

Career News

guarantee availability of opportunity will be there by the time we make contact with you. To insure you receive updated job opportunity information immediately and priority attention care, call us as well as email. We will review your preferences with you and provide you with services necessary to insure your career is on track the way that you want it to be....

American Express Cards for Registration

Since August 2007, New York State professional

licensees have been using the Office of the Professions's

Online Registration Renewal system to renew the

registration of their license. The system has accepted

only Visa or MasterCard for payment of the registration

fee.

We are happy to announce that effective May 24, 2010,

to better serve our customers, an update to our Online

Registration Renewal system will also allow American

Express payments.

Please see our registration renewal information page

(<http://www.op.nysed.gov/renewalinfo.htm>) for more details and the link to log on to the renewal system.

Find us on Facebook

The Office of the Professions is on Facebook at "NYS Professions".

This is another way you can learn about activities in the license,

practice and discipline of the 48 professions established under the

Education Law. Stay on top-- It is very important to make sure you have all required documentation on file if you are in charge of a department overseen state health department. If you are a professional working in health care you must make sure you keep all of your license, health information and insurance up to date and that you have an easily accessible copy to present when needed. Please stay on top of this -- ----- Many independent contractors are being asked to carry Workers' Compensation policies. We have researched this and found the best place to go for quotes is to the New York State Insurance Fund. NYSIF will also give quotes for Disability Insurance. The contact information is as follows: Tel: 888-875-5790 Website: <http://www3.nysif.com/> Life Balance It is a great time to look into long term opportunities close to your home. If you are traveling a long distance to work you may want to consider options within ten miles of your home while there are many employers looking for therapists. Not only will you have more free time but you can hedge against high costs of transportation that might return in the future.

Unofficial News:

Anyone working in health care must have a flu shot

The Governor approved legislation on

August 26, 2009 that authorized an increase of

15% in the professional licensing registration fees

effective September 25, 2009. This new law applies to all professions licensed under Title VIII of the Education Law except Physician, Physician Assistant, and Specialist Assistant, whose fees are transmitted to the Department of Health. The enactment of this legislation is a first step toward restoring the ability of the Office of the Professions to ensure the health, safety and welfare of New Yorkers.

We have provided information on our web site (www.op.nysed.gov) and the following questions and answers will provide you with more information about the surcharge.

Q: How does this affect new applicants for licensure?

A: The fee increase is being charged to individuals who submit an initial application for licensure after September 25, 2009. The registration fee must be included with the application fee and provides for the first three-year registration period once the license is issued.

The fee to be submitted with the application is available for each profession at www.op.nysed.gov/proflist.htm.

Q: How does this affect licensees who will register in the future?

A: A licensee must be registered to practice the profession. All re-registration notices sent to current licensees after September 25, 2009 reflect the new 15% surcharge.

Q: Why did the registration fee go up?

A: This is the first fee increase in 20 years, and fees have not kept pace with the Office of the Professions' increasing responsibilities to protect the public by overseeing the licensure and safe practice of 48 professions in New York State. The Legislature and the Governor recognized that a modest fee increase was necessary to stabilize the Office of the Professions account.

Q: What fees are affected by the increase?

A: This 15% increase only applies to initial registration and re-registration fees for individual licensees (except Physicians,

Physician Assistants, and Specialist Assistants).

Q: I already received my re-registration bill, but have not yet paid. Do I need to pay the higher amount?

A: No, any current licensee who has already received a re-registration bill will pay the amount listed in the bill regardless of the registration period start date.

Q: I have not yet received my re-registration bill, does this mean I will pay the higher fee?

A. Yes. Bills going out after September 25, 2009 reflect the higher fee. This will impact current licensees whose re-registration period begins on or after February 1, 2010.

Q: Why are bills mailed so far in advance?

A: We are required by law to mail re-registration notices four months in advance.

Q: I already paid my re-registration fee. Will I be back-billed?

A: No.

