

The refreshed Specialisation Training Program



**A more connected pathway to Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation.
Fostering expertise, leadership and professional growth.**

The Specialisation Training Program (STP) is evolving.

Building on the strengths of the current program, the refreshed STP introduces a contemporary two-component pathway to Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation, providing greater flexibility, structured progression and enhanced support for titled physiotherapists.



Developed with specialists. Designed for the future.

Clinical Specialisation remains the highest level of clinical recognition awarded by the Australian College of Physiotherapists.

The refreshed STP has been co-designed with specialists, registrars, titled physiotherapists, educators, assessors, governance groups and stakeholders from across Australia.

It builds on the strengths of the current program while ensuring specialist training remains contemporary, sustainable and aligned with the future needs of the profession.

Aligned with the APA Physiotherapy Competence Framework, the refreshed pathway is about building expertise and excellence in clinical practice. It will enable titled physiotherapists to progressively demonstrate Milestone 4 competencies across all seven physiotherapy roles outlined in the framework.

WHY EXPLORE THE REFRESHED STP?

Designed to meet Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) accreditation requirements, the refreshed STP strengthens educational design, assessment and quality assurance, while aligning with the APA Physiotherapy Competence Framework.

Greater flexibility

The refreshed pathway supports different career stages, practice settings and life commitments.

Upon completion of component 1 participants can progress through a flexible portfolio pathway before entering structured specialist training, creating greater accessibility while maintaining the standards required for Fellowship.

Enhanced learning and support

Learning continues to be shaped by ACP Fellows and educators, with expanded learning resources, increased opportunities for peer learning and regular engagement with specialists and fellow registrars across Australia.

Clinical expertise remains central

The refreshed STP strengthens how physiotherapists prepare for, and are supported and assessed on their pathway to, Fellowship while maintaining the rigorous standards of clinical expertise expected of Specialist Physiotherapist practice.

TWO COMPONENTS. ONE PATHWAY TO FELLOWSHIP.

The refreshed STP creates a clearer and more flexible pathway for titled physiotherapists progressing toward Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation.

The two-component model supports physiotherapists to progressively develop and demonstrate Milestone 4 competencies through portfolio-based evidence and structured specialist training. Component 1 is self-directed and self-paced, while Component 2 is the two year Specialisation Training Program.

Whether you are beginning to build your portfolio or preparing to enter structured specialist training, each stage of the pathway is designed to support progression, recognise achievement and prepare you for Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation.

[Explore the refreshed STP journey opposite. →](#)



Seven themes underpinning **evidence-informed** recommendations, **co-developed with key stakeholders**.

1 Two-component model

- self-directed Component 1 supporting entry to structured STP (two-year Component 2)
- multiple re-entry and exit points with ACP-recognised progression.

2 Program of assessment

- diverse authentic assessment activities (including case studies, workplace-based assessments, clinical examinations)
- assessments mapped to intended learning outcomes and Milestone 4 Competencies
- multiple assessment outcomes inform progression decisions
- robust assessor training and moderation.

3 Structured curriculum

- learning activities supporting Milestone 4 competencies across all seven roles in the APA Competence Framework
- Component 2 structured into sequenced learning blocks
- quality interactions with specialists
- integration of AI and digital capabilities.

4 Readiness for entry to component 2

- portfolio-based evaluation of selected Milestone 4 Competencies developed in Component 1
- multi-mini interviews
- promotion of equity, transparency and candidate development.

5 Cultural safety embedded

- informed by First Nations Physiotherapists and other representatives.
- foster inclusive, respectful, high-quality care.

