

## Position Description

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Position title: Senior Academic Advisor

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Division: Education

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Location: Camberwell | Hybrid

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Reports to: General Manager, Education

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EFT: Part-time, 0.6 – 0.8 FTE

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Approved by: CEO August 2024

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### About us

APA is proud to be a 5-Star Employer of Choice, Winner of the 2022 Association of the year award and have a vibrant and inclusive working culture that is underpinned by our core values:

Accountability | Excellence | Collaboration | Courage | Respect.

The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) is the peak body representing the interests of more than 32,000 physiotherapists in Australia. It does so by advocating for access to quality physiotherapy services, providing leadership in the wider health landscape, creating lifelong information and learning opportunities for members, and working with stakeholders to support members' interests.

The Australian College of Physiotherapists (ACP) is a part of the APA and was inaugurated in 1971. It was established for the training of clinical specialists and advancing excellence in the practice of physiotherapy. The College now represents the leaders in clinical practice, research, management and academia.

The APA provides a variety of employee benefits:

- 3 extra days of leave at the end of the year
- a mental health day
- hybrid working environment
- savings on a range of corporate partner products
- access professional development opportunities
- service awards at 5, 10, and 15 years of service
- ...and lots more.

## About the role

The APA provides comprehensive, flexible and globally recognised education opportunities for physiotherapists, aiming to support them in achieving practice excellence and career progression.

This pivotal leadership role exists to lead the APA's Education portfolio. It is responsible for conceptualising and developing educational pathways and programs, through a member-focused, commercially successful operation.

The Senior Academic Advisor will spearhead the academic functions within the physiotherapy education offerings. This critical role encompasses the development and planning of educational strategies, the conceptual design and academic oversight of programs and career pathways, and the creation and management of foundational educational frameworks. Responsibilities include leadership of curriculum and assessment design, staff and faculty academic support, and nurturing a culture of excellence in physiotherapy education. This position will ensure alignment of education with both national and international standards and accreditation requirements in Australia.

The APA is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified person to lead the academic inputs required to conceptually develop the end-to-end career pathway from graduation to specialisation. This will encompass the strategic advancement of the Specialist Training Program and other Fellowship programs and pathways, Titling pathways and APA Career Pathway.

Specifically, this role will have input in developing an end-to-end strategy for the Education Division, provide support in developing new ways of working with key stakeholders and build on and lead the creation of new foundational frameworks, i.e. education framework development, capability/competency framework, content and assessment strategy and framework, career success profiles and new offerings processes. Additionally, the role will take the lead on various foundational and critical projects, including the development of the Specialist Training Program (Education and Assessment lead), accreditation with the Australian Physiotherapy Council (Education and Assessment lead), ongoing development work for the Evidence Portfolio and redevelopment of various education pathways, as well as the integration of the professional development portfolio's into the career pathway.

## Key Stakeholders

- APA Staff
- College Council and Standing Committees
- National Advisory Council
- APA Board
- Australian Physiotherapy Council

## Key responsibilities

- **Strategic Education Leadership:** Support the conceptual development and implementation of innovative education strategies, frameworks and career pathways that align with the APA's Education and Organisational strategy and mission and enhance APA's physiotherapy academic offerings
- **External engagement:** Developing industry engagement to support the development of high quality and contemporary educational offerings. Active promotion of the offerings by establishing and maintaining partnerships with academic, professional and industry communities
- **Program Design and Management:** Support the design, development of comprehensive educational programs and career pathways tailored to the diverse needs of members across their career journey
- **Framework Development:** Develop, build on and manage robust foundational education frameworks that support effective recognition, learning and assessment practices
- **Curriculum and Assessment Design and Development:** Design and refine existing and new curricula and contemporary assessment frameworks, methodologies, and processes to ensure educational rigour, and high standards are maintained to comply with competency and capability frameworks and accreditation requirements
- **Staff and Faculty Development and Support:** Provide support and professional development opportunities for internal and external faculty members and staff to foster their growth and promote excellence in mentoring, teaching and learning, assessment and moderation of best practice activities
- **Quality Assurance and Accreditation:** Support the development and alignment of educational programs, policies and practices to ensure they are aligned with national and international standards, are appropriately governed and adhere to accreditation requirements in Australia, as applicable
- **Culture of Excellence:** Cultivate an environment that promotes continuous improvement, academic excellence, and innovation in physiotherapy education through course evaluation, data and feedback
- **Other Duties as required:** These duties and responsibilities are dynamic and subject to change as the APA evolves, and therefore, flexibility and adaptability are key attributes for success in this role.

## About you and Selection Criteria

### Education and experience:

- Current registration with the Australian health practitioner regulatory agency in the discipline of Physiotherapy (AHPRA) without conditions
- Relevant post graduate level qualifications in education or equivalent
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in physiotherapy education, with at least 5 years in an academic education leadership role including a proven track record in academic program design; curriculum and assessment innovation and development; and educational administration
- Clinical leadership and experience in a field of physiotherapy practice
- Experience with professional accreditation processes and quality assurance in physiotherapy education
- Demonstrated excellence in teaching, clinical practice, and academic educational scholarship
- Demonstrated high level of interpersonal, teamwork, communication and negotiating skills including the ability to consult with education team members, senior executives, industry, and external bodies within a collaborative interdisciplinary environment.

### Skills:

- Strong and strategic leadership, visionary with a passion for physiotherapy education and clinical excellence
- Exceptional communication, stakeholder management skills and interpersonal skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively
- Comprehensive understanding of physiotherapy education trends and challenges in Australia and Internationally
- Strong organisational and problem-solving abilities
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in education and practice.

#### Highly Desirable:

- Doctorate (PhD) or Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- Physiotherapist who has achieved Titling and or Specialist pathway recognition and other APA career professional development pathways and programs

#### Personal attributes:

- Strategically minded
- Creative with a problem-solving approach
- Excellent leadership and influencing skills
- Collaborative, inclusive working style with an ability to bring people on the journey
- Ability to work autonomously
- High accountability