



Titling Credential Academic Pathway

Information Handbook



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Introduction

The Titling credential is awarded by the Australian College of Physiotherapists (ACP) and Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) to a physiotherapist who has met all the requirements of a formalised assessment process to demonstrate their highly developed experience, knowledge and skills in a field of physiotherapy practice.

This guide is designed to help physiotherapists navigate the process of achieving titling through the Academic Pathway. It provides detailed information on eligibility criteria, the application process, required documentation, and other essential details.

Titling Academic Pathway Overview

There are two (2) Titling Academic Pathway streams: Clinical and Research. The academic qualification and pre-requisite criteria for both streams are outlined below.

CLINICAL STREAM

(a) Academic Qualification

To be eligible for the clinical Tilting pathway, the applicant must have successfully completed an [APA-recognised postgraduate Master's coursework degree](#), along with other eligibility pre-requisites. The academic qualification submission process is outlined in [Appendix 1](#).

The following fields of practice are eligible for the clinical stream:

- Animal
- Cardiorespiratory
- Gerontological
- Musculoskeletal*
- Neurological
- Paediatric
- Pain
- Sports and Exercise*
- Women's, Men's, and Pelvic Health

***Reciprocal Recognition**

Candidates who have completed postgraduate master's qualifications in Sports and Exercise or Musculoskeletal physiotherapy outside of Australia may be eligible for reciprocal recognition.

Reciprocity for sports and exercise candidates is granted through The International Federation of Sports Physical Therapy (IFSPT). For more information, please visit [their website](#).

Reciprocity for musculoskeletal physiotherapy candidates is granted through the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT). For more information, please visit [their website](#).

(a) Eligibility and Pre-requisites

1. AHPRA registration

- Must hold current General registration with AHPRA for at least three continuous years

2. APA membership

- Must be a *current* member of the APA (APAM)
- Must be a *current* member of the National Group relevant to the field of practice for which the applicant is applying

3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)*

- The CPD activity must contribute to both maintaining and improving your competence in your chosen field of practice for which you are applying
- Must have completed 30 hours of CPD in the relevant field of practice over the past three years
- Must provide a maximum of three (3) documents as evidence of your CPD, such as PD log, certificates of completion etc.

Reference:

[Physiotherapy Board Australia-AHPRA – Acceptable CPD learning activities](#)

4. Continuous & Recency of Practice*

- The APA has consistent standards in place to guide the profession across the Career Pathway Milestone Levels. Titling aligns to the Career Pathway Milestone Level 3 – Highly Developed
- Must demonstrate a minimum of three (3) years continuous practice area experience
- Must demonstrate 450 hours recency of practice during the immediate previous three-year period, or 150 hours in a 12-month period. Recency of practice experience may be expressed in either hours, weeks or months (for example 15 hours a week)

Reference:

[APA Career Pathway: Standards – Recency of Practice and Continuous Practice Experience Standards](#)

5. Additional Requirements for overseas-qualified members

- Must have a minimum three (3) years continuous practice area experience from the date certified by the Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Alternatively, provide a copy of the email received from AHPRA confirming your general registration. (Continuous practice area experience will be calculated from the date you received your general registration to work as a Physiotherapist in Australia)

Reference:

The standard of the [continuous practice & recency of practice area experience requirements](#)

RESEARCH STREAM

(a) Academic Qualification

To be eligible for the **Research** Titling pathway, the applicant must have successfully completed an Australian Master's degree by Research (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), along with other eligibility pre-requisites. The academic qualification submission process is outlined in [Appendix 1](#).

(b) Eligibility and Pre-requisites

1. AHPRA Registration

- Must hold current General registration with AHPRA

2. APA Membership

- Must be a current member of the APA (APAM)

3. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- If Master's by Research or PhD completed in the last 3 years - CPD is considered met*
- If Master's by Research or PhD completed more than 3 years ago – must list a minimum 30 hours Research CPD over the immediate past three (3) years.*

Refer to Appendix 2 for [examples of accepted Research CPD activities](#)

- List a minimum of 30 hours Research Continuing Professional Development (CPD) over the **past three (3) years**.
- Tally the research CPD hours to ensure they total >30hours
- Provide a maximum of three (3) evidence documents, for example CPD log, Certificate of Conference Attendance etc.

4. Continuous & Recency of Research Practice

- If Master's by Research or PhD completed within the last 3 years - continuous and recency of research practice is considered met*
- If Master's by Research or PhD completed more than 3 years ago, must demonstrate a minimum of 450 hours recency of research practice during the immediate previous three-years period, or 150 hours in a 12-month period. Refer to Appendix 3 for [examples of accepted research roles and activities for continuous and recency of practice](#)*

5. Additional Requirements for overseas-qualified members

- Must have a minimum three (3) years continuous practice area experience from the date certified by the Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Alternatively, provide a copy of the email received from AHPRA confirming your general registration.

Academic Pathway Application Process

To apply, complete either the **Clinical** or **Research** Titling Academic Pathway online application form at the bottom of the Academic Pathway webpage

A notification advising of successful submission of the application form will automatically be sent.

What Happens Next

- Processing time is approximately **6–8 weeks**. Additional information may be requested during this time
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome via email
- Upon conferral of the Titled Physiotherapist credential, a Certificate of Titling will be sent via post
- A titled physiotherapist becomes a Member of the Australian College of Physiotherapists (MACP) and may use the MACP post-nominal

Connect with the ACP

Email: info@australian.physio

Phone: (03) 9092 0888

Frequently Ask Questions

1. Who can apply for Titling via the Academic Pathway?

An Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) member who meets the eligibility criteria may apply

2. What activities count towards continuous professional development (CPD)?

AHPRA-Physiotherapy Board of Australia's 'Continuing Professional Development' (CPD) registration standard requires all physiotherapists practising in Australia to maintain a portfolio which documents all CPD undertaken

3. Can my Master's degree count towards CPD hours?

Yes. Formal tertiary courses can count towards your annual CPD hours

Appendix 1: Submission of Academic Qualification

Select one of the following methods to provide your academic transcript:

1. If your institution has **My eEquals** available, this is the easiest method to provide access:
 - Generate a secure link specifying the following email address: ng.title@australian.physio
 - Ensure you *provide 90 days access* to the document
 - Share My eEquals pin code to access the academic transcript (testamur not required) within the application form

OR

2. Upload a certified copy of your academic transcript with the application form:
 - A certified copy annotated on the last page as appropriate e.g. 'I have sighted the original document and certify this to be a true copy of the original' and signed by [an authorised officer](#).
 - List the name, date of certification, contact phone number and occupation or profession (including occupation or profession number, if relevant) and have the stamp or seal of the Authorised Officer (if relevant).

Appendix 2: Examples of accepted research CPD activities for a Titled Research Physiotherapist

Attendance at Medical/Scientific/Health Professional Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State name of conference and provide Certificate of Attendance
Conference presentation(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State name of conference and title of presentation (submit extract of conference proceedings?)
Attendance at online College Knowledge Exchange presentation(s)
Attendance at Specialist Research Physiotherapist Pathway candidate presentation(s)
Collaboration in research
Publication(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State journal article name and provide link to publication

Appendix 3: Examples of accepted research roles and activities for continuous and recency of practice for a Titled Research Physiotherapist

Research activities including writing for publication
Research grant submission/s
Supervision of research Higher Degree students
Academic role (e.g. T&R, Teaching scholar)
Conference presentation/s
Development of/facilitation of research related course/s
Research collaborations
Ethics committee membership
Grant review panel member