



# **APA Physiotherapist Title Program**

## **Information Booklet**

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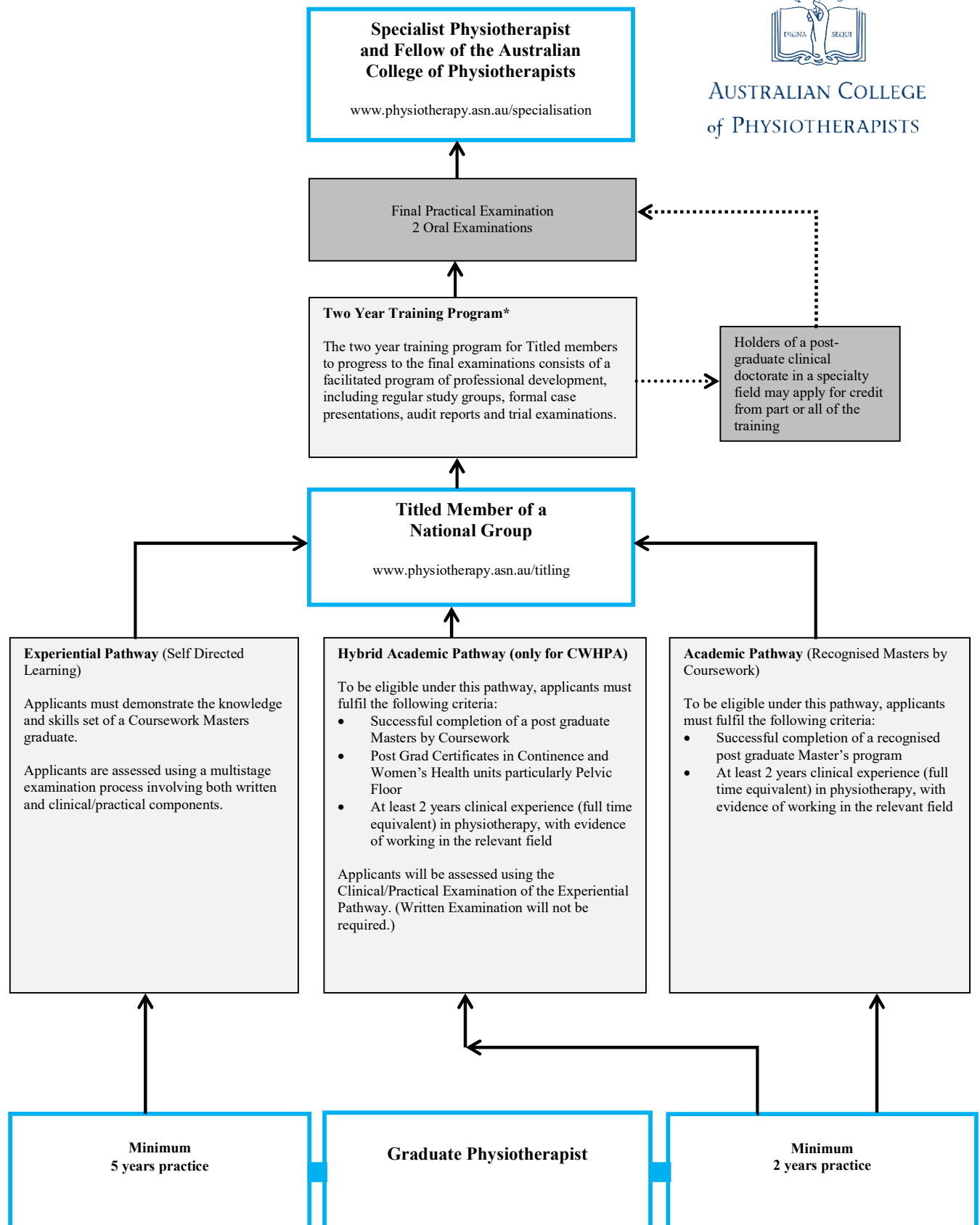
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# Titling and Specialisation Pathway



AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE  
of PHYSIOTHERAPISTS



# Program Objectives

The APA Title Program provides the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) and APA National Groups with 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 many benefits associated with achieving title include:

- Marketing and advertising opportunities
- The potential for financial benefits
- The opportunity to attract new clientele
- Enhanced employment opportunities - APA Sports Physiotherapists are the only physiotherapists eligible to work as physiotherapists for the Australian Olympic Team
- 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

## Review of Postgraduate Courses in Physiotherapy

The APA is undertaking a review of each postgraduate course within Australia. The review process is conducted in accordance with the APA Charter of Educational Standards. The APA will recognise courses that can demonstrate that physiotherapists who complete the course have achieved defined performance standards. The 'APA Physiotherapist' title will only be awarded to physiotherapists who have completed a recognised postgraduate course; or who are recognised via an experiential pathway or the hybrid academic pathway.

