

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Levels 1 and 2

Frequently Asked Questions

Course structure and enrolment

What is the structure of the Musculoskeletal Level 1 and Level 2 courses?

Level 1 has online OnDemand pre-requisite modules and seven full courses.

Level 2 has online OnDemand pre-requisite modules and four full courses.

The full courses are split into two components:

- Part A is the first component of the course consisting of online OnDemand theory modules
- Part B is a practical Face-to-face session focusing on skills training and application in case-based scenarios

See page 4 for a course diagram.

Can I complete only the online OnDemand component of a course?

Yes. Participants may choose to complete the online OnDemand component (Part A) only. However, completion of the Face-to-face component (Part B) is required for learners seeking to complete the full course, and especially if pursuing Titling via the Musculoskeletal Career Pathway.

Do I need to complete the online OnDemand component of a course before attending the Face-to-face session?

Yes. The online OnDemand component must be completed before attending the Face-to-face session as it provides the theory that underpins the practical learning activities. The facilitators expect that you will attend the Face-to-face session with this completed and you must bring your Certificate of Completion from the OnDemand component to this session.

Do I need to purchase the online OnDemand and Face-to-face course components separately?

Yes. Each course component needs to be purchased separately. Note that the pre-requisite modules are online OnDemand only.

How do I enrol in the courses?

Enrol in the online OnDemand courses through the APA [cpd4physios website](#).

Enrol in the Face-to-face courses through the [Professional Development page](#) on the main APA website.

How long does it take to complete a course?

The courses vary in length from 6–12 hours for Part A online OnDemand, and 1–2 days for Part B Face-to-face.

Can I enrol in just one course, or do I need to commit to the full suite?

You can enrol in a single course. There is no requirement to commit to the full suite.

Are there any prerequisites?

Yes. There are online OnDemand pre-requisite modules for both the Level 1 and Level 2 courses.

In addition, the Level 2 courses have Level 1 course prerequisites that must be completed before enrolment.

Refer to the course diagrams on pages 5 and 6 for further details.

Do I need to complete all Level 1 courses before enrolling in Level 2?

Yes, if you are intending to progress through the Musculoskeletal Career Pathway.

If you are undertaking the courses as Professional Development, they may be completed according to your learning needs and interests, with consideration of any prerequisites.

Refer to the course diagrams on pages 5 and 6 for recommended sequencing for both the Musculoskeletal Career Pathway and Professional Development.

Do I receive a qualification on completion?

No. These courses are professional development activities and do not result in a formal qualification. Participants receive a Certificate of Completion. Course completion may be counted as part of your annual CPD.

Course delivery and access

How are the courses delivered?

The courses are delivered using a flipped classroom model, where learners complete the theory through online OnDemand learning (Part A) before attending the Face-to-face practical session (Part B).

Can I revisit the online OnDemand content after attending the Face-to-face session?

Yes. Access to the online OnDemand content remains available until the next major update to the course (expected within the next five years).

What happens if I do not complete the online OnDemand learning before the Face-to-face session?

Learners who have not completed the online OnDemand component will not be able to attend the Face-to-face session until the OnDemand learning has been completed.

Can I just attend the Face-to-face component to have the full course marked as complete?

No. Both the online OnDemand and Face-to-face components need to be completed for the full course to be marked as complete.

Are the courses assessed?

Assessment is not available for the initial rollout of the courses; however, it will be introduced in the near future. Once available, you'll have the option to be assessed at both Level 1 and 2 of the Musculoskeletal Career Pathway to demonstrate that you have met the milestone requirements and to support your progression to the next level.

Levels and learner suitability

Who are these courses designed for?

These courses are designed for physiotherapists seeking to further develop their musculoskeletal knowledge, skills and clinical capability through structured professional development. They provide ongoing development in musculoskeletal physiotherapy and are particularly relevant for physiotherapists considering Titling or Specialisation pathways in the future.

What is the difference between Level 1 and Level 2?

Level 1 courses focus on further developing foundational musculoskeletal capability, while Level 2 courses build on this foundation through more advanced learning and clinical application. Together, they support progressive post-professional development in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. These levels align to Milestones 1 and 2, which are described in the [APA Competence Framework](#).

Are the courses suitable for new graduates?

These courses are primarily designed for physiotherapists with some clinical experience who are seeking to further develop their musculoskeletal capability. At least 3 to 6 months practice in the field would be advantageous. Individual suitability will depend on prior experience, current role, and learning needs.

Do I need to be working in musculoskeletal physiotherapy to attend?

