



Clinical Competency Certificate

Frequently Asked

Questions What is the purpose of the Clinical Competency

Certificate?

The certificate program provides licensed physical therapists and physical therapist assistants 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 physical therapist or physical therapist assistant? 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 e-learning courses and a 3-day in-person pool course to complete the entire certificate series. Each e-learning course is approximately 2-3 hours in length, includes a post-test and can be taken in any order. Three e-learning courses (Aquatic Physics, Physiology of Immersion and Critical Thinking) are required before registration is allowed for the 3-day pool course. The pool course will consist of a practical and written exam. Each e-learning course requires a passing test score of 70%. Once all e-learning courses and the 3-day pool course are completed with passing scores, you will receive your certificate of completion from the program.

What subjects are covered in the certificate program?

E-learning Courses

Historical Perspective of Aquatic Physical Therapy	.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	.4 CEUs/ 4 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*

3-day Pool Course – Aquatic Clinical Applications

Aquatic Clinical Applications	2.5 CEUs/ 25 contact hours/CCUs*
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*CEU/CCU not approved/applicable in AK, AR, LA, NJ, NM, or NV

If I complete this program, will I be a certified Aquatic physical therapist or physical therapist assistant?

No. You will earn the APTA Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency Certificate which is an assessment-based certificate in aquatic physical therapy. There is not a credential associated with completing the APTA Academy Of Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency Certificate as this program is not recognized by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists (ABPTS).

Last revision: 1.30.20

Why did the Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy 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 in 2020 and beyond?

E-Learning: Individual courses

Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy member = \$100

Non-member = \$140

Bundle of all 7 e-learning courses (does NOT include the 3-day pool course)

Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy member = \$530

Non-member = \$740

Instructor-Led: 3 day Pool course

Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy member = \$760

Non-member = \$1090

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

You may take the e-learning courses individually without the intention of completing the certificate program. However, to take the 3-day pool course you must complete 3 required e-learning modules (Physics, Physiology of Immersion, and Critical Thinking)..

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

Students may take the e-learning courses but are not eligible to register for the pool lab course until licensed as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

How long do I have to complete the APTA academy of aquatic physical therapy clinical competency certificate program?

Please complete the program in 24 months from the start of your first e-learning course. If you need longer than 24-months please contact the Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy office to discuss.

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 courses may pursue the APTA Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency Certificate. The APTA Academy of Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency Certificate reflects completion of specific didactic coursework, successful passing of multiple written tests at the end of the each e-learning course and successful check-off of essential skills during 3-day pool course. Therefore, we can only confidently award a APTA Academy Of Aquatic Physical Therapy Clinical Competency Certificate to those who have completed this program in its entirety.

When and where will the pool course be offered? Where can I register or find more info?

Dates and locations of the pool course are listed at www.aquaticpt.org.

Can you give a general sense of the pool course hours and activities?

The course runs 2 full days (Fri and Sat – 8 am-6:30 pm) and one short day (Sunday 8 am-3:30 pm). We spend roughly 10 total hours in land lecture and 14 total hours in pool lab. The class size varies based on host pool size. Our smallest class is 10 and largest class size is 30. Staff ratio of about 1:10 students.