

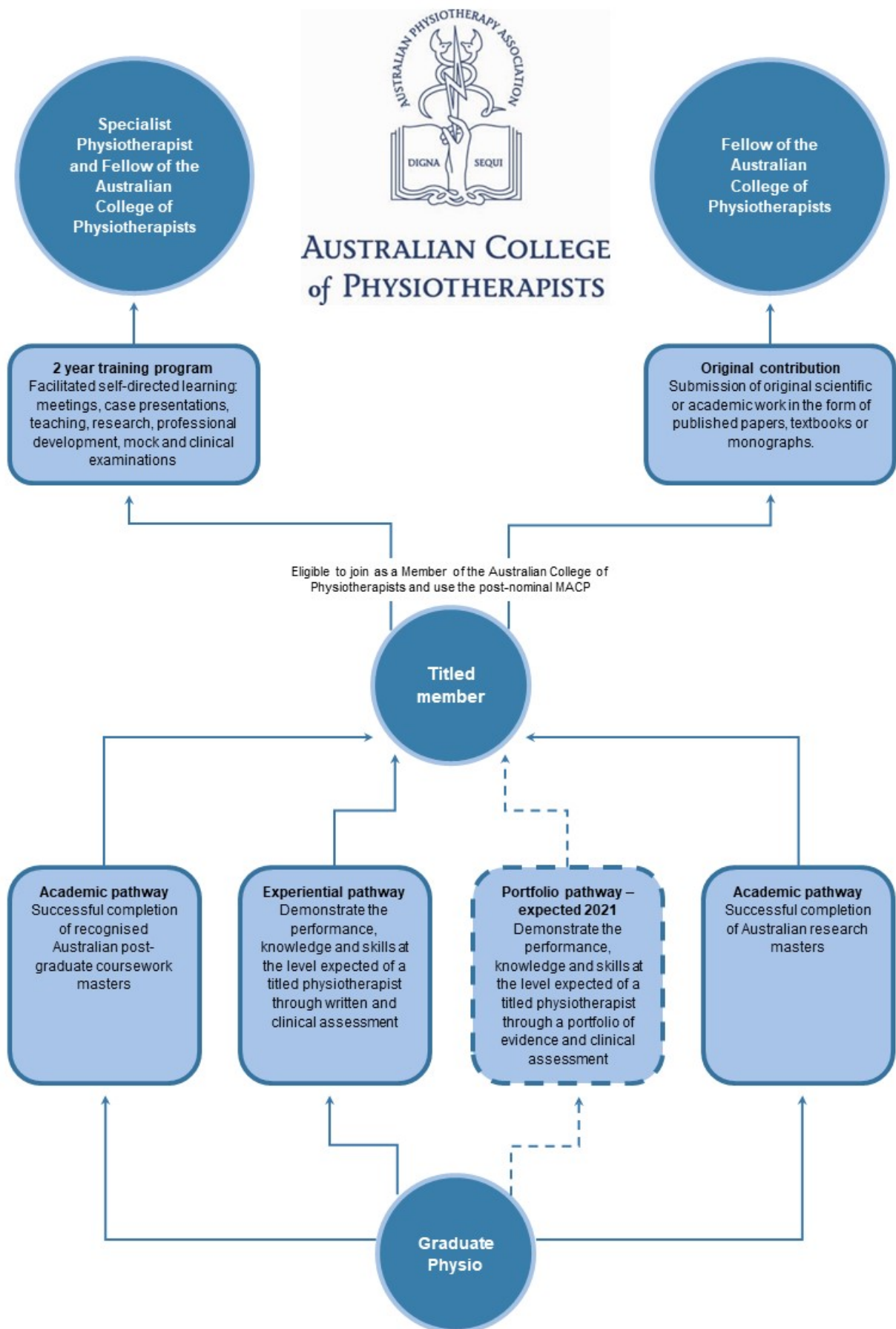


# APA Title Program Information Booklet

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## Program Objectives

The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) Title Program is a unique opportunity to:

- Promote the highest possible clinical standards in Australia by encouraging and facilitating postgraduate study and the process of specialisation
- Establish and maintain a benchmark for standards of practice in the community
- Demonstrate to external bodies the physiotherapy profession's genuine commitment to quality assurance and high standards in an increasingly competitive marketplace
- Raise the profile and credibility of physiotherapy in Australia, and internationally - by actively promoting the 'APA Physiotherapist' title in the community.