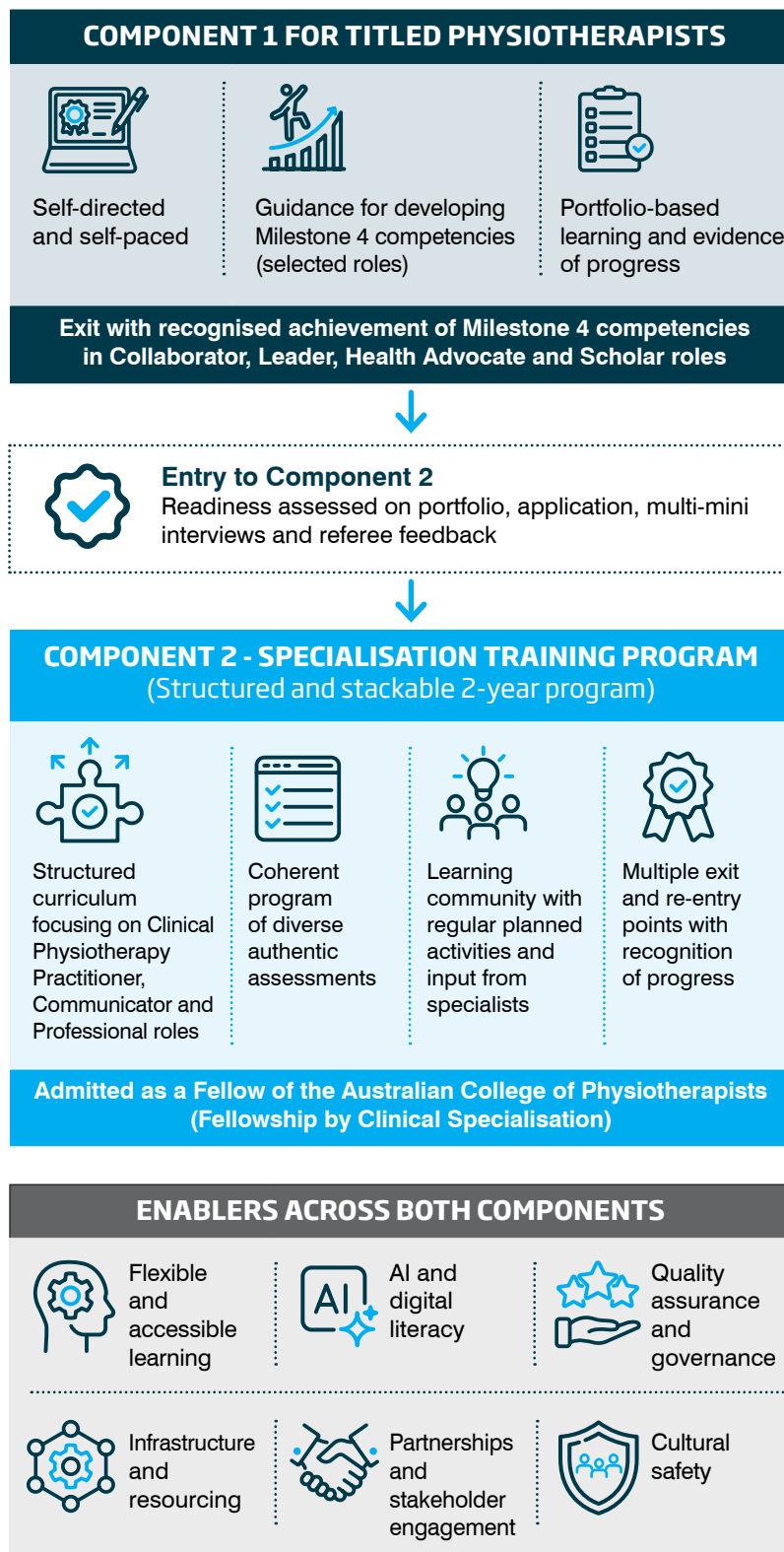
6 Infrastructure and resourcing

- integrated digital platforms and portfolios
- AI-enabled learning, feedback and assessment tools
- centralised learning resources
- delivered by ACP Fellows and educators with relevant expertise.

7 Quality assurance and governance

- comprehensive, ongoing evaluation of quality
- informed by diverse consumer perspectives
- integrated governance with aligned policy, procedures and guidelines
- ensures STP is future-focused while maintaining specialist standards.

STP two-component model at a glance



Milestone 1 (Foundation) | **Milestone 2** (Intermediate) | **Milestone 3** (Highly Developed) | **Milestone 4** (Expert)
(see APA Physiotherapy Competence Framework at australian.physio/pd/career-pathway for further details)



Flexible. Structured. Future-focused.

Your pathway to Fellowship starts here.

Whether you have recently achieved Titling or have been a titled physiotherapist for many years, the refreshed two component STP offers a clearer pathway toward Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation.

WHAT'S COMING?

- ✓ flexible portfolio pathway (Component 1)
- ✓ two year structured specialist training (Component 2)
- ✓ greater flexibility and accessibility
- ✓ enhanced learning and support
- ✓ contemporary competency-based progression
- ✓ learning and assessment supported by ACP Fellows and educators
- ✓ alignment with APC accreditation and quality standards
- ✓ ongoing recognition of excellence in specialist practice.

The refresh maintains the standard of clinical expertise required for Fellowship by Clinical Specialisation. It strengthens how physiotherapists are prepared, supported and assessed throughout their journey while maintaining the excellence, rigour and reputation of Fellowship.

CONTACT US

To learn more about the refreshed Specialisation Training Program, contact the Australian College of Physiotherapists at ACP@australian.physio



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