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Music Therapy Board Certification Exam Presentation: Delivery, Scoring and Reporting

September 22, 2026

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Topic Outline

- Review MT-BC Examination Blueprint
- NEW: Introduce Linear on the Fly Testing and Scaled Score Reports for all English Language Examinations
- Welcome to the School Administrator Pass-Rate Reporting Portal

*At this time, the Canadian French Form and the Self-Assessment Examinations will not transition to LOFT or scaled scoring.

The Blueprint



Music Therapy Board Certification
Board Certification Domains – 2025
From the 2024 Music Therapy Practice Analysis Study, Effective October 27, 2025

Domain I: Safety (6 exam items)

Knowledge Statements: The knowledge needed to fulfill job responsibilities

- 1A Emergency response and crisis intervention techniques (e.g., cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR], first aid, de-escalation techniques)
- 1B Identification of potential for harm within treatment (e.g., physical, psychological, interpersonal, spiritual, environmental)
- 1C Client-specific safety considerations (e.g., clinical disposition, diagnosis, active symptoms, trauma, medication use, physical and mental well-being)
- 1D Roles and responsibilities of other professionals for client safety (e.g., safety officer, infection control personnel)
- 1E Verbal, physical, and music interventions for client safety
- 1F Sanitation precautions, applications, and disposal methods for reusable and non-reusable goods (e.g., personal protective equipment [PPE], instrument materials)
- 1G Safe physical management practices and compliance principles (e.g., handling medical equipment, transportation, physical support and assistance)

Task Statements: The underlying responsibilities of the music therapist within this domain area

- 1. Recognize and respond to situations in which there are clear and present physical dangers to client and/or others and comply with emergency procedures
- 2. Recognize the potential harm and contraindications of music experiences for clients and adapt treatment as necessary
- 3. Recognize the potential harm and contraindication of verbal and physical interventions for client and adapt treatment as necessary
- 4. Observe infection control protocols (e.g., universal precautions, instrument disinfection)
- 5. Apply organizational safety compliance training principles and policies
- 6. Comply with relevant safety protocols when providing physical support to clients
- 7. Facilitate appropriate and safe use of all materials, equipment, and instruments based on the physical environment

Domain II: Referral, Assessment, Interpretation of Assessment, and Treatment Planning (39)

2A. Referral

Knowledge Statements: The knowledge needed to fulfill job responsibilities

- 2A-1 Referral system processes and criteria for determining eligibility
- 2A-2 Communication of the referral system processes and criteria with other professionals

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Cognitive Complexity Levels

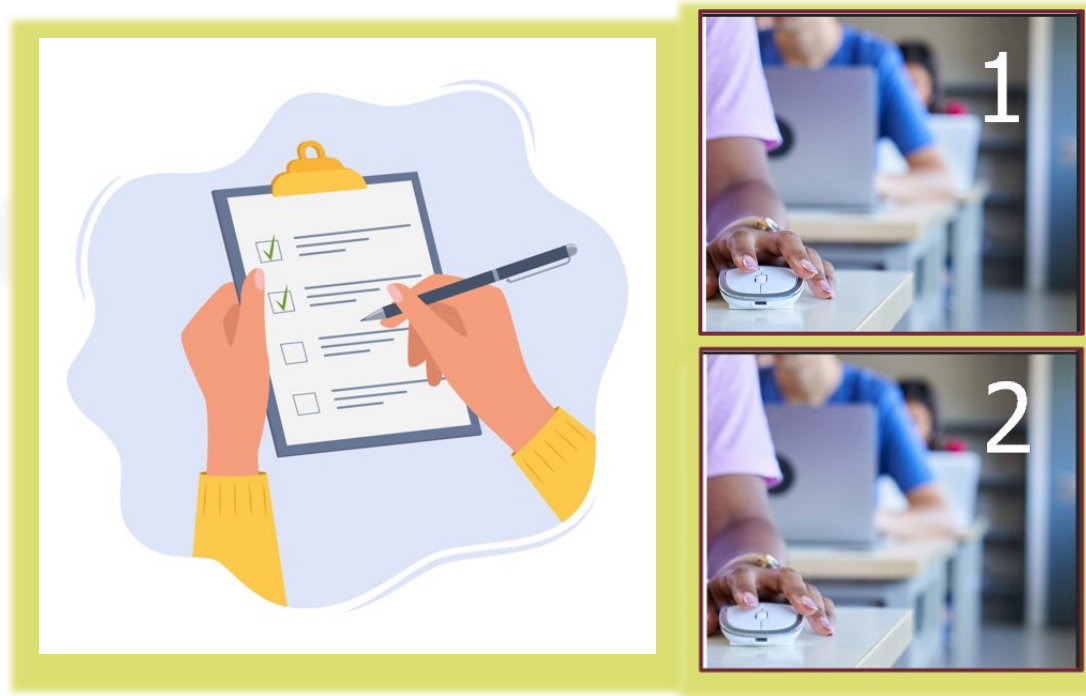
Cognitive Level	Description
1 - Recall	Ability to identify, remember, or recognize specific information
2 - Application/Analysis	Ability to calculate, classify, interpret, or apply knowledge; Ability to analyze information, combine information together to arrive at a solution, and/or evaluate the usefulness of particular solution

Cognitive Level	Minimum Required	Maximum Allowable
Recall	15%	25%
Application/Analysis	75%	85%

Each MT-BC exam form contains between 15% to 25% recall questions and between 75% to 85% application/analysis questions.