Q: I already paid my initial registration fee. Will I be back-billed?

A: Initial registration fees received after September 25 are required to include the surcharge. After that date, new applicants who do not include the surcharge in their payment will be sent a bill for the surcharge amount.

Q: Will you stop processing my licensure application if I didn't include the correct fee for the new surcharge?

A: No, you will be billed, but we will continue to process the application. The license and registration cannot be issued until the full fee is received.

Q: What will the Office of the Professions do with this money?

A: All expenditures are subject to approval by the Division of the Budget. We intend to utilize these funds to upgrade technology, hire needed staff, pursue claims of illegal practice, provide better service to our customers, and, most importantly, increase public protection.

Q: Where can I find the section of law that establishes the fee

increase?

A: The Legislature enacted a new section 6507-a of the Education Law

to authorize the imposition of the 15% surcharge on registration fees. The surcharge is rounded up to the nearest dollar and is in addition to the fees established in the Education Law for each licensed profession.

Q: Where can I get additional information about the fee increase?

A: General questions about licensure should be directed to Customer Service at (518) 474-3817 ext. 570 or OP4INFO@mail.nysed.gov.

Affordable Health Insurance

It has come to our attention that many independent contractor are in need of insurance that is affordable and legitimate. After much research we have found a provider that may be what you are looking for. The link is <https://www.freelancersinsuranceco.com>

We hope this information is helpful to you ...

Office of the Professions News:

Physical Therapy Continuing Education Questions and answers for licensees, as well as information and forms for potential providers of continuing education have been posted on the Office of the Professions web site: (<http://www.op.nysed.gov/ptcenotice.htm>) . Chapter 207 of the Laws of 2008, which requires physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to complete thirty-six hours of continuing education during each three-year re-registration period takes effect September 1, 2009.

The Office of the Professions phone system changed on June 1, 2009. Our general phone number, 518-474-3817, and all of our 3-digit office extensions remain the same. The system

will, however, no longer provide automated

license verifications. Our official source of

licensee verification information is available on

the web: www.op.nysed.gov/opsearches.htm.

The hours of operation for the phone system are Monday through

Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. excluding State holidays.

You can access information about the 48 professions established

under the Education Law on our web site: www.op.nysed.gov Life Balance - It is a time when therapists are working full time and overtime. While fortunate to be in a profession with more work available than their are talented professionals, make sure you are not overworking yourself. It is a perfect time to seek out quality work situations as well. If you are not totally satisfied with your employment situation look for something better - there is a lot of work available right now so you can go after the perfect opportunity, even if it is as seemingly insignificant as bringing you closer to home. Every career improvement is a life improvement, so take the time to call us and maybe we can make recommendations to you. Congratulations to all graduates from Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy programs. You are fortunate to be entering professions where there is a great need for your skills. If you have any questions please ask us... We are very good at providing information that can help you jump start your career or put to rest concerns that you may have. By the way Make sure you have your medical records that are on file with your school. You will need them for your next position in the field. Call or email us if you would like to know what staff and full time per diem (many of these assignments turn into staff positions) opportunities are available. Ellen Gluck Tel: (914) 747-3299 ellen@goodnewspersonnel.com Paulette Kingsford Tel: (914) 941-5276 pkgoodnpersonnel@aol.com Cheryl Mansuetti Tel: (401) 385-9102 Cheryl598@cox.net GOOD NEWS.....GREAT FUTURE New York State Legislative Highli
- 2008 Online Renewals

Frank Muñoz Talks About Online Renewals

The Office of the Professions is pleased to announce that online registration renewal is now available. Phased in over the next three years, the online process will provide a timely and secure alternative to the paper registration applications used for many years. When registering online, the registration fees can be paid using a credit card, and no additional charge will be added for this convenience.

