



MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BOD Y10-09-08-18 [Amended BOD G07-09-07-09; BOD 01-09-03-07; BOD 11-08-04-05; BOD 08-07-01-01/Ratified BOD 09-07; BOD 11-02-11-32; BOD 07-02-04-09; BOD 02-02-10-10; BOD 11-00-09-22; BOD 03-00-09-11; BOD 07-98-01-01; BOD 11-96-06-14; BOD 03-96-12-36; BOD 06-94-07-14; BOD 11-92-07-28; BOD 03-87-05-18; BOD 03-86-06-23; BOD 11-85-03-14; BOD 03-84-05-17; BOD 11-81-03-06; BOD 03-81-02-04; BOD 11-80-02-08; BOD 11-79-02-05; BOD 02-74-15-29] [Policy]

The qualifications for membership in the American Physical Therapy Association shall be as stated in the Association Bylaws, and in addition:

A. Physical Therapist Membership

1. Graduation from an education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. If graduation in the United States occurred prior to 1977, then graduation from a program recognized by the American Medical Association in collaboration with the American Physical Therapy Association is required.
2. If educated outside of the United States by a program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and living in the United States, graduation from an education program that by credentials evaluation is determined to be substantially equivalent, with respect to professional physical therapist education in the United States, or a license from a jurisdiction that requires a credentials evaluation prior to licensure.
3. Physical Therapist – Post-Professional Student Membership:
 - a. a graduate physical therapist as defined in A. 1 or 2 above;
 - b. a graduate physical therapist enrolled full time in a post-professional master's or doctoral program (excluding transition DPT) or APTA credentialed post-professional residency or fellowship program;
 - c. be limited to two years in a master's program, five years in a doctoral program and two years in a post-professional residency or fellowship program; and
 - d. have an official statement furnished to APTA by the program at which the graduate student, resident or fellow is enrolled verifying the individual's full-time enrollment, as defined by that program, at each dues period for which the individual is eligible for physical therapist post-professional student status.
4. Previous Student Physical Therapist membership in the Association is neither a necessary nor a sufficient qualification for Physical Therapist membership.
5. Agreement to comply with the *Code of Ethics* of the American Physical Therapy Association.

B. Retired Physical Therapist Membership

1. Attainment of the age of 55 years and completion of 20 years of membership.
2. Have had a career change and no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.

3. Member signs an official statement, at each dues period for which the individual is eligible for Retired Physical Therapist membership, confirming they are no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.
 4. Agreement to comply with the *Code of Ethics* of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- C. Life Physical Therapist Membership
1. Attainment of the age of 65 years and completion of 30 years of membership; or
 2. If retired because of disability, completion of at least 5 years of membership.
 3. Agreement to comply with the *Code of Ethics* of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- D. Student Physical Therapist Membership
1. Enrollment in a physical therapist education program that is accredited or is seeking or granted candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
 2. Agreement to comply with the *Code of Ethics* of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- E. Physical Therapist Assistant Membership
1. Graduation from an education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
 2. If trained outside of the United States by a program not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and living in the United States, graduation from an education program that by credentials evaluation is determined to be equivalent with respect to physical therapist assistant entry level education in the United States, or a license from a jurisdiction that requires a credentials evaluation prior to licensure is required.
 3. Previous Student Physical Therapist Assistant membership in the Association is neither a necessary nor a sufficient qualification for Physical Therapist Assistant membership.
 4. Agreement to comply with the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant* of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- F. Retired Physical Therapist Assistant Membership
1. Attainment of the age of 55 years and completion of 20 years of membership.
 2. Have had a career change and no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.
 3. Member signs an official statement, at each dues period for which the individual is eligible for Retired Physical Therapist Assistant membership, confirming they are no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.
 4. Agreement to comply with the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant* of the American Physical Therapy Association.

G. Life Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

1. Attainment of the age of 65 years and completion of 30 years of membership; or
2. If retired because of disability, completion of at least 5 years of membership.
3. Agreement to comply with the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant* of the American Physical Therapy Association.

