

APTA Dues and Membership and Affiliate Qualifications



BOD Y11-24-06-01 [Amended BOD Y11-22-06-25; Y02-21-02-02; BOD Y12-20-02-01] [Policy]

I. **Membership Dues, Incentives, and Models**

As provided in the Bylaws of the American Physical Therapy Association, the APTA Board of Directors has the authority to establish association dues. Association dues are defined as the dues required to be a member of APTA national and do not include component dues. The process by which dues are established, defined, and implemented is described herein.

- A. The APTA Finance Committee shall review annually the association dues amounts for all membership categories and make recommended adjustments to the Board. The Board's action will be included in the minutes of its meeting.
- B. The Board may offer time-limited incentives in the form of reduced rates for association dues to recruit, retain, and engage membership.
- C. The Board may establish membership models for targeted groups or specific audiences to recruit, retain, and engage membership. Models may include organizational discounts and/or bundling of specific products and services with association dues.
- D. All association dues and component dues, dues incentive programs, and membership models shall be outlined in the association's operational documents and published on the association's website.
- E. The term of membership is for a 12-month period based on the original join date and subsequent anniversary dates. The rights, privileges, and obligations of membership shall be for the membership term. Membership dues may be paid at the beginning of the membership term or in monthly installments over the term.
- F. On a one-time-only basis, a member may pay for fewer than 12 months of membership in order to change the due date for all future payments of association dues and component dues. The member must simultaneously pay association dues and component dues for the same number of months.
- G. Any payment of dues that is made 30 days from the "due date" is a "timely" payment in accordance with APTA Bylaws.

II. **Waiver of Dues**

The Secretary, on behalf of the Board, may waive an eligible member's association dues and component dues, in whole or in part, for extenuating circumstances. For this purpose, extenuating circumstances include, but are not limited to, situations involving members who have experienced natural disasters; substantial loss of total household income due to reasons outside the member's control; a serious illness; the death or incapacitation of an immediate family member (spouse, domestic partner, children, and parents) or any other family member (including a significant other) that lives in the household; or active duty deployment.

A member who wishes to apply for a waiver is required to contact the APTA Member Success Department. Chapter presidents may identify members within their chapters who are eligible to apply for a waiver, and they may ask the Secretary to consider waiver applications from such members.

Waivers granted by the Secretary shall be limited to one year of dues. Requests for consecutive years' waivers will be considered only for those who have experienced a serious illness, a long-term deployment, or have extenuating circumstances that warrant discounts over consecutive years. Waivers shall cover association and chapter dues and may cover section dues. The Secretary or APTA staff on their behalf will inform the chapter president, and if applicable, the section president(s) when waivers are granted.

The Secretary shall report all waivers to the Board on an annual basis. Reports to the Board shall identify the total number of dues waivers granted and the durations of the waivers. Names of members granted dues waivers will be provided orally only, if requested by the Board.

III. Membership Qualifications Prescribed by the Board of Directors

As provided in the APTA bylaws, the Board has the authority to prescribe qualifications for membership. All physical therapists are bound to comply with the Code of Ethics for the Physical Therapist, and all physical therapist assistants are bound to comply with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for the Physical Therapist Assistant, regardless of membership category.

A. Physical Therapist Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Physical Therapist Member:

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. Internationally educated physical therapists living in the United States who graduated 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. For Physical Therapist Postprofessional Students, the following qualifications shall be met:
 - a. Graduation as a physical therapist as defined in A. 1 or 2 above.
 - b. Full-time enrollment as a graduate student in a postprofessional master's or doctoral program, full-time enrollment in an APTA-credentialed postprofessional residency or fellowship program, or full-time enrollment in a postdoctoral research fellowship program. Members who qualify for this designation are only eligible for this status for two years if enrolled in a master's program, five years if enrolled in a doctoral program, and two years if enrolled in a postprofessional residency or fellowship program. Physical Therapist Postprofessional Student members shall submit an official statement to APTA furnished 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 Postprofessional Student status.

B. Retired Physical Therapist Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Retired Physical Therapist Member:

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

Members who qualify for this designation shall sign an official statement at each dues period for which the individual is eligible for Retired Physical Therapist status, confirming they are no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.

C. Life Physical Therapist Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Life Physical Therapist Member:

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 five years of membership.
- 3.

D. Student Physical Therapist Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Student Physical Therapist Member:

1. Enrollment in a physical therapist education program that is accredited or is seeking or granted candidacy status by CAPTE.

E. Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Physical Therapist Assistant Member:

1. Graduation from a CAPTE-accredited education program.
2. Internationally educated physical therapist assistants living in the United States who graduated 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. For Physical Therapist Assistant Advanced-Degree Students, the following qualifications shall be met:
 - a. Graduation as a physical therapist assistant as defined in E. 1 or 2 above.
 - b. Full-time enrollment as a graduate student in an advanced degree master's or doctoral program, or full-time enrollment in a postdoctoral research fellowship program. Members who qualify for this designation are only eligible for this status for two years if enrolled in a master's program and five years if enrolled in a doctoral program. Physical Therapist Assistant Advanced-Degree Student members shall submit an official statement to APTA furnished by the program at which the graduate student 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 Assistant Advanced-Degree Student status.