In order to register online, individuals must:

- Be licensed and in the last 5 months of
- their current registration period or their
- last valid registration period ended less
- than four (4) months ago;
- Receive the renewal notification and
- PIN in the mail; and Use a valid Visa
- or MasterCard to pay the registration
- fees. More information will be sent to each licensee at the time of their registration renewal. Licensees will not be eligible to participate in online renewal until they are notified and given a PIN.

Please see Online Renewal Information for more information and, if eligible, to log in to the application. The Office of the Professions reviewed and provided comment during the 2008 Legislative Session, signing into law this year a bill affecting physical therapists and physical therapy assistants licensed under Title VIII of the Education Law which states the following: Chapter 207 – Requires mandatory continuing education for the practice of physical therapy, effective September 1, 2009. The practice of physical therapy is changing rapidly, requiring that licensees stay current to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care possible. Read

More: (<http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A10985&sh=t>) From Office of the Professions STATE BUDGET AND OFFICE OF THE PROFESSIONS In August, Governor David Paterson imposed a hiring freeze and ordered New York State agencies, including the Education Department to reduce spending by seven percent, in addition to the three point three five percent reduction imposed earlier this fiscal year. The Office of the Professions is working to redistribute work assignments and to identify cost-savings that will meet the spending targets while ensuring a timely process for licensure and discipline. It has been necessary to limit meetings of the State Boards and the Office will be using videoconference technology to reduce travel costs for essential meetings. Other cost savings include the elimination of printed documents such as laws and regulations, provided to new licensees. Instead, we encourage the use of the Office of the Professions web site www.op.nysed.gov to access information about the license, practice and discipline of forty eight professions established under the Education Law. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, OP will increase the use of email to correspond with applicants and encourages individuals to print the application forms from the web site. Please encourage your colleagues to sign up for OPNews Online to keep informed about activities in the Office of the Professions. You can

sign up at: <http://listserv.nysed.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=opnews&A=1>. You will be prompted to enter your email address and tailor how you wish to receive email alerts. Physical Therapy Continuing Education On July 7, 2008 Chapter 207 of the Laws of 2008, which requires physical therapists and physical therapist assistants to complete thirty six hours of continuing education during each three year re-registration period, was signed into law by Governor David A Paterson. The new law takes effect September 1, 2009. The law cannot be fully implemented until regulations are adopted by the Board of Regents, which is expected to occur early next year. In the coming months, the State Board for Physical Therapy will draft regulations. The proposed regulations will be published in the State Register for public comment and discussed by the Board of Regents before action can be taken. Information about the license and practice of the physical therapy professions can be found at: www.op.nysed.gov/pt.htm. ATTENTION: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

