



## Plan for Distance Education Courses and Requirements at Elite Massage Academy

Elite Massage Academy (EMA) offers a hybrid distance education model for certain lecture classes in compliance with North Dakota Board of Massage Therapy (NDBMT) guidelines. This model is available for the 750-hour Night program.

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### I. Distance Education Offerings and Modalities

- **Eligible Courses:** Select lecture-based courses are approved for distance education delivery.
- **Delivery Method:**
  - **Synchronous Only** – Live online classes are conducted via **Google Meet**, requiring real-time interaction and full student participation. Students use a Chromebook for live streaming and coursework submission through Teachable.

### II. Requirement for Local Supervisor

- **Prior to enrollment**, students must work with EMA to secure and contract with a qualified local supervisor approved by EMA. This supervisor would have 3 years minimum field experience and apply as an employee of EMA.
- Documentation of the contracted supervisor must be submitted before the student can begin the hybrid program. In addition, the supervisor must be trained in school policies and procedures to ensure uniformity in the program delivery.

### III. Technology and Environment Requirements

Students must meet the following standards for synchronous participation:

- **Computer/Laptop:** A reliable device (A tablet or phone would be considered back up).
- **Internet:** High-speed connection capable of live video calls.
- **Peripherals:** Webcam and microphone required.
- **Software:** Access to Google Meet (links provided for each class).
- **Environment:** Quiet, well-lit, distraction-free space for class attendance.

### IV. Participation Expectations

- **Camera On Policy:** Cameras must remain on throughout class for attendance and engagement verification. Lack of camera use or participation will result in an absence.
- **Active Engagement:** Students are expected to fully participate in discussions, activities, and breakout groups.
- **Professional Conduct:** The same standards of professionalism apply as in an in-person classroom.

### V. Mandatory In-Person Training Requirements (Hybrid Model)

- **Weekday Hands-On Practice:** Students must meet with their contracted local supervisor for hands-on practice and skill development classes which is on average one day a week.
- **Weekend Intensives:** All weekend classes are held in person at EMA's Fargo campus; attendance is mandatory.
- **North Dakota Practical Instruction Requirements:**
  - At least **250 supervised hours** of practical application and clinical practice.

- At least **150 hours of instruction** must be completed before beginning practice with the public.
- Off-campus practical experiences must be supervised by appropriately credentialed professionals approved by EMA.

## VI. North Dakota Minimal Educational Content Requirements

EMA follows NDBMT guidelines for minimum educational content:

- **Total Hours:** Minimum 750 hours.
- **Minimum Classroom Hours:** 500 hours.
- **Required Face-to-Face (including live remote):**
  - 150 hours Anatomy, Physiology, Kinesiology.
  - 10 hours First Aid & CPR.
  - 130 hours Introductory Massage Therapy (modalities, contraindications, sanitation, disease prevention, theory).
- **Other Required Content** (non-live remote methods permitted):
  - 50 hours Business Practices, Career Development, Professional Ethics.
  - 120 hours other massage therapy-related content.
  - 40 hours Pathology.

## VII. Student Support

- **Technical Support:** Educators are available for assistance; an AV Specialist is on-call during all classes. Matthias Ehlers, Education Director and AV Specialist, enhances the experience with live broadcasting and virtual learning tools.

- **Facilities:** EMA's classroom includes dual-screen technology—one displaying remote students and one for course content—integrating on-campus and hybrid learners.

## VII. Tuition and Fees

- **Hybrid Remote Classroom Fees:** \$3,000.
- **Total Cost for 750-Hour Night Remote Program:** \$16, 161.28 (includes enrollment fee, tuition, books, student package, remote classroom fee and technology fee).

## IX. General Requirements for Hybrid Students

- **Admission Requirements:** Proof of high school diploma/GED, government-issued ID, age 17+, and possible background check.
- **Academic Progress:** Students must maintain at least an 80% average in all courses.
- **Attendance:** Attendance required for all scheduled classes; absences must be reported via Slack (#Call-out tab) by 8:00 AM.
- **Make-Up Hours:** Missed class/clinic hours must be made up. Remote make-ups require camera use and active participation. Science make-ups must be monitored by a Science educator; Bodywork hours with a Bodywork educator.
- **Code of Conduct:** All EMA policies, rules of conduct, and ethical expectations apply to hybrid students.