## The Benefits to You

The benefits associated with achieving title include:

- Marketing and advertising opportunities
- The potential for financial benefits
- The opportunity to attract new clientele
- Enhanced employment opportunities – only APA Sports and Exercise Physiotherapists are able to work as physiotherapists for the Australian Olympic Teams
- Formal recognition of experience and qualifications by peers, the community, referrers and employers
- Personal satisfaction that you are at the peak of your profession
- Being part of a network of credentialed physiotherapy professionals
- Eligible to become Members of the College and use the designation MACP

## Prerequisites for Titling

Before undertaking titling, candidates must have:

- Current AHPRA registration without restrictions
- Current member of the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA)
- Current membership of your national group (this is not required for *APA Research Physiotherapist* applicants)
- Meet the continuous practice area experience requirements
- Meet the recency of practice requirements
- Demonstrate 30 CPD hours within the past three years in your selected practice area

## Pathways to Titling

The current pathways to titling for each group are shown in the table below. A portfolio pathway is being developed aligned to the APA Career Pathway. This pathway will enable physiotherapists to present a range of evidence to demonstrate their attainment of competence across the seven roles in the APA Career Pathway Competence Framework at milestone level 3 – Highly Developed. We anticipate a staged rollout as we build capacity in our assessment pool across national groups, commencing around the middle of 2021. Information on the new framework will be provided through APA's electronic and print communications, as well as the website.

There are clinical and non-clinical titles available to recognise the different roles across the profession. These are available through two pathways – academic or experiential.

Group / stream	Academic Pathway	Experiential Pathway
<b>Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema</b>	On hold	✓ Grandfathering 1 July 2019 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021
<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	✓	✓
<b>Gerontology</b>	✓	✓
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>	✓	On hold
<b>Neurology</b>	✓	✓
<b>Occupational Health</b>	On hold	✓
<b>Paediatric</b>	✓	✓
<b>Pain</b>	✓	On hold
<b>Sports and Exercise</b>	✓	On hold
<b>Women's, Men's and Pelvic Health (formerly Continence and Women's Health)</b>	✓	✓
<b>Research* (non-clinical)</b>	✓ open mid-2020	Under development – anticipated 2021

*\*Forms part of the pathway to Fellowship by Original contribution*

## Academic Pathway

To be eligible under this pathway, you must have successfully completed an APA-recognised postgraduate Australian master's degree:

- For a clinical pathway to titling - by coursework in your selected discipline
- For a non-clinical pathway to titling (Research) – a master's degree by Research or Master of Philosophy (Doctor of Philosophy is also eligible as this is a higher level qualification)

## Experiential Pathway

Candidates who have not completed an Australian master's degree (or those who have completed an Australian Master's degree which is not on the APA-recognised list) may apply for titling through the experiential pathway.

To be eligible for this pathway candidates must have completed the pre-requisite course(s) for the title you are applying for (or demonstrate attainment of an equivalent).

