



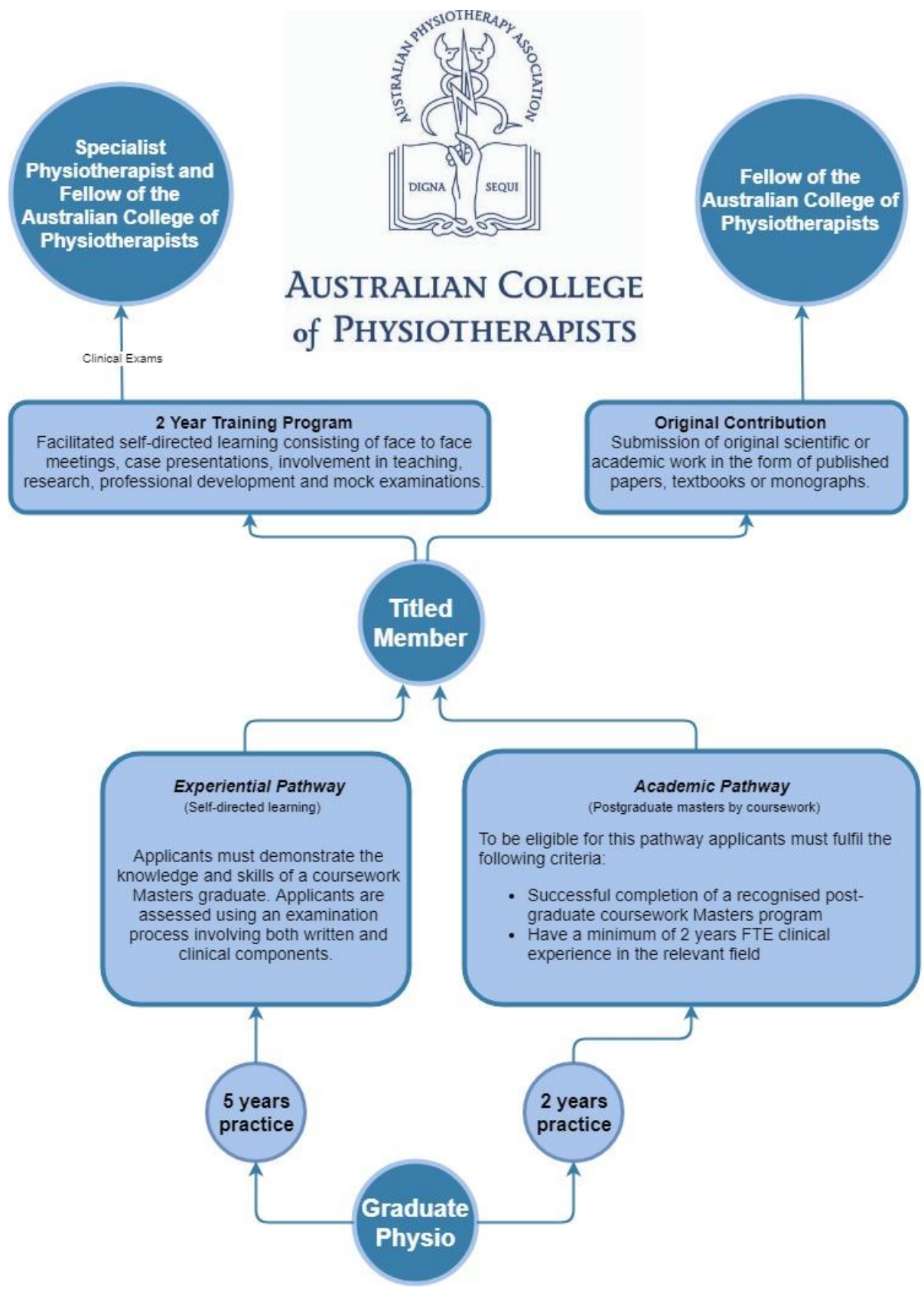
AUSTRALIAN  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

# 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.

## Prerequisites for Titling

Before undertaking titling, candidates must have:

- Current AHPRA registration
- Met the CPD requirements of AHPRA registration
- Current APA membership
- Current membership of the relevant national group.

## National Group Pathways to Titling

The current pathways to titling for each group are shown below. There is a new framework for titling under development, aligned to the APA Career Pathway and Competence Framework, which will be released to members in 2020-2021. Information on the new framework will be provided through APA's electronic and print communications, as well as the website.

Group	Academic Pathway	Experiential Pathway
<b>Cancer, Palliative Care and Lymphoedema</b>	✓ Grandfathering 1 July 2019 – 31 December 2020	✓ Grandfathering 1 July 2019 – 31 December 2020
<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>	Grandfathering close - 30 June 2019 ✓ From 1 July 2019 – standard application form	Grandfathering close - 30 June 2019 From 1 July 2019 – on hold
<b>Sports and Exercise</b>	✓	Closing date for 2019 applications - 31 July 2019* From 1 August 2019 – on hold
<b>Women's, Men's and Pelvic Health (formerly Continence and Women's Health)</b>	✓	✓

\*Please note: the **final scheduled Sports and Exercise face-to-face clinical exam** will be held late February 2020 in Canberra. Additional exams may be scheduled if required to meet demand.

## Academic Pathway

To be eligible under this pathway, you must fulfil the following criteria:

- Minimum two years full time equivalent clinical experience in your selected discipline
- Successful completion of a recognised post graduate Australian Master's degree by coursework in your selected discipline
- Current membership of your selected National Group.

Please note that Occupational Health Physiotherapy Australia does not accept applications via the Academic Pathway.

## Experiential Pathway

Candidates who have not completed a recognised postgraduate clinical Master's degree may apply for titling through the experiential pathway.

