



Music Therapy Board Certification Module Series: Purpose of Credentialing

From the February 19, 2026, Educator & Internship Director Discussion

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PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING



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JOURNEY TO MT-BC



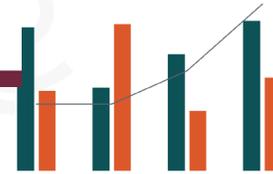
©2026 Certification Board for Music Therapists Examination

THE EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



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ANALYSIS & REPORTING



RESOURCES FOR TEST PREPARATION



PURPOSE OF CREDENTIALING



Purpose of Credentialing Examinations



To protect the public from harm caused and provide a means to revoke the credential if that would become necessary to protect the public



To assess professional competence in terms of the knowledge and skills required to successfully perform the tasks associated with the job role



To establish and apply a consistent standard that reflects the competency level required of practitioners who meet the eligibility requirements



To provide a valid and reliable means of identifying those who are competent to practice in the profession

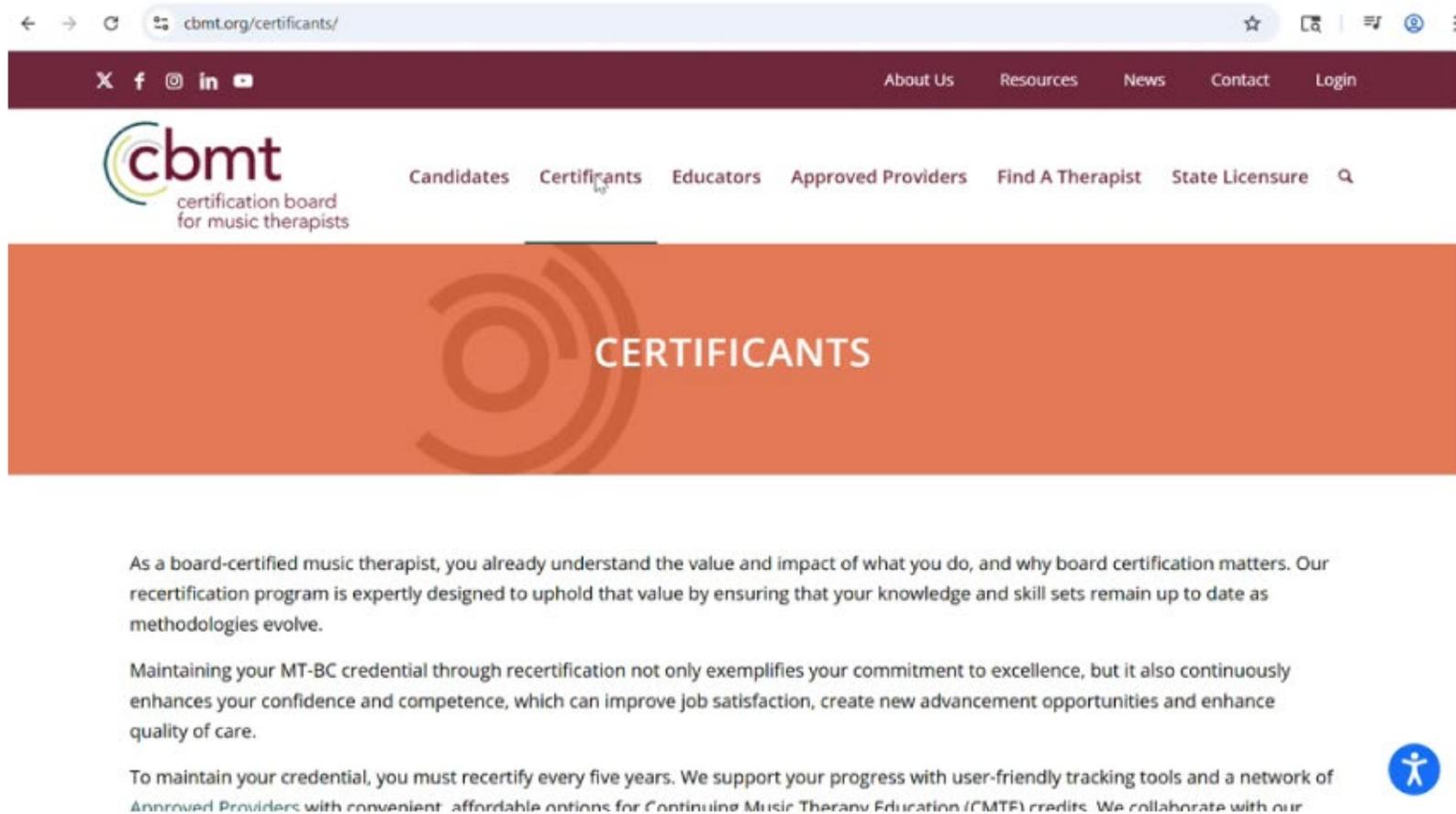
The CBMT Digital MT-BC Badge

CBMT badges are

- shareable on any digital platform: social media, email signature, embedded in your resume, or the web
- authenticated by CBMT and trusted by employers, colleagues and industry peers
- a single source that combines your credentials and provides a complete overview of your skills
- the new way to access labor market insights to find out who's looking for qualified music therapists



Navigating the CBMT Website



The screenshot shows a web browser at the URL cbmt.org/certificants/. The website features a dark red navigation bar with links for "About Us", "Resources", "News", "Contact", and "Login". Below this is a white navigation bar with the CBMT logo and links for "Candidates", "Certificants", "Educators", "Approved Providers", "Find A Therapist", and "State Licensure". A large orange banner with a circular graphic and the word "CERTIFICANTS" is prominently displayed. Below the banner, there is introductory text about the recertification program.

As a board-certified music therapist, you already understand the value and impact of what you do, and why board certification matters. Our recertification program is expertly designed to uphold that value by ensuring that your knowledge and skill sets remain up to date as methodologies evolve.

Maintaining your MT-BC credential through recertification not only exemplifies your commitment to excellence, but it also continuously enhances your confidence and competence, which can improve job satisfaction, create new advancement opportunities and enhance quality of care.

To maintain your credential, you must recertify every five years. We support your progress with user-friendly tracking tools and a network of Approved Providers with convenient, affordable options for Continuing Music Therapy Education (CMTPE) credits. We collaborate with our

Board certification is voluntary, required in some states for licensure, state certification, or state registries

- **Title protection** prohibits an individual from saying they a music therapist unless they are a board-certified music therapist.
- A **registry** is a list of professionals who have met predetermined education, clinical training, and certification requirements. It offers the same benefits of title protection plus a mechanism through which consumers can search for a qualified professional.
- **State certification** functions like a **registry** in that it offers a state-maintained list of professionals who have met certain education, clinical training, and certification requirements. However, this program is often voluntary and, depending on the state, may or may not offer title protection.
- A **license** outlines specific education, clinical training, and continuing education requirements and provides title protection, practice protection (also called scope of practice protection), and public protection.