<b>Table 1: Pre-requisite APA courses for Experiential titling</b>	
<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	One of the Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Level 2 courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulmonary Rehabilitation Level 2</li> <li>• ICU level 2</li> <li>• Virtual Cardio ICU Physio</li> </ul>
<b>Women's and Men's Pelvic Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021: Continence and Women's Health Level 1</li> <li>• From April 2021 - for all other members (who did not complete the Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapy Level 1) the pre-requisites for titling are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introductory Women's Health Physiotherapy Level 1 (online)</li> <li>○ Women's Health Through the Life Stages Physiotherapy Level 1 (online and face-to-face)</li> <li>○ Women's Pelvic Health Physiotherapy Level 1 (online and face-to-face)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Gerontology</b>	Gerontological Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Neurology</b>	To: 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021: Neurological Physiotherapy Level 1 From 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2021: Neurological Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Occupational Health</b>	Occupational Health Level 1
<b>Paediatric</b>	To 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2021 - Paediatric Physiotherapy Level 1 From 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2021: Paediatric Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Pain</b>	Pain Physiotherapy Level 1
<b>Sports and Exercise</b>	Sports Physiotherapy Level 2

## 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.

## Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema (CPCL) Grandfathering Pathway

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, titling will be available for the CPCL group through grandfathering. This grandfathering process is by application only, and does not require an examination. An ongoing titling pathway will be available once grandfathering concludes.

All applicants for the CPCL pathway are required to have two nominators, one who is a physiotherapist and one non-physiotherapist in the CPCL field.

Candidates are also reminded of the expectation that the granting of the “Highly Developed” ascription comes with the responsibility of being involved in future advocacy roles in CPCL.

The evidence of substantiation of prior skills and knowledge may be presented for one or more of the following sub-streams:

- (i) Cancer and/or
- (ii) Palliative Care and/or
- (iii) Lymphoedema

For example, successful applicants who provide evidence to meet the criteria in both cancer and palliative care sub-streams, would be recognised as: APA Cancer and Palliative Care Physiotherapist.

For Applicants to Titling in Lymphoedema to be successful, evidence of current membership of the Australasian Lymphology Association National Lymphoedema Practitioners Register (NLPR), or that the criteria for accreditation with the NLPR would be met.

In addition to the same requirements outlined above, candidates for the grandfathering process must demonstrate the following:

- Exposure to a varied caseload of CPCL conditions across health sectors and evidence of work in a team-based environment
- Address the following areas:
  - Leadership: e.g. leading team meetings, committee involvement
  - Advocacy: e.g. committees, policy involvement, case discussion, mentoring
  - Teaching: e.g. conferences, in services, educational resource compilation
  - Research: e.g. publications in the area of CPCL, engagement with other researchers

## Recency of Practice & Continuous Practice Experience

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 level.

For ease, the recency of practice and continuous practice experience information and standards are contained in a single document which is available on our website.

## Titling Application Process – All Pathways

### Stage 1. Initial Application

The initial application stage establishes whether a candidate meets the minimum requirements for titling; including professional experience, education, commitment to the profession and ongoing professional development.

Experiential candidates who successfully fulfil the stage 1 (initial application) titling requirements will be provided with more detailed information and instructions about how to progress to the next stage.

Applications take approximately 15 working days to process.

## Experiential Pathway

### Stage 2. Written Exam

- Stage two comprises an open book written examination which candidates have eight weeks to complete.
- Candidates for Occupational Health titling have 8 weeks to submit a portfolio in lieu of a written and clinical exam, the portfolio assessment includes a post-portfolio discussion.

### Stage 3 – Clinical Exam

The final stage of experiential titling involves a clinical exam. Candidates are examined via video submission and a post-examination discussion. Candidates will have 12 weeks to submit their clinical exam.

## Assessment of Applications

Stage 1 is assessed by APA staff under the guidance of the profession.

## Appeals

Candidates have the right to appeal in writing to the APA within 28 days of the issue arising, which may include, but is not limited to, receiving their result. If the appeal is dismissed, there may be a fee equivalent to the titling Application Fee to cover costs.



