



American Bowen Academy

Online Course Outline

Pathology Syllabus and Outline

Life is an Open-Book Test

INSTRUCTOR: Ruth Werner, BCTMB; rthwrnr@gmail.com

60-Hour Online Course. 60 hours NCBTMB Credit; 16 hours ABA Continuing education credit.
Cost: \$450 plus the cost of the textbook.

Pre-requisite: successful completion of anatomy/physiology course; use of *A Massage Therapist's Guide to Pathology, 6th ed.*

I. **Rationale:**

This program is designed to provide top-quality instruction in pathology for manual therapists, with an emphasis on practical applications both for skills to make appropriate accommodations for clients, and to find more information where necessary and to apply it for the safest and most effective client outcomes. This course will satisfy the NCBTMB requirements for pathology instruction in portfolio review. It also qualifies for continuing education credit for massage school graduates.

II. **Presentation Aims and Outcomes:**

In the paradigm of evidence-informed practice, a provider must weigh three variables in making clinical decisions: what the patient wants and needs (as well as what the patient *doesn't* want or wishes to avoid); what the current research says; and what the provider brings with his or her education, practical experience, and world-view.

This course is designed to **enrich the provider's input** into the clinical decision-making process. Participants will have ample interaction with factual information, but—more to the point—participants will have the experience of seeking information on their own, appraising that information (critical thinking) and forming some possible decisions that can then be evaluated and discussed by both the instructor and other students.

The outcome is that participants who successfully complete this pathology course will be well-equipped to make safe, effective, and compassionate decisions about manual therapies in the situations covered in the core curriculum, and they will also be equipped to gather information to make decisions about other situations that may arise. In addition, participants who successfully complete this program will be prepared to pass the exam leading to being Board Certified in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

Specific Learning Outcomes:

- The ability to make safe, highly-informed decisions about their form of manual therapy for clients who present with the conditions covered in the syllabus below;

- The ability to gather and assess information to make safe, highly informed decisions about their form of manual therapy for clients who present with conditions that are *not* covered in the syllabus below;
- The ability to pass the pathology section of the exam for Board Certification in Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork

For the topics that are covered within the syllabus below, these are the established learning objectives:

Having successfully completed the activities and assignments related to this course, the learner is expected to be able to

- Describe the basic etiology, signs and symptoms, and standard treatment options for the targeted conditions
- Assess probable risks and benefits of massage therapy for clients with these conditions
- Make appropriate accommodations for clients with these conditions
- Demonstrate the ability to find and evaluate information on other conditions to make informed and safe clinical decisions
- Discuss a client's health status in relationship to massage therapy with the client and/or the client's health care team

III. Presentation Requirements:

The tasks and assignments to complete this program are designed to familiarize participants with factual information about the conditions listed in the "Topic- Content Outline" column of the following syllabus, as well as to provide a variety of learning experiences to deepen each participant's interaction with this material.

This program is presented in a time-dependent but asynchronous format. That means that students will have a specific deadline to complete assignments for each lesson. They cannot progress without finishing the previous lesson. The specific schedule is provided in the course syllabus.

A typical lesson includes a reading assignment; watching videos with power point presentations; choosing an activity from a list of options; and participating in two discussions. Other activities include worksheets, practice quizzes, and a treatment planning project.

IV. Time Allocation:

The following syllabus outline suggests 2 hours of activity for each lesson. That will vary, depending on the individual. The reading assignments are NOT designed to be part of the 2-hour investment of time with each module. This allows the students more time to explore ancillary materials and interactive learning opportunities.