- Does not include Masters by research or PhD's

# Academic Pathway

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

- Successful completion of an Australian master's course in your specific physiotherapy stream
- At least 2 year's clinical experience (full time equivalent) in physiotherapy, with evidence of working in the relevant field.
- Current APA membership with membership of the relevant National Group\*

Application forms are available online at [www.physiotherapy.asn.au/titling](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/titling)

*\*Please note: Occupational Health Physiotherapy Australia does not accept applications via the Academic Pathway.*

# Hybrid Academic Pathway

This pathway is only available for Continence and Women's Health Titling currently.

APA members who have completed a Master's degree by coursework.

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

- Successful completion of a Masters by coursework including post graduate certificates in Women's Health units particularly Pelvic Floor
- At least 2 year's clinical experience (full time equivalent) in physiotherapy, with evidence of working in the relevant field
- Current APA membership with membership of the CWH National Group

# Experiential Pathway

APA members who have not completed an approved coursework Master's degree may apply for title on the experiential pathway. (**Note: MPA experiential pathway is suspended till further notice.**)

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

- At least 5 years clinical/practical\*\* experience, with evidence of a period of at least 3 years (full time equivalent) in the relevant discipline area
- Current APA membership, with membership of the relevant National Group
- Completed pre-requisite course(s) for the title you are applying for
- Demonstrate commitment to the profession
- Evidence of having engaged in a variety of programs of education to advance your knowledge in the relevant field of physiotherapy (Applicants need to have accrued 20 CPD hours in the relevant disciplinary area in the last year)

**Please note:** There are pre-requisite courses that need to be completed for all groups. See section on Assessing Applications for complete list.

\*Applicants are reminded that to maintain their APA membership, they are required to accrue a minimum of 20 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours each year

\*\*Practical experience is only relevant to 'APA Occupational Health Physiotherapy' title applications.

# Experiential Pathway Application Process

A two-stage process is used to assess and evaluate all experiential pathway title applications.

## **Section One:**

Section One of the application process seeks to establish whether the applicant meets the minimum criteria outlined previously by addressing such areas as professional experience, education, commitment to the profession, and ongoing professional development.

Applicants who satisfy the minimum criteria of the application must then successfully complete Section Two of the application process to gain award of the title.

## **Section Two:**

Section Two of the application process will comprise a written open book examination\* and a practical examination/viva\*\*.

For further information on the Section Two examination please contact the APA National Office on 1300 666 772 or email [nqtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:nqtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au)

*\* Applicants for the title 'Occupational Health Physiotherapist' are required to submit a portfolio in lieu of a written examination*

*\*\* Examination via viva is only relevant to 'APA Occupational Health Physiotherapy' title applications*

# Hybrid Academic Pathway Application Process

A two-stage process is used to assess and evaluate the CWH hybrid pathway title applications.

## **Section One:**

Section One of the application process seeks to establish whether the applicant meets the minimum criteria outlined previously by addressing such areas as professional experience, education, commitment to the profession, and ongoing professional development.

Applicants who satisfy the minimum criteria of the application must then successfully complete Section Two (Part B) of the application process to gain award of the title.

## **Section Two (Part B):**

Section Two of the application process will comprise a practical examination/viva\*\*.

For further information on the Section Two examination please contact the APA National Office on 1300 666 772 or email [nqtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:nqtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au)

# Assessment of Applications

Stage 1 of the application is assessed by the Learning and Development division of the APA under the guidance of the appropriate Professional Practice Standards Committee (PPSC) where it is determined if the candidate is suitable to proceed to Stage two.

Stage 2 of the titling process is assessed by the appropriate Professional Practice Standards Committee (PPSC) or their nominated assessors.

