

S4OM Pathway/Qualifications for the Oncology Massage Specialty Certificate Program

In order to qualify for the NCBTMB Oncology Massage Specialty Certificate exam through the Society for Oncology Massage (S4OM) pathway, a therapist must complete 100-hours of coursework that enhances their abilities as an Oncology Massage Specialty Therapist. The types of courses are categorized into two groups: Skill Enhancement and Knowledge Enhancement. A delineation of the various trainings can be found in the table titled, "Supplemental Courses by Recognized Providers."

SKILL ENHANCEMENT

Therapists must take at least 64-hours of courses that build skills, such as hands-on technique, clinical thinking, intake and interviewing, documentation, research, self-care, and the ability to reflect. These types of classes are not exclusively skill-based, they also aim to improve a practitioner's knowledge. (The S4OM Foundational Class counts towards the 64-hours.)

Skill Enhancement classes possess the following characteristics:

- Taught by a Recognized Education Provider (REP)
- Live teaching, instruction, or mentoring
- Interactive and participatory
- Instructor gives feedback to the therapists

If a therapist desires, all 100-hours can be from the Skill Enhancement category.

KNOWLEDGE ENHANCEMENT

Therapists can take up to 32-hours of classes that are designed purely to improve their knowledge of oncology massage-related topics. However, these classes often may serve to increase a therapist's skills. In the Supplemental Classes table listed on the S4OM website, these classes are listed as Knowledge Enhancement.

Knowledge Enhancement classes possess the following characteristics:

- Taught by REPs
- Passive learning experiences
- May be live or on-line (no more than 12 hours can be on-line)
- No instructor feedback

Knowledge Enhancement hours will typically come through lecture style classes, CE hours from the Oncology Massage Healing Summit* or other conferences where REPs are asked to offer trainings, or through on-line presentations.

**All class work offered at the Oncology Massage Healing Summit will qualify in the Knowledge Enhancement category.*