



# Ohio Physical Therapy Association FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What is APTA?

The [American Physical Therapy Association](#) (APTA) is a national professional organization representing more than 90,000 members. Its goal is to foster advancements in physical therapy practice, research and education and membership has grown steadily in recent years.

## What is OPTA?

The [Ohio Physical Therapy Association \(OPTA\)](#) is a chapter of APTA, which represents more than 3,200 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and students in Ohio.

## Do I have to belong to both APTA and OPTA?

Yes. Simultaneous payment of national and chapter dues is required. You must belong to the chapter of the state in which you live, work or attend school.

## Why should I join OPTA?

Joining forces with more than 90,000 physical therapy professionals across the country will give you the resources you need to make a difference in the lives of your patients and to move your career forward. In a changing health care landscape being part of a collective voice will allow you to stay informed and aware of legislation that could change your profession. See OPTA's Benefits of Membership page for more details!

## Am I eligible to join APTA? What is the annual dues structure?

To be eligible for APTA membership, you must be accepted to, enrolled in or a graduate of a PT or PTA program that is accredited or is seeking or has been granted candidacy status by the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education. All [categories of membership](#) are based on education, not licensure.

PT Members = \$465 (\$170 to OPTA, \$295 to APTA)

PTA Members = \$389 (\$99 to OPTA, \$290 to APTA)

Student Members = \$90 (\$10 to OPTA, \$80 to APTA)

Recent Grads = Career Starter Dues Program through APTA

## Can I join if I am a PT or PTA student?

Yes. If you're enrolled in a physical therapy or physical therapy assistant program that is accredited, you're eligible for APTA membership. Check out more information on the [student page](#) of the OPTA website.

## Is there a way to split up my dues payment?

Yes. [APTA's Easy Pay Plan](#) makes membership affordable by allowing you to pay your membership dues in four equal installments over six months. This program is only available when paying by credit card.

## Can APTA and OPTA reduce the dues burden on new graduates struggling with student loans?

Yes! OPTA is apart of the APTA Career Starter Dues pilot-program that extends savings to new graduates. Under the program, new graduates save 50% on national and chapter dues, plus receive a FREE registration to NEXT Conference & Exposition. Eligible members 2-4 years post graduation save 40%, 30% or 20% on national and chapter dues. To qualify a student must have been an APTA member at graduation and maintained continuous APTA membership post graduation. See the [Career Starter Dues page](#) at [APTA.org/CareerStarterDues](http://APTA.org/CareerStarterDues) for full program details.

## **What is the difference between OPTA and the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Athletic Trainers (OTPTAT) Board?**

OPTA is an entity authorized by the Physical Therapy Section of the OTPTAT Board to review and approve continuing education (CE) courses, programs and activities that contribute to the growth of a professional's professional competence in the practice of physical therapy. Any questions regarding continuing education courses should be directed to OPTA. Questions concerning licensure and audits should be directed to the [OTPTAT Board](#).

## **Will an increase in membership increase APTA and OPTA's productivity and influence?**

Without members there is no APTA or OPTA. As a not-for-profit association, APTA uses member dues to support initiatives supporting membership and the profession. With only 30% of the market as APTA members, it is reasonable to assume that the association could increase its potential, influence and results with greater support.

## **How does the OPTA communicate with its members?**

From "snail mail" to social media, OPTA communicates in multiple forms to keep members informed and engaged in the profession and association. In addition to daily social media posts including PT articles and event information, OPTA sends a weekly email newsletter which outlines the most current news and information of interest to the profession and our members. Our quarterly members-only publication ACCESS magazine details district and committee happenings, showcases student programs and advises members on national and state legislative issues.

## **How does OPTA best represent my interests on the legislative front?**

The OPTA is active at the Ohio Statehouse and works at the state level to have a strong voice in matters of health care that will affect the physical therapy profession. During OPTA's Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse more than 100 members and students advocated the PT profession, meeting with over 35 legislators and writing hundreds of letters of support. Significant legislative changes have been propelled by the association and OPTA continues to be the leading force behind legislation that affects physical therapy. OPTA provides the opportunity to members to be a part of the collective voice that makes the profession stronger and able to enact change.

## **What kind of assistance does OPTA provide in terms of increasing consumer knowledge of the physical therapy profession?**

OPTA hosts a dedicated consumer resource website, [MakePTHappen.com](http://MakePTHappen.com), where consumers can learn more about the benefits of direct access in Ohio, locate a physical therapist, look up symptoms and conditions and more. Each year OPTA creates a public relations campaign centered on increasing knowledge of the benefits of physical therapy. In the past this has included radio campaigns, search marketing, social media outreach, videos and print advertising and varies from year to year. OPTA is a strong advocate in the health care field for spreading information about the physical therapy profession and how it fits into the health care climate for the everyday consumer. Check out [MakePTHappen](http://MakePTHappen.com) and use it to talk to your friends, family and patients!

## **How do I join?**

It's easy! Head to [APTA.org/JoinAPTA](http://APTA.org/JoinAPTA) and choose the option that suits you, whether you are a first-time member, re-joining or renewing your membership! Questions? Contact the OPTA staff at [opt@ohiopt.org](mailto:opt@ohiopt.org) or (614) 855-4109!