H. Student Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

1. Enrollment in a physical therapist assistant education program that is accredited or is seeking or granted candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
2. Agreement to comply with the *Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant* of the American Physical Therapy Association.

I. Honorary Membership

Contribution(s) are:

1. Significant to the profession of physical therapy.
2. National in recognition and scope.
3. Of unique quality.

J. Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the APTA

1. Demonstrated excellence in a primary domain of research, education, practice, or advocacy with translation of contributions and achievements across the other domains.
2. National recognition by APTA members and by leaders outside the physical therapy profession regarding the impact achieved in the primary domain of research, education, practice, or advocacy.
3. Frequent and sustained contributions (leadership, influence, and achievements) that have advanced the profession over a period of not less than fifteen years.
4. Definitive ways in which advancement of the physical therapy profession have been achieved.

EXAMPLES THAT MAY REFLECT A CATHERINE WORTHINGHAM FELLOW NOMINEE'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN EACH DOMAIN & ACROSS DOMAINS

TABLE 1: Examples that may reflect a nominee's contributions and achievements within each domain. *Note:* A column is provided for each domain. Read columns top to bottom for information specific to each domain.

<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>ADVOCACY</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>EDUCATION</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>PRACTICE</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>RESEARCH</u> by...</i>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative methods and/or materials for advocacy about physical therapy (e.g., public service announcements) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative instructional methods and/or materials related to physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative physical therapy service delivery methods and/or programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative research relevant to physical therapist practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative community outreach programs to inform the public about physical therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative academic or continuing education courses related to physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative physical therapy patient/client management methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and implementing innovative research relevant to basic science, health policy, education, clinical practice or other topics that extend beyond physical therapist practice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in or leading interdisciplinary collaborative efforts regarding policy relevant to physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in or leading interdisciplinary collaborative educational activities or projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in or leading interdisciplinary collaborative practice activities or projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in or leading interdisciplinary collaborative research activities or projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in leadership positions related to the development and promotion of policy or legislation relevant to physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in leadership positions in education-related interdisciplinary or governmental organizations (e.g., regional accreditation bodies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in leadership positions in practice-related interdisciplinary organizations (e.g., The Joint Commission) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in leadership positions on scientific review panels or research-related advisory boards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in an administrative or leadership role focused on advocacy related to physical therapist practice and/or health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in an administrative or leadership role in an academic setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in an administrative or leadership role in a clinical setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in an administrative or leadership role in a research setting

<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>ADVOCACY</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>EDUCATION</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>PRACTICE</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate excellence in <u>RESEARCH</u> by...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in an elected or appointed position in state or federal government (e.g., state licensing board, health policy committees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining advanced credentialing and demonstrating leadership in the clinical instructor credentialing process, or serving as an exceptional clinical preceptor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining board certification and demonstrating leadership in clinical specialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an editor or serving on an editorial board of a refereed scientific or clinical journal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation to others related to development and promotion of legislation related to physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation to others related to development and implementation of educational methods and/or materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation to others related to development and implementation of innovative physical therapist practice methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation to others related to development and implementation of research methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining grants for projects related to advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining grants for projects related to education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining grants for projects related to practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtaining grants for original research
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or keynote speaker at advocacy-related meetings or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or keynote speaker at education-related meetings or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or keynote speaker at practice-related meetings or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or keynote speaker at research-related meetings or conferences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in voluntary advocacy-related roles in APTA or other professional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in voluntary education-related roles in APTA or other professional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in voluntary practice-related roles in APTA or other professional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving in voluntary research-related roles in APTA or other professional organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving honors and/or awards specific to their contributions to advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving honors and/or awards specific to their contributions to education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving honors and/or awards specific to their contributions to practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receiving honors and/or awards specific to their contributions to research

TABLE 2: Examples that may reflect a nominee's contributions and achievements across domains. *Note:* A column is provided for each domain. Read columns top to bottom for information specific to each domain.

