

AQF LEVEL	AQF LEVEL 9 CRITERIA –	PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
MASTERS DEGREE (COURSEWORK)		
PURPOSE	The Masters Degree (Coursework) qualifies individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for professional practice or scholarship and as a pathway for further learning.	
KNOWLEDGE	<p>Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice ▪ knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and or learning 	<p>Based on the established Australian Standards for Physiotherapy¹, revisions and updates as required by relevant professional bodies², the OLT Threshold Learning Outcomes for Health, Medicine and Veterinary Science³, and building on existing knowledge of the enabling and exercise sciences gained through relevant undergraduate studies, graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy (Coursework) program will demonstrate inter-professional, multi-disciplinary and/or specific disciplinary knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various health sector influences on physiotherapy practice • Theoretical principles and concepts appropriate to physiotherapy practice • The implications of disability, injury and illness on individuals and on the community (from the acute through to chronic domains in all fields) • Factors affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the role of the health professional in providing appropriate health care to these peoples, and how to work effectively with people from other culturally and linguistically diverse groups • Workplace health and safety practices and procedures • Professional behaviour including the principles of ethical and moral practice • Specific competencies for effective and safe physiotherapy practice • Strategies to maintain and extend professional competence once graduated • How to operate within individual and professional scope of practice • The roles of other professions, inter-professional learning and inter-professional collaborative practice • Life-long learning that equips graduates to translate existing health care knowledge, skills and principles to emerging areas of practice

¹ Australian Standards for Physiotherapy, Australian Physiotherapy Council, July 2006

² Australian Physiotherapy Council, Physiotherapy Board of Australia, and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

³ Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Project, HEALTH, MEDICINE AND VETERINARY SCIENCE, Learning and Teaching Academic Standards Statement, OLT, June 2011

<p>SKILLS</p>	<p>Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship ▪ cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice ▪ cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level ▪ communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences ▪ technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship 	<p>How to conduct, and the importance of, research relevant to health-care within an evidence-based framework.</p> <p>The Griffith Physiotherapist will demonstrate extended graduate skills and knowledge essential for safe and independent physiotherapy practice as a primary contact practitioner. Graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy program will demonstrate cognitive and creative skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically evaluate, prioritise and apply physiotherapy approaches, paradigms and techniques and utilise appropriate, evidence-based skills, techniques and practice in managing and treating people with injury, disability or illness in a range of health care and/or rehabilitation settings • Identify, analyse and respond appropriately to ‘ethical dilemmas’ and challenges, and ethical implications of patient/client presentations, their living environments and health care arrangements; plan responses to these factors; and reflect on practice • Develop a reasoned rationale for clinical evidence-based physiotherapy intervention and design appropriate treatment/management plans to meet the needs of patients/clients within legislative, policy, ethical, funding and other constraints • Monitor and evaluate the outcomes of interventions, set realistic short and long-term goals in collaboration with the patient/client, select the appropriate intervention, and plan for possible contingencies and instigate modifications as required. <p>Graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy program will demonstrate communication skills to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work creatively and effectively whilst upholding professional standards and relationships with a range of stakeholders (including clients, colleagues, carers, families, employers, insurers and others whose presence impacts on the patient/client, and other treatment providers and team members) with different understandings, perspectives and priorities influencing physiotherapy practice • Explain procedures, the implications of assessment and treatment, regulations, and the roles of the physiotherapist and other professionals involved in service provision to people with disability, injury or illness, or for the purpose of health promotion and preventative health • Identify and access appropriate resources (e.g., community, employer, research and education opportunities, government bodies and insurers) as required for practice • Adapt communication styles recognising cultural safety, cultural and linguistic diversity
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- Prepare, provide and deliver information (such as case reports, articles, presentations, business reports, and ethics and funding proposals) according to legal requirements and accepted procedures and standards
- Apply contemporary forms of information management to relevant areas of practice.

Graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy program will demonstrate technical skills to:

- Integrate the core areas of physiotherapy practice with emphasis on demonstrated mastery of evidence-based practice, clinical skills, clinical reasoning and decision making in order to apply creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice
- Implement interventions safely, independently and effectively with the patient/client's informed consent, with the ability to mitigate or manage adverse events, and to provide strategies for patient/client self-management
- Utilise assessment information, advice from other health care professionals, evidence-based guidelines and research to conduct physiotherapy planning, solve complex problems and achieve appropriate person-centred outcomes
- Conduct physiotherapy assessments across the life span and identify opportunities for enhancing physiotherapy planning and interventions for individuals, carers, families, groups and communities
- Develop individualised and cost effective management plans for clients across the lifespan utilising a range of appropriately integrated methods and techniques, such as manual interventions, therapeutic exercise and electrophysical agents
- Apply treatment methods and techniques, to address client needs, safely and with appropriate regard to professional and legislative guidelines, standards and requirements
- Identify patient/client biopsychosocial characteristics and provide appropriate intervention and/or referral to other health professionals as indicated.

**APPLICATION OF
KNOWLEDGE &
SKILLS**

Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will demonstrate the application of knowledge & skills:

- with creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning
- with high level personal autonomy and accountability
- to plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship

- Graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy program will demonstrate the broad application of knowledge and skills to:
- Undertake the role of physiotherapist across a broad range of health care, rehabilitation and other established and emerging settings and to work effectively in interdisciplinary environments with the great diversity of patients/clients with whom physiotherapists will be required to work;
- Solve problems independently, justify diagnostic decisions and management strategies on the basis of clinical assessment findings, including propositional and non-propositional knowledge and scientific knowledge.
- Apply and evaluate different approaches to research and evidence-based practice to address questions relevant to the health of individuals and the promotion of the physiotherapy profession;
- Acquire and utilise new knowledge, research, technologies and other appropriate resources and methods to optimise, and to ensure cost-effectiveness, quality and continuous improvement of health care delivery and outcomes.
- In addition, graduates of the Master of Physiotherapy program will demonstrate the application of discipline specific knowledge and skills to independently:
- Apply a range of appropriate and evidence-based physiotherapy approaches to the development of intervention strategies;
- Evaluate and utilise emerging technologies in physiotherapy service provision;
- Utilise quantitative and qualitative assessment data to facilitate appropriate goal setting and planning with patients/clients;
- Conduct research and/or other appropriate / relevant analyses to enhance the health and/or rehabilitation of individuals, groups or the community; and
- Apply evidence-based and appropriate healthcare information to the assessment, hypothesis formation, diagnosis, prioritisation, treatment, management, planning and co-ordination of individuals, groups and communities.