## Titling Fees to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Stage 1 – initial application and document assessment	\$135 incl. GST
Stage 2 – written exam fee (experiential only)	\$1,200 incl. GST
Stage 2 – remarking of written exam (if required)	\$500 incl. GST
Stage 3 – clinical exam fee (experiential only)	\$1,700 incl. GST

OHPA candidates: Stage 1 and Stage 3 fees apply

## Titling Fees from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

For the first time in over three years we will be making a slight adjustment to our fees, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

Stage 1 – initial application and document assessment	\$295 incl. GST
Stage 2 – written exam fee (experiential only)	\$1370 incl. GST
Stage 2 – remarking of written exam (if required)	\$500 incl. GST
Stage 3 – clinical exam fee (experiential only)	\$1370 incl. GST

OHPA: \$295 application fee + \$1370 Portfolio assessment and post portfolio discussion

## Links

APA Career Pathway: Standards - Recency of Practice & Continuous Practice Experience  
[https://australian.physio/sites/default/files/APA%20Standards\\_RecencyContinuousPractice\\_v1.0.pdf](https://australian.physio/sites/default/files/APA%20Standards_RecencyContinuousPractice_v1.0.pdf)

International Federation of Sports Physical Therapy (IFSPT)  
<https://ifspt.org>

International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT)  
<http://www.ifompt.org/MEMBERSHIP+ORGANISATIONS+AND+RIGs/Reciprocal+Recognition.html>

Document certification  
<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registration-Process/Certifying-Documents.aspx>

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who can become a Titled Physiotherapist?

Any APA member who is serious about a professional career in the relevant area of physiotherapy and meets the eligibility criteria can become an APA title holder. The title is a benchmark of physiotherapy practice; it is a measure of career progress for APA physiotherapists.

### What titles can I apply for?

- APA Cancer Physiotherapist
- APA Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapist
- APA Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapist
- APA Gerontological Physiotherapist
- APA Lymphoedema Physiotherapist
- APA Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist
- APA Neurological Physiotherapist
- APA Occupational Health Physiotherapist
- APA Paediatric Physiotherapist
- APA Pain Physiotherapist
- APA Palliative Care Physiotherapist
- APA Research Physiotherapist\*
- APA Sports and Exercise Physiotherapist

\*The research pathway is non-clinical

### Is the APA Research Physiotherapist title a clinical credential?

The Research titling stream is part of the pathway to Original Contribution/Research Fellowship. It is not a clinical credential.

### Why is there a fee to apply for titling?

The Title application fees assists in covering the cost associated with verification, assessment and processing of your Titling application along with the ongoing development and maintenance of the Title program.

### How long will it take for my academic application to be processed?

Academic applications are normally processed within 15 working days.

**Who can I ask if I have any queries regarding titling?**

The Titling Officer at APA National Office:

Phone: (03) 9092 0888

Email: [ng.title@australian.physio](mailto:ng.title@australian.physio)

**Who can certify documents?**

A certified copy is a copy of a primary document that is endorsed, stating that it is a true copy of the primary document. It certifies that the primary document is genuine, and that the copy provided is true.

Documents can be certified by a person who is authorised as a witness for statutory declarations.

**Is an Australian master's degree by research or PhD accepted for Research Title?**

Yes. A master's degree by research or Master of Philosophy qualification from an Australian university is accepted. Members with a Doctor of Philosophy are also eligible as this is a higher level qualification.

**Can a Graduate Entry master's degree allow me to apply for Academic Titling?**

A graduate entry master's degree may be used for Experiential Titling. A postgraduate coursework master's degree is required for Academic Titling pathways.

**Can my master's degree count towards my CPD hours?**

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

**I've done a double master's degree; can I complete one form?**

No. If you are applying for two titles simultaneously, you will need to complete two separate applications and pay for each application.

Exception: CPCL Grandfathering - during the grandfathering phase between 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2021, candidates may apply for multiple CPCL titles on one application form and only pay one fee.

**Has the name of the Continence and Women's Health Title changed along with the national group name?**

Not yet. Work is underway to put the framework and pre-requisites in place to support this transition. The anticipated timeline to change this and reflect the national group name is 2021. Currently the Title remains *APA Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapist*.