<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF ADVOCACY</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE ADVOCACY DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF EDUCATION</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE ADVOCACY DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF PRACTICE</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE ADVOCACY DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE ADVOCACY DOMAIN</u> by...</i>
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<i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is advocacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating about educational needs and or standards on national and/or state levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating about practice needs and/or standards at national and/or state levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating about research needs and/or standards on national and/or state levels
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating consumers and legislators about physical therapy education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educating consumers and legislators about physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocating for change in practice based on research
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in community outreach to inform people about physical therapy education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in community outreach to inform people about physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to media coverage about implications of nominee's research for policy
<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF ADVOCACY</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF EDUCATION</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF PRACTICE</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring students and/or professionals in advocacy techniques and projects 	<i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is education</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring students in clinical internships and/or professionals in clinical residency or fellowship programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mentoring students and/or professionals in research methods and projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching advocacy methods in academic and continuing education courses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching clinical practice methods in academic and continuing education courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching research methods in academic and continuing education courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching public policy content in academic or continuing education courses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching practice management content in academic or continuing education courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching evidence-based practice content in academic or continuing education courses
<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF ADVOCACY</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF EDUCATION</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF PRACTICE</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>	<i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE EDUCATION DOMAIN</u> by...</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or key note speaker at research-, education- or practice-related meetings or conferences 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or key note speaker at research-, education- or advocacy-related meetings or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an invited speaker or key note speaker at education-, practice- or advocacy-related meetings or conferences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting educational sessions at international meetings or conferences 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting educational sessions at international meetings or conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting educational sessions at international meetings or conferences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testifying before state and/or federal government panels 	<p><i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting grand rounds to medical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presenting research platforms or posters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing a change in CAPTE standards based on advocacy contributions and achievements 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing a change in CAPTE standards based on practice contributions and achievements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influencing a change in CAPTE standards based on research contributions and achievements
<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF ADVOCACY</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE PRACTICE DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF EDUCATION</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE PRACTICE DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF PRACTICE</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE PRACTICE DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE PRACTICE DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to media coverage about implications of public or and/or payment policy for physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to media coverage regarding changes in PT patient/client management 	<p><i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is practice</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributing to media coverage about implications of nominee's research for practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and administering methods for integrating public policy into clinical practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and administering a clinical residency or fellowship program 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and outlining methods for translating basic science and clinical research into clinical practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation related to the application of public policy in physical therapist practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation related to the application of changes in physical therapy education to physical therapist practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing consultation related to the application of research findings to physical therapist practice

<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF ADVOCACY</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE RESEARCH DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF EDUCATION</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE RESEARCH DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF PRACTICE</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE RESEARCH DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>	<p><i>A nominee may demonstrate evidence of <u>TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH</u> contributions and achievements <u>TO THE RESEARCH DOMAIN</u> by...</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing policy-related research articles in refereed and/or non-refereed journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing education-related research articles in refereed and/or non-refereed journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing practice-related research articles in refereed and/or non-refereed journals 	<p><i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is research</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing policy-related chapters and/or textbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing education-related chapters and/or textbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing practice-related chapters and/or textbooks 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an editor for a refereed policy-related research journal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an editor for a refereed education-related research journal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serving as an editor for a refereed practice-related research journal 	<p><i>Translation not applicable/needed if primary domain is research</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participating in or leading research that results in public policy changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating scholarly activity (e.g. curricular revisions) in education over the course of career 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering presentations to the research community about changes in practice 	

(Member Services Department, ext 3395)

[Document updated: 12/14/2009]

Explanation of Reference Numbers:

BOD P00-00-00-00 stands for Board of Directors/month/year/page/vote in the Board of Directors Minutes; the "P" indicates that it is a position (see below). For example, BOD P11-97-06-18 means that this position can be found in the November 1997 Board of Directors minutes on Page 6 and that it was Vote 18.

P: Position | S: Standard | G: Guideline | Y: Policy | R: Procedure