Current Process Fixed Exam Forms

Every year, The testing vendor PSI, and the MT-BC Exam Committee review and approve two new exam forms equated to the same passing standard.



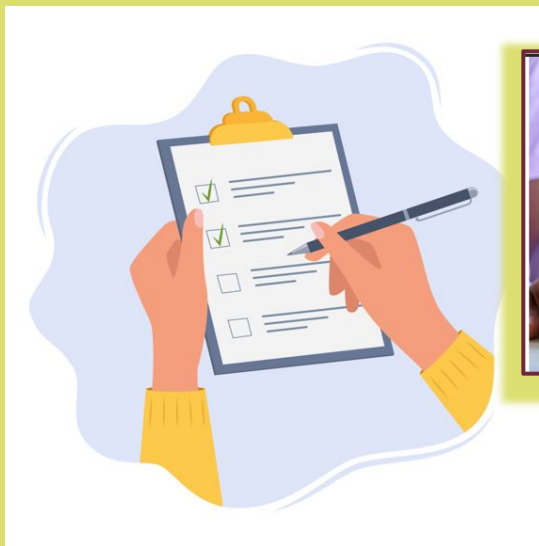
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Linear on the Fly (LOFT) Exams: Dynamic Assembly

- **NEW:** Every year, the testing vendor PSI and the Exam Committee review and approve a LOFT content bank enabling multiple exam form variations all equated to the same passing standard.

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* This slide is a depiction and does not represent the actual number of exam forms in circulation.

Why Should the MT-BC use Linear on the Fly (LOFT) Exams

Dynamic Assembly

LOFT generates a unique, customized form for every candidate at the start of their session. This differs from fixed forms where every examinee sees the same static set of questions.

This approach maximizes security while maintaining a standardized experience through rigorous algorithmic selection.

Blueprint Fidelity

Every "on-the-fly" form is constrained by a strict content blueprint. The system ensures identical proportional coverage across all clinical domains.

While the specific items differ, the **content weight** and **difficulty profile** remain statistically equivalent.

*At this time, the Canadian French Form and the Self-Assessment Examinations will not transition to LOFT or scaled scoring.

Fairness, Security, Ensuring a Robust Content Bank

- “Brain dumping” and item harvesting can quickly compromise a form. LOFT prevents this by ensuring that the probability of a candidate seeing the exact same form is low.
- This protects the value of the credential and ensures that every candidate must rely on their own competence rather than memorization.
- Candidates are exposed to more of the content bank.
- Enables growth of the CBMT MT-BC content test bank by providing a mechanism to increase the circulation of pre-test questions.



The MT-BC Examination Score Reports are undergoing an update

Upon completion of the MT-BC examination the tester is provided with a score report.

- **Current:** score reports provide the number of questions tested in each Domain and the number of questions the examinee answered correctly by Domain. This is called a Raw Score.
- **Updated:** score reports will show a scaled score for examinee performance overall and provide a bar graph to depict the overall performance in each Domain. This is called a Scaled Score.

Raw to Scaled Scoring

Raw Score	Scaled Score
Calculated directly from the number of correct answers	Calculated through a statistical process called equating
Each question is worth 1 point regardless of difficulty.	Each question is worth 1 point regardless of difficulty.
The candidate must answer at least 97 of the 130 scored questions correctly to pass. (<i>2025 Standard Setting</i>)	*The passing standard determined by the most recent Standard Setting is equated to a scale. The minimal competence required to pass is consistent.
The score is reported as the number of questions answered correctly.	Scores are reported on a scale from 200 to 800, with 600 as the minimum passing score.

*Implementing scaled scoring equates forms based on difficulty where one form may be harder or easier than another and enables a standard metric to measure minimal competence over multiple practice analysis years.

Form to Form Equating

Consistent Reporting Metric:

- Ability to compare the achievement of minimal competency across practice analysis, standard setting years.
- Remember an increased or decreased cut score does not always mean that the minimal level of competence has changed.
- Generally, the scale (200 – 800) will remain stable with minor adjustments to the underlying raw cut score based on exam difficulty.
- Major shifts in the minimal competence level required may require reassessment of the underlying scale.



Welcome to the School Administrator Reporting Portal

Test Date: 1/1/2026 12:00:00 AM - 2/11/2026

School Name: Hidden

Music Therapy Examination

Certification Board for Music Therapist Examination - FIRST TIME EXAMINEES

	Safety	Referral, Assessment,	Treatment Implementatio	Evaluation,Te rmination of	Professional Development	Topic Scores	No. Teste	No. Passe	Percent Passed
Max Score	6	39	60	13	12	130			
School Mean	4.8	31.5	51.1	9.6	10.8	107.8	6	6	100.0 %
Client Mean	4.4	29.6	46.4	10.2	9.9	100.5	87	62	71.2 %

Music Therapy Examination

Certification Board for Music Therapist Examination - REPEATERS

	Safety	Referral, Assessment,	Treatment Implementatio	Evaluation,Te rmination of	Professional Development	Topic Scores	No. Teste	No. Passe	Percent Passed
Max Score	6	39	60	13	12	130			
School Mean	4.0	23.0	39.0	10.0	7.0	83.0	1	0	0.0 %
Client Mean	4.1	27.8	41.6	9.2	9.0	91.7	71	24	33.8 %

Thank you!

CBMT is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. Our Music Therapist-Board Certification (MT-BC) program has been fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies since 1986. As the only certifying board for music therapy, we are committed to rigorous competency testing. Our accreditation ensures our unconditional compliance with stringent testing and measurement standards.

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