

Assembly of Delegates Discussion Topic

Individual/Group submitting proposal, Chapter (if applicable):

AMTA National Board of Directors

Date Submitted:

April 30th

Proposed Discussion Topic:

As synchronous and asynchronous learning options become increasingly adopted in massage education, what changes can we expect as it relates to the massage professions' considerations on the topics of appropriate content for distance learning, and how will that affect AMTA's policies about what it means to be considered "in class"?

Definitions:

Synchronous learning is learning that happens at the same time for the instructor and the learners, meaning that there's real-time interaction between them. It can happen on or offline.

Asynchronous learning is learning that doesn't necessarily happen at the same time for the instructor and the learners. There's no real-time interaction; the content is created and made available for consumption later on.

Summary Rationale

Massage schools have been greatly impacted by COVID-19.

- During 2020, 54% of massage schools or programs had to cancel classes or close their school at some point.
- As of October 2020, 91% of massage schools stated that they were open in some capacity. One of the primary reasons why so many schools were able to open so quickly was a huge shift toward online education.
- According to the *2020 AMTA School Survey*, 47% of schools offer online courses for their entry-level program, up from 14% in 2019.
- Because of COVID-19, many schools have shifted courses to online, especially courses such as business, ethics, anatomy and physiology.
 - Of schools that offer online courses, the average number of credit hours that online courses represented was 40.
 - There was a large range, with some schools only offering 4 credit hours of online courses, and others offering up to 90 hours.
 - Also, of schools that offer online courses, 45% would like to increase the number of courses offered in this delivery method.
- 29% of schools offer online education as part of their continuing education offerings.
- Current AMTA membership qualification requires graduation from a minimum 500 in-class hour, entry-level massage therapy school.

Additional information to consider related to this topic outside the massage profession.

<https://hbr.org/2020/03/what-the-shift-to-virtual-learning-could-mean-for-the-future-of-higher-ed>

<https://www.thirdway.org/report/covid-19-and-the-shift-to-online-instruction-can-quality-education-be-equitably-provided-to-all>

Questions for Discussion

1. What possible changes do you see to AMTA policy as it relates to the specific considerations of what does it mean to be considered “in class” when synchronous and asynchronous learning options become increasingly available?
2. What do you see as possible changes to what the profession considers appropriate content for distance learning?

What do you want to accomplish with this discussion?

The near term goal would be to provide immediate volunteer input for the AMTA National Board on the topic.

The longer term goal would be to integrate the input of the Assembly into other sources of information as the AMTA board and profession considers this topic.