## Admission Requirements

1. Admission criteria
   1. Graduation from a CAPTE (Commission for Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education) accredited physical therapy program
   2. Hold in good standing a license to practice physical therapy in the state(s) of current employment and follow all applicable practice laws in the state(s) where clinical training for the program will occur. A temporary license is acceptable. If the resident is unable to receive a permanent license, the resident will be terminated from the residency program since they are no longer able to legally see patients independently
   3. Currently employed with a Clinical Partner or at an independent site where they can receive access to SPTE Faculty Mentors and patients who meet DSP criteria
   4. Maintain professional liability insurance
   5. Membership of APTA
   6. Acceptance of an Application including a copy of Curriculum Vitae, Personal Narrative $50 application fee for entering into the residency program
2. Admission process
   1. Residents will apply via email (spteducation@gmail.com) or by mail (1207 Heritage Court, La Crosse, WI 54601) by May 1st
   2. Completed applications will be reviewed by June 1st - Only complete applications will be reviewed; applicants will be notified if further information is needed
   3. Acceptance or denial letters will be sent the first week of June
3. Any Resident can apply for exemption from professional course work, given that the resident has successfully completed previous coursework that is similar in content. It is the resident’s responsibility to demonstrate that he/she has successfully mastered the material in the course.

### The procedure for seeking exemption from a professional course is:

Any Resident can apply for exemption from professional course work, given that the resident has successfully completed previous coursework that is similar in content. It is the resident’s responsibility to demonstrate that he/she has successfully mastered the material in the course.

1. Resident should discuss exemption with the appropriate course instructor
2. Resident should write an appeal to the Residency Director requesting exemption from the desired course. The written appeal should include the course description and course syllabus of the previous coursework. In addition, the Program Director may request copies of exams or written work completed in the previous course
3. The appropriate instructor should provide the Residency Director with recommendations for supporting or not supporting the appeal
4. Resident seeking exemption from professional program coursework should make the written appeal to the Residency Director no later than six weeks before the last day of classes of the semester preceding the semester in which the required course is to be offered. This will allow time for the appeal to be reviewed by the committee, a decision to be made, the resident notified, and time for the resident to register for the course if necessary.

## Acceptance Criteria

Acceptance is based on interest, ability, and goals for a career as an orthopedic physical therapist.

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Academic education and background.
2. Clinical education, internship and mentoring experiences.
3. Clinical experience in orthopedic physical therapy.
4. Research experience and interest.
5. Recommendations of Clinical Partners and their agreement.

Desired applicants include those who:

1. Completed an internship under the direct supervision and recommendation of a Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy.
2. Possess superior verbal and written communication skills.
3. Have experience in data collection, analysis, and publication.
4. Possess strong fundamentals in the principles of clinical reasoning and the application of examination and treatment procedures related to the practice of orthopedic physical therapy.

Residents are selected by the Admissions Committee based on a candidate’s desire to advance their skills in orthopedic physical therapy. This will be demonstrated by review of the essay (within the application), resume, and genuine desire to advance skills in orthopedic clinical research, patient care, and/or clinical teaching. Candidates are assessed in the areas of commitment, knowledge of the purpose of the program, interests and personality. Good candidates will possess qualities of flexibility, team building, leadership, and a desire to learn.

## Retention Criteria

1. Once accepted to the program, the resident will have 18 months to complete the program as stated in the Residency Agreement Form
2. Residents must participate and meet competency standards in the following components to complete the residency:
   1. 2 foundational, 4 core and 1 Special Topics on-line didactic courses in the sequence they are provided
   2. 4 hands on application skills check offs
   3. 150 hours of mentored clinical practice
   4. Meet minimum exposure of patient population as defined by the Description of Specialty Practice (DSP)
   5. Complete a mock Orthopedic Clinical Specialization exam
3. Residents will be expected to maintain competency on all curricular and didactic requirements throughout the program.
4. The resident must maintain their licensure in good standing or if they have a temporary license prior to beginning the residency, they must obtain a permanent license prior to completion of the residency.