

Comparison of IFOMPT and ABPTRFE Fellowship Standards



This chart compares IFOMPT’s 2016 Educational Standards with ABPTRFE’s 2023 Quality Standards, incorporating clarification from IFOMPT regarding the interpretation of its standards.

In alignment with the Description of Fellowship Practice for Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy, all fellowship programs in this area must comply with the educational standards set by the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT). Accordingly, when ABPTRFE standards fall below those of IFOMPT—such as in educational hours or mentor qualifications—programs are required to meet the higher IFOMPT standard.

Standard	IFOMPT (2016)	ABPTRFE (2023)
Admissions Requirement	None specified	Requires either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ABPTS specialist certification in the related area of specialty practice (as defined in the DFP), or• Completion of an ABPTRFE-accredited residency in a related specialty area
Total Program Hours	500 hours	1,000 hours
Educational Hours	200 hours	150 hours
Practical Skills Hours	150 hours <i>(may be completed as part of the patient-care clinic hours per IFOMPT clarification)</i>	Not separately defined; practical training integrated into clinical and mentoring hours
Patient-Care Clinic Hours	Not specified	850 hours

	<i>(the 150 practical skills hours outlined above may be included here per IFOMPT clarification)</i>	
Mentoring Hours	150 hours	150 hours
Mentoring – In-person with Fellow as Primary Provider	None specified	75 hours
Examination Requirements	None specified	Three examinations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One written • Two live-patient
Mentor Qualifications	Not specified <i>(should be FAAOMPT per IFOMPT clarification)</i>	Mentors must meet at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABPTS board-certified specialists in the program's related area of practice and with experience in the subspecialty • Graduate of an ABPTRFE-accredited residency/fellowship program in that related area of practice and with experience in that subspecialty • At least 2 years of significant, current experience in the subspecialty

Last Updated: 06/24/2025

Contact: resfel@apta.org