

**Common Course Outline**  
**MASS 240**  
**Professional Concepts in Massage Therapy**  
**2 Credits**

**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**MASS 240 – Professional Concepts in Massage Therapy** examines the ethical and professional standards that govern scopes of practice as massage professionals in a variety of settings to prepare for employment after graduation. Students evaluate and triangulate professional employment options and liabilities, business models, codes of ethics, national standards of practice, and state mandated scopes of practice in real world application. Students also review continuing education requirements and the importance of professional membership organizations and their advocacy for the profession. Content outlines are reviewed in preparation for the national and state licensure exams to successfully obtain license to practice upon graduation.

**2 Credits**

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of MASS 220 and MASS 222 with a grade of “C” or better, or permission of the Program Director.

**Corequisite:** MASS 272

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. create their own career mission statements by constructing their goals and objectives on becoming professional massage therapists;
2. evaluate proper ethical standards to professional practice applicable to a variety of practice settings;
3. identify professional organizations in massage therapy and their purposes to the profession;
4. design and develop marketing techniques to advocate and educate about the massage therapy profession as an individual and the community at large;
5. develop professional networking skills to create relationships with peers, health care professionals, and other related businesses;
6. select appropriate insurance coverage for scopes of practice and professional liability;
7. prepare a professional resume and develop interviewing skills in preparation for employment;

8. identify and select viable resource options for acquiring advanced certifications, training, and other continuing education to maintain a current license to practice; and
9. successfully pass the national Massage and Bodywork Licensure Examination (MBLEx), state jurisprudence examination, and/or equivalent upon graduation.

## **Major Topics**

### I. Ethics of Professional Massage Therapy Practice

- A. Code of Ethics
- B. Standards of Practice
- C. Scopes of Practice
  - i. By Laws or Regulations
  - ii. By Practice Settings
- D. Business Considerations
- E. Cultural Competency and Awareness
- F. Establishing Boundaries
  - i. The Therapeutic Relationship
  - ii. Dual Relationships
  - iii. Terminology
    - a. Transference/Countertransference
    - b. Veracity
    - c. Confidentiality
    - d. Nonmaleficence
    - e. Beneficence
    - f. Respect/Justice
    - g. Power Differential

### II. Professional Organizations and Continuing Education Resources

- A. American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA)
- B. Associated Bodywork and Massage Professionals (ABMP)
- C. Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA)
- D. Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSTMB)
- E. National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCBTMB)
- F. Massage Therapy Foundation (MTF)
- G. Alliance for Massage Therapy Education (AFMTE)

### III. Career Strategies

- A. Resume Writing
- B. Interviewing Techniques
- C. Self-Promotion and Professional Advocacy
- D. Networking with Peers and Other Professionals
- E. Insurance Coverage – Professional Liability, Accidental, Employment, and Health

### IV. Exam Preparation

- A. National Massage and Bodywork Licensure Exam (MBLEx)
- B. Maryland Jurisprudence Exam

## **Course Requirements**

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

### **Grading/exams**

- Minimum of four formative assessments which can include homework assignments, projects, online discussions, and other activities
- Minimum of two other summative assessments which can include quizzes, unit exams, and/or a midterm exam
- Group project
- Professional resume, cover letter, and interviewing process project
- A final exam

**Written Assignments:** Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

### **Other Course Information**

This is a required course in the Massage Therapy Program. A grade of “C” or better is required for all Massage Therapy courses. This course may not be offered in all semesters; see registration schedule.

Date Revised: 09/04/2018