As independent contractors the services that you are providing are as a professional from outside the organization. Meaning, you are not considered an employee but rather as a vendor in the category of all others who provide services to the organization that are brought in when the need arises. Therefore, for your protection we strongly recommend prior to leaving your assignment you have your time sheet signed by someone in authority from the organization. You can possibly relate to what I am suggesting if you reflect on service providers who come to your home. Upon completion of a repair an electrician will ask for your signature that the work was completed. I imagine no-one completes a home repair without leaving with a signed form. Think of this as protection against lost wages or discrepancy in billable hours. It is very important for you to protect your investment of time and professional services. Turn Off The Phone I am noticing an increase in the number of days and hours that therapists are working. It seems that more time is spent on-the-job because of need for additional wages and the adoption of seven day treatment schedules within skilled nursing facilities. There is an apparent reduction in time spent on rest and relaxation which. Mental health is at risk with potential for increased stress, frustration, and burn out. Poor performance on the job, deterioration of self confidence and loss of sleep are symptoms of an out of control situation. It is very difficult to find a solution once in the crises arena. Personal and on-the-job relationships are at risk. If you are feeling impatient, demanding, disorganized and irritable it is time to pay attention to the personal need for healthy living and balance. Due to a shortage of time the ideal solutions may not be an option. While cutting back on the work schedule may not be possible be observant of time that you may be able to capture to devote to peaceful reflection and down time. The first step may be to take yourself "off the rada" for a short time every day. Prior to the arrival of cell phones this was a taken for granted luxury of life. When out of the house and away from the office people were unavailable. Without thought we were out of touch and enjoying private time and personal space that is no longer part of our normal day. Without conscious effort we are not aware of the sacrifice we made when we accepted advance in technology. So consider taking advantage of the off feature on your phone when traveling to and from work, while having lunch or while taking a break. Block out a period of time in your day where no-one can get in touch with you - whether it is ten minute or half an hour. Use the time to think, not to think or for quiet reflection on the past when we were not in touch and available all of the time. If you are too young to remember the days before cell phones turn off your phone and enjoy the experience. It is kind of nice. Independent Contracting - Sometimes The Right Way To Go An independent contractor can consider themselves self employed. They are responsible for paying the employer portion of Social Security tax, they do not have tax withholdings and can write off work related expenses. Independent contractors can work for whoever they want and to some extent set their own schedule. They are not protected by regulations that protect salaried employees. Independent Contracting - When Is It The Way To Go ? Independent contracting is not ideal for a professional who needs job security. Work may not be consistent and payment for services rendered at times is delayed, Yet there are many benefits for rehabilitation professionals. Very often a therapist needs flexibility with their schedule in order to attend to other responsibilities. Some therapists supplement their staff income by contracting in the evenings and on holidays or over vacations adding substantially to their annual compensation. Therapists who independent contract often enjoy moving from place to place. After a day of work retruning home with a sense of work satisfaction while having also enjoying the experiences of working with different departments and professionals. This experience can be most enlightening for new graduates who may benefit from the exposure to a variety of settings. It is wonderful for returning homemakers who may want to work part time to add balance to their lives, and to those in search of permanence. Very often temporary contracting is a way to fill in wages and experience while in search of the right opportunity. For everyone in the workforce it is a wonderful option to have at times of need or as a professional choice. Therapists are fortunate to have independent contracting as an choice. You may want to try it.... What Everyone Looking For a Job Should Know KnowManyMany of us know alot about many things but are clueless when approaching the job market. What employers expect and how to preprepare for an interview is foreign to us. A flawed presentation will eliminate you from employer consideration regardless of your credentials or fit for the job. We hope the tips below will make the process of introducing youself easier, give you more direction, confidence and ultimately success. HAVE A RESUME When applying for a job it is a good idea to take a resume with you on your interview even if you are meeting with someone who was sent a copy. Very often you will be asked to fill out an application. By having a copy of your resume with you the information you put on the application can be transcribed from your copy. This will insure that the information on the application matches the history previously sent to the employer. Be prepared for questions regarding salary and why you left your position(s). Your resume should be one page long. You need to include relevant positions for the job/career you are pursuing and positions that demonstrate that you are responsible, intelligent, hardworking. You need not include your three weeks at a swim club snackbar unless you have a good reason for this inclusion. Employers are looking for information that will help them determine if you are a good fit in their company. Leave off detail that will not help with this process. You may Many applicants include a career goal at the top of their resume. We do not feel this is necessary and can even be counterproductive, particularly for new or relatively entry level job-seekers. A goal should only be included if you want to limit your search. If you are open minded about career possibilities and would like the reader to explore ideas with you then do not include a goal. Sometimes the best