NCCA accreditation is considered the "gold standard" for certification programs

<https://www.credentialingexcellence.org/About>



Certification Program

Demonstrated mastery of



Knowledge



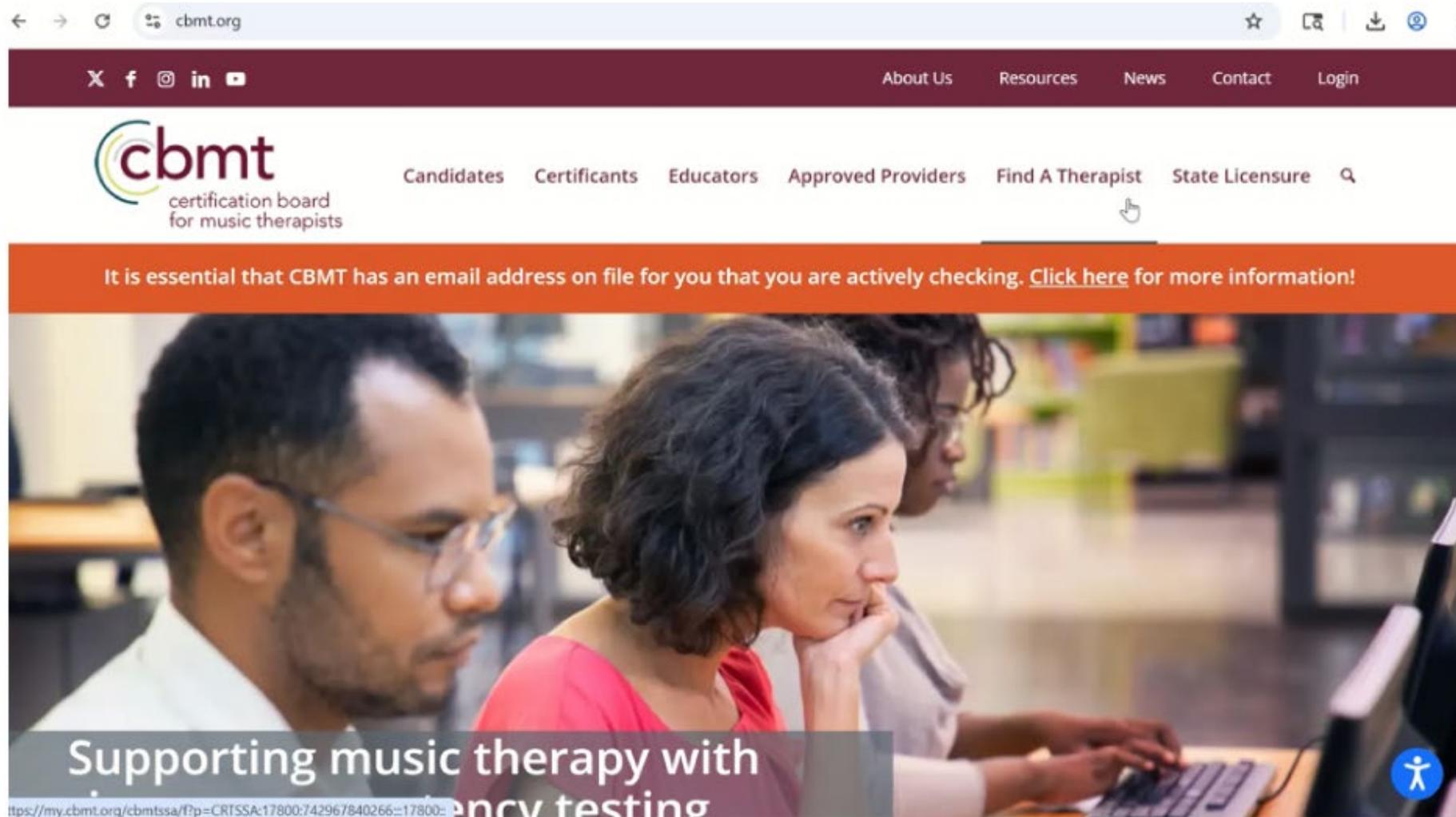
Skills



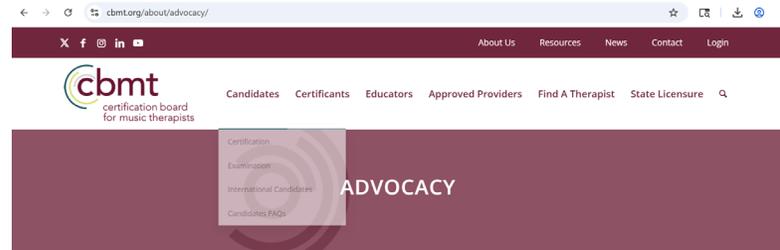
Competencies

(often broad in scope)

Navigating the CBMT Website



Thank you for completing this module

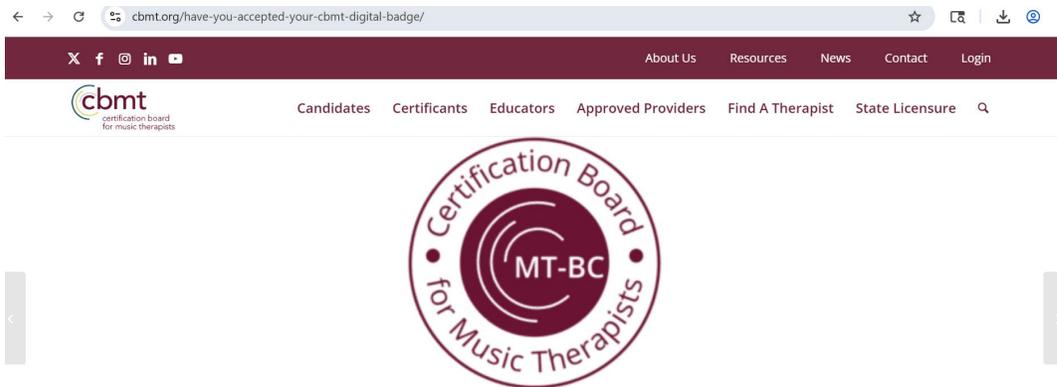


Advocates are people and organizations who make their voices heard in their communities and industries. CBMT advocates for the music therapy profession in a number of ways. As someone involved in the profession who shares our commitment to excellence in practice for excellence in outcomes, you can be a powerful advocate, too.

What You Can Do

There are many reasons to be an advocate for music therapy:

- To increase access to services for clients



Have you accepted your CBMT Digital Badge?