



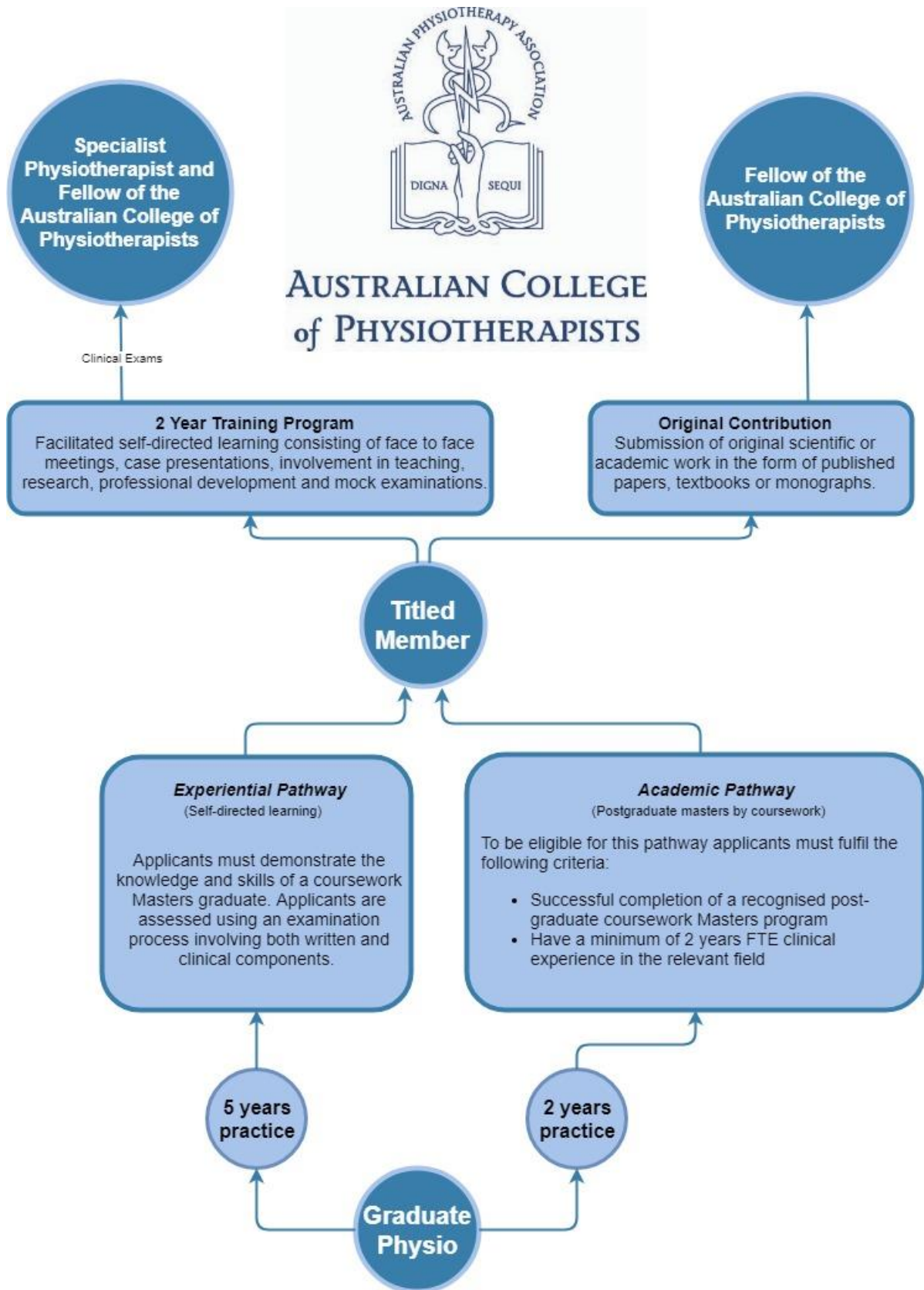
AUSTRALIAN  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION

# 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 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.

## 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 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 postgraduate clinical Master's degree may apply for titling through the experiential pathway.

### **The experiential pathway for musculoskeletal physiotherapy is on hold until further notice.**

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.

<b>Cardiorespiratory</b>	Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Women's, Men's and Pelvic Health</b>	Continence and Women's Health Level 1
<b>Gerontology</b>	Gerontological Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Neurology</b>	Neurological Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Paediatric</b>	Paediatric Physiotherapy Level 2
<b>Occupational Health</b>	All Level 1 and Level 2 occupational health courses
<b>Sports</b>	Sports Physiotherapy Level 3

## Reciprocal Recognition

Candidates who have completed postgraduate Masters qualifications in Sports or Musculoskeletal physiotherapy outside of Australia may be eligible for reciprocal recognition.

Reciprocity for sports 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 Pathway

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 titling will be available for the Pain group through grandfathering. This grandfathering process is by application only, and does not require an examination. An ongoing titling pathway (either academic or experiential) will be available from 2019.

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

Please note that a fee of \$135 incl. GST will apply to cover the initial application process and document assessment.

## The Application Process

### Stage 1. Initial Application (for all pathways)

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 10 working days to process.

### Stage 2. Written Exam (for experiential pathway)

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 (for experiential pathway)

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.

The sports discipline conducts 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).

## Conduct of Appeal

Unsuccessful candidates have the right to appeal in writing to the APA within 28 days of receiving their result. Appeals may be made on the sole ground that the procedure outlined in this information booklet has not been followed. Appeals may not be requested on the grounds of examiners' assessment of the submission.

## 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 and hybrid applicants 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	\$1,200 incl. GST
Stage 2 – remarking of written exam (if required)	\$500 incl. GST
Stage 3 – clinical exam fee	\$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, and is protected by national law.

### What titles can I apply for?

- APA Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist (**Experiential Pathway currently on hold**)
- APA Sports Physiotherapist
- APA Gerontological Physiotherapist
- APA Neurological Physiotherapist
- APA Occupational Health Physiotherapist
- APA Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapist
- APA Women's, Men's and Pelvic Health Physiotherapist
- APA Paediatric Physiotherapist
- APA Pain 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 10 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 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.