way to work yourself into employment opportunities is to take advantage of what is offered and then work on developing your career. Another detail to consider leaving off of your resume is personal information. For some this is very important to include. Only do so if you have a good reason that will add to your presentation. Without a specific reason for including extracurricular activities and marriage status, you may be offering information that could be counterproductive. It is perfectly legitimate to tailor your resume to specific positions or organizations. You may want two or three variations emphasizing different skills. Be honest, be accurate and make sure you do not have spelling and/or grammatical errors. This is your first opportunity to introduce yourself to your prospective employer and you do not want it to be your last. **WRITE A COVER LETTER** Your letter should be short - hopefully three and no more than four short paragraphs. Your reader will give you thirty seconds which means every word must have a purpose. **First paragraph** - Introduce yourself as an applicant by stating general area of interest. Then describe the type of company you want to work for. This description should intentionally describe the company you are sending the letter to in a very complimentary fashion so that the reader says to himself "oh! that is us". Closure on this paragraph should include your interest in a long productive career within this type of organization to lead into the next paragraph. **Second paragraph** - Describe yourself in a quick and concise manner reflecting words that may have been used in the company's promotional material or job description you read. Although it may feel awkward "brag about yourself". You are skilled, innovative, hardworking, dedicated, talented and determined to make a contribution to this company. Your reader does not care about what you want for yourself - they are interested in what you can do for the company. **Third paragraph** - Elaboration on a point that you feel deserves this optional inclusion. Why your skills and abilities stated above are a great fit with the position you are applying for or specifics that may not be included on your resume. This paragraph has no meaning and therefore is a distraction for you being considered unless you must include it. By now the reader should be thinking "we need a person like this". **Fourth paragraph** - This closure is to inform your reader of availability to interview at their convenience and to thank them for considering you. It is a humble closure letting the reader know you will be as accommodating as necessary to them and their company. Your paragraphs should not be more than four sentences long. **Goal:** You must let the reader know their time is more important than yours and communicate respect for the reader. You as a job applicant are not important. You become important after an offer is made to work for the company. Often applicants feel they must convey importance to the reader. "I will take time out of my busy schedule to meet with you" is a frequent mistake. Even if you have a lot of responsibility in your current position and have impressive accomplishments you are not more important than the reader. You have something to offer but as an applicant and asking to be a guest in the reader's house (so to speak) communicating respect for the reader and acknowledging you are asking for something, ie, an interview, will ultimately result in the reader having the respect for you that you are looking for. This may be hard to do - especially if you know the initial interview will be with someone far less experienced and less knowledgeable than you are. Your letter and resume are nothing more than promotional literature. Your advertisement. Be concise, to the point and let the reader put down your presentation with the thought in mind: "I want one of these!" **What Happens If You are Googled?** Not too long ago hiring officials relied on applications, interviews and references to get to know enough about candidates to determine whether or not they would be a fit for a position in their company. Hiring officials look for education, experience, potential, and a personality match between the culture of the company and the applicant. Often chemistry is a significant factor when making a decision. Personality and style are sometimes as influential as compatible skills and experience. Therefore, prior to extending a job offer, an interviewer will seriously consider interpersonal communication and social skills that are apparent. Now, thanks to the internet, employers are able to know more about us than we might like. No longer can we assume that we are in control of the information under review. Our employment portfolio is no longer limited to what we present or who we provide as references. Nor is our interview and controlled conversation all that a company and employees will consider when analyzing our chemistry match and/or personality "fit". Because of the ability to google, facebook and myspace us employers are able to know all about our lives interests and preferences. Potential employers will be outside of the office arena when viewing us on the web. They will be in our living room, bedroom, college, community or wherever else our web pages allow them to go. The reach of the internet is such that even the web presence we may have left years ago at a different stage in our lives may still be viewable by a potential employer. We must assume employers are using the internet to get to know us better. If you have put on your facebook your favorite interest is in the opposite (or same) sex, if your favorite leisure activity is nude sunbathing, if you prefer the Yankees over the Red Sox or are obsessed with polkadots, a potential employer will have access to this information and may be influenced by what is read when deciding compatibility with the corporate culture and/or organizational fit. How startling and potentially embarrassing this could be. That picture taken with your closest twenty friends huddled together on that single (extra long) dorm room bed may not be something you want in your applicant file. It is not possible to turn back the clock and remove revealing facts about ourselves at the time when we are ready to "get serious" about our life pursuits. We have to think about this now... be aware of what we want everyone (not only our friends and their friends) to know about us. Think about it....