



ACADEMY OF  
**AQUATIC PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
*American Physical Therapy Association*

**Certificate in Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency  
CAPTCC**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the purpose of the certificate program?**

The certificate program provides licensed PTs and PTAs with a comprehensive study of the fundamental knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to provide safe, quality evidence-based patient care using the aquatic environment. This is the only certificate program sponsored by a component of the APTA specifically designed for the aquatic physical therapy professional.

**Can I get a certificate if I'm not a licensed PT or PTA? What if I am an OT or aquatic fitness instructor?**

No, this certificate program is only for licensed physical therapists and physical therapy assistants.

**What do I have to do to complete the program?**

There are 7 elearning courses and a 3 day instructor-led pool course to complete the entire certificate series. Each elearning course is approximately 3-4 hours in length, includes a post-test and can be taken in any order. Three elearning courses (Aquatic Physics, Physiology of Immersion and Critical Thinking) are required before registration is allowed for the instructor-led pool course. The pool course will consist of a practical and written exam. Each elearning course requires a passing test score. Once all elearning courses and the instructor-led pool course are completed with passing scores, you will receive your certificate from the program.

**What subjects are covered in the certificate program?**

Elearning Courses – Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency

Historical Perspective of Aquatic Physical Therapy (free)	.1 CEUs/1 contact hours CCUs
Aquatic Physics	.3 CEUs/3 contact hours CCUs
Physiology of Immersion	.3 CEUs/ 3 contact hours/CCUs
Critical Thinking and Aquatic Interventions for PTs / PTAs	.3 CEUs/ 3 contact hours/CCUs
Pool Chemical and Safety	.3 CEUs/ 3 contact hours/CCUs
Risk Management Issues	.3 CEUs/ 3 contact hours/CCUs
Aquatic Billing and Documentation	.3 CEUs/ 3 contact hours/CCUs

Instructor –led 3 day Pool Course – Aquatic Clinical Applications

Aquatic Clinical Applications	2.5 CEUs/ 25 contact hours/CCUs
-------------------------------	---------------------------------

**Do I need to take both Critical Thinking and Aquatic Intervention courses for licensed PTs and PTA's.**  
No, you will take the elearning course for your professional designation.

**If I complete this program, will I be a certified Aquatic PT or PTA?**

No. You will earn a Certificate in Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency (CAPTCC), which is an assessment-based certificate in aquatic physical therapy. The CAPTCC is not a credential. This program is not recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS).

**Why did the Aquatic PT Section decide to create this certificate program instead of a certification program?**

The Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy used membership surveys, practice analysis and multiple task forces to explore the feasibility of creating a specialist certification, a fellowship/mentorship program or a certificate program. After extensive consideration, it was decided that this certificate program best met the current needs of the academy and members.

**How much does it cost?**

ELearning: Individual courses

Aquatic PT Section member = \$89.00

APTA member = \$99.00

Non-APTA member = \$124.00

Learning Path: Bundle of all 7 CAPTCC elearning courses (but does not include the pool course)

Aquatic PT Section member = \$482.00

APTA member = \$536.00

Non-APTA member = \$670.00

Instructor-Led: 3 day Pool course

Aquatic PT Section member – \$684

APTA member - \$760

Nonmember – \$985

**Can I take individual courses without taking the entire certificate program?**

You may take the elearning courses individually without the intention of completing the certificate program. However, to take the instructor-led pool course you must complete 3 elearning modules (Aquatic Physics, Physiology of Immersion and Critical Thinking) as prerequisites.

**I am a student; can I participate in the certificate program?**

Students may take the elearning courses but are not eligible to register for the pool lab course or earn the Certificate in Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency until licensed as a PT or PTA.

**How long do I have to complete the CAPTCC program?**

You have 24 months from the start of your first elearning course. If you need longer than 24 months you can petition the Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy for an extension.

**Can I exempt out of any of the courses if I have taken similar courses in the past?**

No, only physical therapist or physical therapist assistants who have completed all the required CAPTCC courses may pursue the Certificate in Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency (CAPTCC). The CAPTCC reflects completion of specific didactic coursework, successful passing of multiple written tests at the end of the each elearning course and successful check-off of essential skills during instructor-led pool course.

Therefore we can only confidently award a CAPTCC to those who have completed this program.

**When and where will the pool course be offered?**

Dates and locations of the pool course will be listed on the Learning Center and Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy website.

**Where can I find more detailed information and register for the certificate program?**

You will be able access the certificate program through the APTA Learning Center.

<http://learningcenter.apta.org/> (search with keyword 'aquatic')