



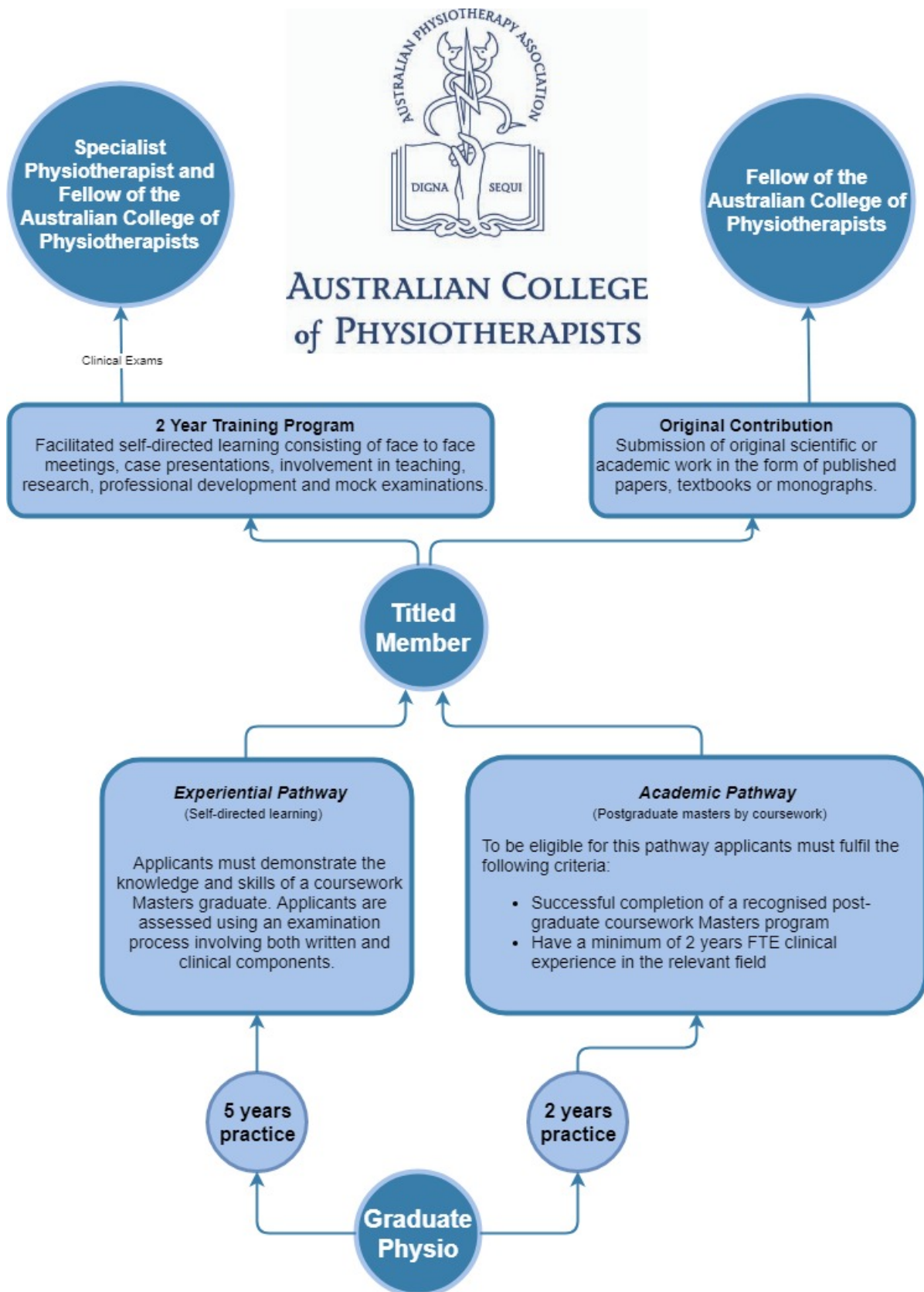
AUSTRALIAN  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

# 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
- Eligible to become Members of the College and use the designation MACP as part of the pathway to Fellowship.

## 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.

## 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.

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>                                   | ✓ 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>  | ✓   | 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 fulfil the following criteria:

- Minimum two years full time equivalent clinical experience in your selected discipline
- Successful completion of a 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)
- Current membership of your selected National Group.

## 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>               | One Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Level 2 - either ICU <u>or</u> Pulmonary Rehabilitation            |
| <b>Women's and Men's Pelvic Health</b> | Continence and Women's Health Level 1 in 2020, changing to Women's Health Level 2 in 2021 <sup>1</sup> |
| <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>                            | 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 [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](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Changeover dates have been impacted by social distancing measures, we hope to be able to confirm these late in 2020.

## 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 an Australian postgraduate master's degree by coursework 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>2</sup> being in the CPCL field, relevant to the sub-stream in your application.
- Address the following areas:

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<sup>2</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**

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 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 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 emailing 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 transcripts via My eEquals or email a certified transcript Completed 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 |

OHPA candidates: Stage 1 and Stage 3 fees apply

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

### **Is a 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 points?**

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

### **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 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?**

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