laboratory section will include bodywork and hands-on activities. If students are unable to give and/or receive bodywork during a lab session they will be considered absent. Students are required to attend the lecture portion of class that prepares them for the lab in order to participate in the lab session.

**Sheets:** Remember to bring sheets. Make sure they are clean! Student will be required to use their own sheets during class and during their lab sessions. If they are not prepared with their own clean sheets during these sessions they will be considered absent and not able to participate.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. There are no exceptions to this policy. A student who is late for a class and misses the procedural and/or safety instructions for the class, will not be able to participate in the hands-on portion of the class and will therefore be considered absent. If a student leaves class before the scheduled end time without faculty permission the student is also considered absent for that class. No late homework is accepted. It is the responsibility of the student to check blackboard for assignments and announcements.

Although regular class attendance will not guarantee passing grades, irregular attendance will usually have an adverse effect upon them. **The Massage Therapy Program at Morrisville State College is a 1000 hour contact program under the New York State Department of Education. The NYS Dept. of Ed guidelines requires all students to complete at least 1000 contact hours in order to sit for the NYS licensing exam. Greater than 3 absences in any course will result in you earning a grade of F for the course and you will need to retake the course.**

## **Quizzes and Exams:**

If a student misses a quiz or exam they will receive a grade of zero. Making up quizzes or exams will not be permitted.

**Final Exam:** Should a student have a conflict with the scheduling of their final examination for a class, the instructor must be notified as soon as possible in order to make other arrangements. Should they be absent for a final examination, they must notify the instructor at least one hour prior to the scheduled time of the exam.

## **HOMEWORK**

No late homework is accepted. It is the responsibility of the student to check blackboard for assignments and announcements.

## **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

A faculty member can dismiss a student from the class or laboratory, that is, for actions which interfere with the orderly conduct of the session which threaten bodily or emotional harm to others. Upon dismissal, the student must then meet with the faculty member prior to the next class to determine the course of action. At that time, the resolution will be 1) to come back to class 2) to meet with the dean of STHS or 3) to not be allowed to come back to class and to be suspended from the class.

## **UNIFORMS**

To meet professional standards, students are expected to cover their midriff, gluteal cleft and upper arms. No tank tops are allowed in clinicals or in class. Yoga or athletic pants are appropriate and required for bodywork sessions. For the MAST 204 component of the program, it is up to instructor discretion what uniform will be used. A specific uniform will be described in the course syllabi. NYS law requires massage therapy students to wear visible nametags when working clients outside of class. We will adhere to this law during all events on and off campus.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

For the safety and privacy of the students in the program, the only use of electronic devices will be directed by faculty in class. In the event that a student is caught using an electronic device outside of the directive approved use, students will be dismissed from the classroom and considered absent for the day.

## **PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS ON AND OFF CAMPUS**

Students are expected to participate in events periodically as part of the curriculum. While participating in these events students are not permitted to use alcohol, tobacco, smokeless tobacco, vaping products or any other tobacco type products. The use of illegal substances is also strictly prohibited. If the faculty has reason to believe students under the influence of such substances will not be permitted to participate in events or participate in hands on portions of classes (as recipient or therapist) and will be dismissed. These students will be considered absent from the event or class.

## **LOCKERS**

Every student in the massage therapy program will be assigned a locker in Shannon Hall. Students will provide their own locks for the lockers. Students are expected to clean out their lockers at the end of each semester and will not be permitted to keep any personal items in Shannon Hall over winter or summer break. Items left in Shannon Hall and/or in lockers will be donated or thrown away.

**AUDITING A COURSE**

The Massage Therapy Program does not permit students to audit courses.

**HANDS ON PARTICIPATION**

According to NYS Education Law, only students enrolled in massage therapy courses for the current semester are permitted to practice hands on massage therapy techniques. Students are not permitted to perform bodywork on individuals unless enrolled in the MAST 101, MAST 102, MAST 103, MAST 104, MAST 201, MAST 202, MAST 203, MAST 204, MAST 205 or MAST 206 for the current semester.

Permission to practice remains at the discretion of the instructors in the program due to their licensing requirements.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

According to the New York State Office of Professions, the faculty of the massage therapy program have the ultimate discretion to determine who will be permitted to practice massage therapy techniques under their license in the Massage Therapy Program at SUNY Morrisville.

I have received a copy of the handbook for the Massage Therapy Program at SUNY Morrisville.

Print Name\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_