

Outstanding PT & PTA Student Award

Purpose

- To identify a student physical therapist and student physical therapist assistant (first professional degree) with exceptional scholastic ability and potential for contribution to orthopaedic physical therapy.
- To provide the means for an exceptional student to attend and participate in a national meeting, with the intention that this exposure will encourage future involvement in Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy activities.

Eligibility

- The nominee must be currently enrolled in a PT or PTA program.
- The nominee **must be a member of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc.**

Criteria for Selection

- The student shall excel in academic performance in both the professional and prerequisite phases of their educational program.
- The student shall demonstrate exceptional nonacademic achievements, representing initiative, leadership, and creativity.
- The student shall be involved in professional organizations and activities that provide the potential growth and contributions to the profession and orthopaedic physical therapy.

Procedure for Nomination

- Any member of the Academy may nominate candidates for this award.
- The complete packet, containing all materials listed in the above **Criteria for Selection** must be sent electronically and received by the Academy office: tfred@orthopt.org by **November 1** for consideration for the award in the following year.
- The materials submitted for each nomination shall include **no more than five (5) letters of support** as indicated below in the following order:
 - A support statement from the nominator, highlighting reasons for the nomination and clarifying the relationship between the nominator and nominee.
 - A support statement from **two (2)** faculty members in the educational program in which the nominee is enrolled.
 - Support statements from **two (2)** student colleagues.

In addition to the above mentioned letters of support, please include:

- A resume and cover letter from the nominee detailing previous health care experiences, honors and awards, evidence of service activities, and participation in professional activities.
- The nomination materials should document examples of how the nominee fulfills the criteria for this award.

Procedure for Review and Selection

- Nomination materials shall be submitted to the Academy office. The Academy office will retain the original set of materials and will provide the Awards Committee with copies for their review.

- The Awards Committee will review the nominations and recommend the most qualified candidate to the Executive Committee.
- The award will be presented only if there are qualified candidates, and one is selected.
- Nomination materials are considered the property of the Awards Committee, who will maintain their confidentiality.
- Nomination materials will not be returned. If any individual is not selected for the award in a given year, that individual may be nominated in a subsequent year. New nomination materials must be submitted in subsequent years.

Notification of Award

- The Academy President will notify the recipient by December 1 and obtain written confirmation of acceptance by December 15.
- The nominators of individuals not selected will receive a letter thanking them for their participation and informing them of the award recipient.
- The confidentiality of the Outstanding Student Award will be maintained until the recipient has been notified.

The Award and its Presentation

- The Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy will recognize the student at the Academy's Membership Meeting during the Combined Sections Meeting.
- The student will receive a certificate suitable for mounting, and up to \$250 for expense reimbursement.