<b><i>National group</i></b>	<b><i>Pre-requisite</i></b>
Acupuncture and Dry Needling Group (ADNG)	Currently there is no titling pathway available
Animal Physiotherapy (APG)	Pathway is currently being developed
Aquatic Group (AG)	Currently there is no titling pathway available
Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapy Australia (CRPA)	Level 1 Cardiorespiratory
Continence and Women's Health Physiotherapy Australia (CWHPA)	Continence and Women's Health Level 1
Gerontology Physiotherapy Australia (GPA)	Gerontology Level 2 *Gerontology Level 1 exemption available for eligible applicants
Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia (MPA)	Spinal Level 1 *Spinal Level 2 preferred but not essential <b>(MPA Experiential pathway is suspended till further notice)</b>
National Neurology Group (NNG)	Neurology Level 1 *Exemption available for eligible applicants
National Paediatric Group (NPG)	Level 1 *Exemption available for eligible applicants
Occupational Health Physiotherapy Australia Group (OHPA)	Successful completion of all Level 1 and Level 2 OHP courses or equivalent formal courses
Sports Physiotherapy Australia (SPA)	Successful completion of Sports Level 3 course

# Conduct of appeal

An APA member shall have the right to appeal against a finding or determination of the Professional Practice Standards Committee (PPSC) or its nominated assessors. The appeal must be made in writing to the relevant Learning and Development Education Coordinator within 28 days of the PPSC's decision being communicated to the candidate. The appeal will be lodged with the National Group PPSC.

Appeals may be requested on the sole ground that the procedure set out in the APA Physiotherapist Title Information Booklet has not been followed. Appeals may not be requested on the ground of examiners' assessment of the submission.

Should the candidate wish to dispute the decision of the PPSC, they may appeal in writing to the National Group, National Executive Committee within 28 days of the PPSC's decision being communicated to them. The Committee can be contacted via the Learning and Development Coordinator at APA National Office. The decision of the National Group, National Executive Committee is final.

The possible outcomes of an appeal are:

- the appeal is dismissed or
- the appeal is granted.

Where an appeal is granted, the member will be allowed to resit the examination at no fee.



# How to Apply

To obtain a copy of an application form for either pathway, please visit [www.physiotherapy.asn.au/titling](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/titling)

Complete Section One of the application form and submit to the APA National Office, with a non-refundable application fee of \$135\*.

Remember to provide requested evidence of your qualifications, experience and career achievements with your application. Photocopies of supporting documentation will be accepted. Applicants who do not fulfil the minimum criteria will receive feedback.

Experiential pathway applicants who successfully fulfil the minimum criteria are subsequently given information and instructions about Section Two of the application.

For more information on the titling process, please email [ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au).

## Titling Fees

### Academic Pathway

Application Fee and	assessment of documentation	\$ 135
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### Experiential Pathway ^

Application Fee		\$ 135
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### Additional fees (if required):

Remarking of Written Exam		\$ 500
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### Experiential Pathway Payment Structure:

(All groups except OHPA)

1 <sup>st</sup> Payment:	Application	\$ 135
2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment:	Prior to Written Examination	\$ 1,200
3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment:	Prior to Clinical Examination	\$ 1,700

### OHPA only\*\*

1 <sup>st</sup> Payment:	Application	\$ 135
2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment:	Prior to commencement of Portfolio	\$ 1,200
3 <sup>rd</sup> Payment:	Prior to Assessment of Portfolio and Viva assessment	\$ 1,700

\*These fees include GST and are subject to change

\*\*Applicants for the title of 'Occupational Health Physiotherapist' are required to submit a portfolio in lieu of a written examination

^ MPA Experiential Pathway is currently suspended till further notice

# APA Mandatory Participation & Professional Development Scheme

All APA Titled Physiotherapists must fulfil the requirements of the APA CPD scheme to maintain the right to use the 'APA Physiotherapist' title.

## 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.

### **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 be until I learn if my application has been successful?**

Academic applications: Normally processed within 20 working days.

Experiential applications: Section one of the application process is usually assessed within eight weeks of receipt at the APA National Office, and you will be advised of the outcome of your application shortly after. Section Two applications are usually assessed within eight weeks. You will be notified of any delays by email or telephone, and tax invoices will be issued for fees paid.

### **Where do I refer any queries regarding titling?**

Queries should be referred to:

#### [Education Coordinator](#)

PO Box 437 Hawthorn BC, VIC 3122

Phone: 1300 666 772

Email: [ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au](mailto:ngtitle@physiotherapy.asn.au)