F. Retired Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Retired Physical Therapist Assistant Member:

1. Attainment of 55 years of age, and completion of 20 years of service; and
2. Has had a career change and is no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy. Members who qualify for this designation shall sign an official statement at each dues period for which the individual is eligible for Retired Physical Therapist Assistant status, confirming they are no longer engaged in an occupation related to physical therapy.

G. Life Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Life Physical Therapist Assistant Member:

1. Attainment of 65 years of age, and completion of 30 years of service; or
2. If retired because of disability, completion of at least five years of membership.

H. Student Physical Therapist Assistant Membership

The following qualifications shall be met to be eligible as a Student Physical Therapist Assistant Member:

1. Enrollment in a physical therapist assistant education program that is accredited or is seeking or granted candidacy status by CAPTE.

I. Honorary Membership

Refer to the APTA bylaws for the qualifications regarding this membership category.

J. Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association

Refer to the APTA bylaws for the qualifications regarding this membership category.

IV. Membership Models

Membership models are established for targeted groups or specific audiences to recruit, retain, and engage membership. Models may include, but are not limited to, organizational discounts and/or bundling of specific products and services with association dues. Such models are described herein.

A. Early-Career Dues Model

This model seeks to engage early-career members and help them transition from the student rate to the full member rate. The Early-Career Dues Model affords early-career members more time to engage with APTA by offering discounted dues rates over the first years of their career, provided the individual is an APTA member in good standing at the time of graduation from a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant program.

V. APTA Nonmember Affiliate

APTA offers a nonmember affiliate option for individuals who are not eligible for APTA membership, to provide access to association information, products, services, and meetings, and to inform and connect affiliates to APTA for collaboration within and beyond the physical therapy profession.

Nonmember affiliates are defined as:

- A. Academic Affiliate: Faculty and staff teaching or working in a physical therapy education program.
- B. International Affiliate: International physiotherapists or physiotherapist assistants who do not meet the qualifications as outlined in Section III. A., or III. E., of this policy.
- C. Rehabilitation Provider Affiliate: Rehabilitation providers (e.g., physicians, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, respiratory therapists) who are part of a rehabilitation team in a hospital or other practice setting; and
- D. Other Affiliate: Those not defined above who demonstrate an identified connection with the profession and/or association as determined by APTA or a specific component.

Provisions: Individuals who are nonmember affiliates are precluded from identifying themselves as members of APTA or any of its components. Affiliate fees, services, and benefits shall be provided consistent with association positions, standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures.

APTA components may voluntarily offer nonmember affiliate options that are in addition to the national association nonmember benefits or options.

When offering a nonmember affiliate option, APTA and each component will determine:

- A. Criteria to participate in the program in compliance with APTA bylaws and policies.
- B. Benefits to individual affiliates.
- C. Costs to develop and provide programs and services.
- D. Participation fees; and
- E. Criteria to cancel an affiliation.

VI. Dues Rates

A. Member Dues

Member Type / Category	Rate**
Physical Therapist	\$ 295
Physical Therapist Assistant	\$ 190
Student Physical Therapist / Student Physical Therapist Assistant	\$ 80
Physical Therapist Postprofessional Student	\$ 150
Physical Therapist Assistant Advanced-Degree Student	\$ 95
Life Physical Therapist*	\$ 60
Life Physical Therapist Assistant*	\$ 60
Retired Physical Therapist	\$ 120
Retired Physical Therapist Assistant	\$ 120

*Life physical therapist and life physical therapist assistant were grandfathered in 2003 at \$0. Anyone becoming a Life member after 2003 is charged the rate listed above.

B. Membership Models

Model	Rate**
Physical Therapist Early-Career Dues	
First Year Postgraduation	\$ 148
Second Year Postgraduation	\$ 177
Third Year Postgraduation	\$ 207
Fourth Year Postgraduation	\$ 236
Physical Therapist Assistant Early-Career Dues	
First Year Postgraduation	\$ 95
Second Year Postgraduation	\$ 114
Third Year Postgraduation	\$ 133
Fourth Year Postgraduation	\$ 152

C. Nonmember Affiliate Dues

Nonmember Affiliates	Rate**
Academic Affiliate	\$ 295
International Affiliate***	
High-Income Country of Residence	\$ 295
Upper-Middle Income Country of Residence	\$ 210
Lower-Middle Income Country of Residence	\$ 130
Low-Income Country of Residence	\$ 50
Rehabilitation Provider Affiliate	\$ 380
Other Affiliate	\$ 380

**Rates indicate the annual amount for a full term of membership. Additional surcharges will be applied for members or nonmember affiliates who pay in installments.

***International affiliate rates are stratified based on the World Bank Country Classifications by Income Level.

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 P06-22-05-04 means that this position can be found in the June 2022 Board of Directors meeting minutes on Page 5 and that it was Vote 4.

E: Binding Ethical Document | P: Position | Y: Policy

Last Updated: 3/10/2025

Contact: nationalgovernance@apta.org