To be eligible for this pathway candidates must fulfil the following criteria:

- A minimum of five years' FTE experience, with at least three years' FTE in the selected discipline
- A minimum of 20 CPD hours accrued over the last twelve months in the selected discipline
- Completed pre-requisite course(s) for the title you are applying for (see Table 1 below)
- Demonstrated commitment to the profession
- Evidence of advanced knowledge in the area from engaging in a variety of education programs.

**Table 1: Pre-requisite APA courses for Experiential titling**

<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Level 2 (ICU + Pulmonary Rehabilitation Components)
<b>Women's and Men's Pelvic Health</b>	Continence and Women's Health Level 1
<b>Gerontology</b>	Gerontological Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Neurology</b>	Neurological Physiotherapy Level 1
<b>Occupational Health</b>	All Level 1 Occupational Health courses
<b>Paediatric</b>	Paediatric Physiotherapy Level 1
<b>Pain</b>	Nil – will be Pain Physiotherapy Level 1
<b>Sports and Exercise</b>	Sports Physiotherapy Level 3

## Reciprocal Recognition

Candidates who have completed postgraduate Masters 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 [here](#).

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

## Pain Grandfathering Pathway

From 1 January 2018 - 30 June 2019 titling will be available for the Pain group through grandfathering. This grandfathering process is by application only, and does not require an examination.

From 1 July 2019, the academic pathway will be as per the standard requirements and the experiential pathway will be on hold.

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

Academic candidates for the grandfathering process must fulfil the following criteria before applying:

- Successful completion of Sydney University's Master of Science in Medicine (Pain Management)
- A minimum of 2.5 years FTE of clinical practice, with evidence of exposure to a varied caseload of pain conditions (from acute to chronic) 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. accumulating statistics at work, engagement with other researchers

Experiential candidates must fulfil the following criteria before applying:

- A minimum of 7.5 years FTE clinical experience
- A minimum of 2.5 years FTE clinical experience in the pain field with evidence of exposure to a varied caseload of pain conditions (from acute to chronic) and evidence of work in a multi-disciplinary team-based environment
- A minimum of 100 hours of relevant education in the past five years, with at least 50 being in the pain field
- 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. accumulating statistics at work, engagement with other researchers

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

From 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2020 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 from 2021.

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.

Academic candidates for the grandfathering process must fulfil the following criteria before applying:

- Successful completion of Research or Coursework Postgraduate Degree in the area of CPCL
- A minimum of 2.0 years FTE of clinical practice, with evidence of 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

Experiential candidates must fulfil the following criteria before applying:

- A minimum of 7.0 years FTE clinical experience
- A minimum of 3.0 years FTE clinical experience in the CPCL field with evidence of exposure to a varied caseload of conditions relevant to the CPCL sub-stream(s) across health sectors and evidence of work in a team-based environment.
- A minimum of 100 hours of relevant education in the past five years, with at least 50%<sup>1</sup> being in the CPCL field, relevant to the sub-stream in your application.
- Address the following areas:

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<sup>1</sup> If you are applying for two or more sub-streams, a minimum of approximately 30% should relate to each sub-stream



- 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. service evaluation, outcome measures, quality improvement, engagement with researchers, collaboration in clinical research in the area of CPCL

## **Titling Application Process – All Pathways**

### **Stage 1. Initial Application (all pathways: academic, experiential and grandfathering)**

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.

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 six months to submit a portfolio in lieu of a written exam.

### **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, with the exception of Sports and Exercise. Candidates will have 12 weeks to submit their clinical exam.

The sports discipline conducts fixed schedule face-to-face exams in lieu of the video submission.

## **Assessment of Applications**

Stage 1 is assessed by APA staff under the guidance of the appropriate Professional Practice Standards Committee (PPSC).

## **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 \$1,200 fee.

## Checklist for your Application

Before posting in an application please make sure that you have:

- Completed and typed your responses in the application form
- Listed all your work experience hours in accordance with the example provided
- Provided a certified copy of your academic record
- Completed and enclosed your payment form.

To obtain a copy of the titling application and payment forms, please visit our website [here](#).

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.

## Titling Fees

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

## 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 requirements of the application process 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 Sports and Exercise Physiotherapist

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

The application fee helps to cover the costs associated with processing and assessing your application, and developing and maintaining 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: [ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au)

### **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 – please click [here](#) to see a list.

### **Are Masters by research or PhD's accepted?**

No. You must have completed a recognised Australian postgraduate Masters by coursework.

### **Can a Graduate Entry Masters allow me to apply for Academic Titling?**

No. Only a post graduate Masters qualifies students for Academic Titling, you may use this as part of your evidence for Experiential Titling.

### **Can my Masters count towards my CPD points?**

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

### **I've done a double Masters, can I complete one form?**

No. If you are applying for two titles simultaneously, you will need to complete two separate applications and submit a total payment of \$270.

Exception: CPCL Grandfathering - during the grandfathering phase between 1 July 2019 - 31 December 2020, 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?**

No. The framework under which the Title is awarded has not been expanded to include men's health, so at this stage the Title remains *APA Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapist*.

### **When are the Sports and Exercise Face-to-face Clinical Exams?**

The Sports and Exercise experiential pathway's face-to-face clinical exam schedule for 2019 – 2020 is:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date*</b>
Brisbane	Saturday 2 November 2019 Saturday 7 December 2019
Sydney	Saturday 5 October 2019 Saturday 7 December 2019
Melbourne	Saturday 7 December 2019
Adelaide	Saturday 7 December 2019
Perth	Saturday 7 December 2019
Canberra	End February 2020

*\*additional dates may be added if required in order to meet demand*