It is highly recommended and advantageous to the learner **but not essential**. The courses are designed for physiotherapists who wish to further develop their musculoskeletal knowledge, skills and clinical capability.

APA Career Pathway

How do these courses fit within the APA's developing Musculoskeletal Career Pathway?

Level 1 courses focus on further developing foundational musculoskeletal capability (Milestone 1), while Level 2 courses build on this through more advanced learning and clinical application (Milestone 2). These milestones are described in the [APA Competence Framework](#). The courses have been structured to support progressive development of musculoskeletal knowledge, skills and clinical capability. The APA is continuing to develop the broader Musculoskeletal Career Pathway in alignment with the APA Physiotherapy Competence Framework and the International Federation of Manual and Musculoskeletal Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) standards.

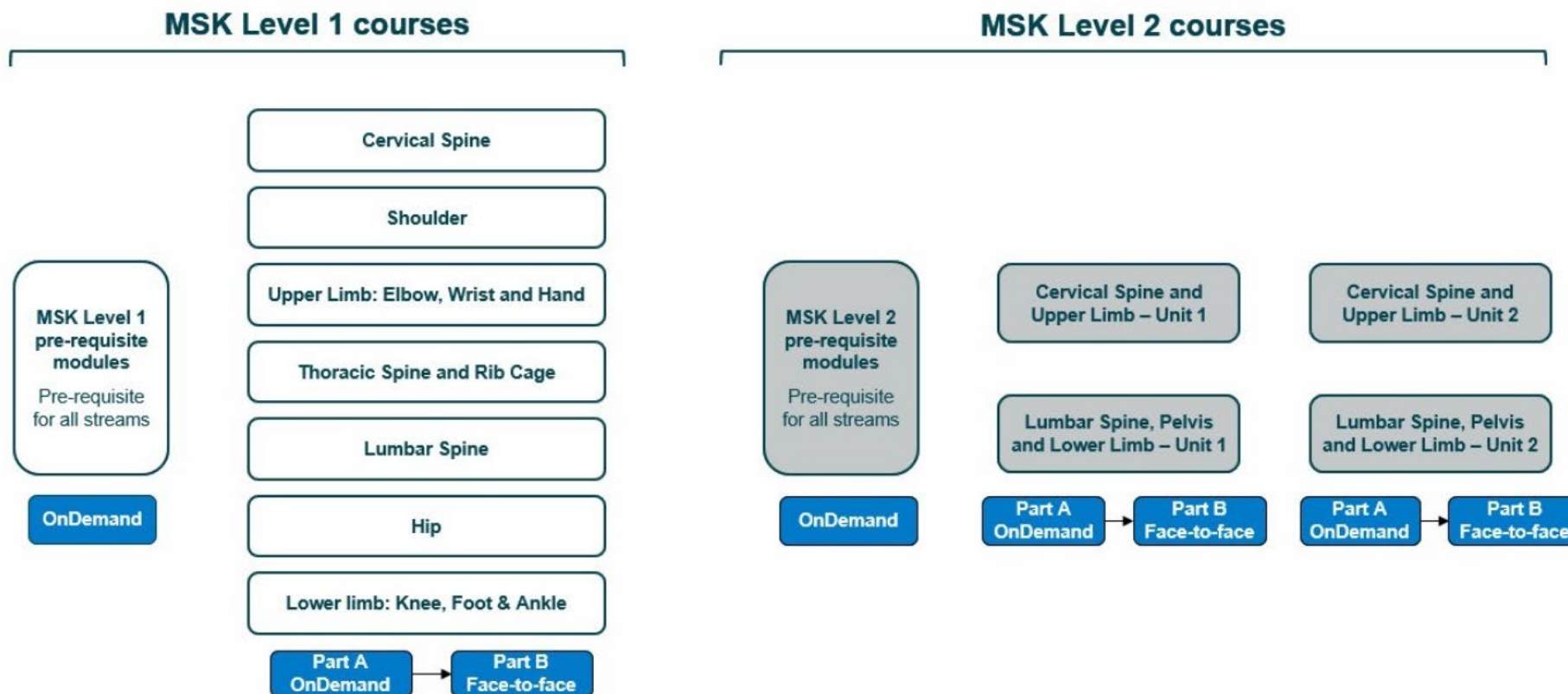
Are these courses intended to support progression toward Musculoskeletal Titling or Specialisation?

Yes. These courses are designed to support progression toward Titling and ultimately Specialisation. Note that the Musculoskeletal Titling Evidence Portfolio Pathway (EPP) is currently in development. These courses will form part of the prerequisites to apply for the Musculoskeletal Titling EPP.

Exemptions

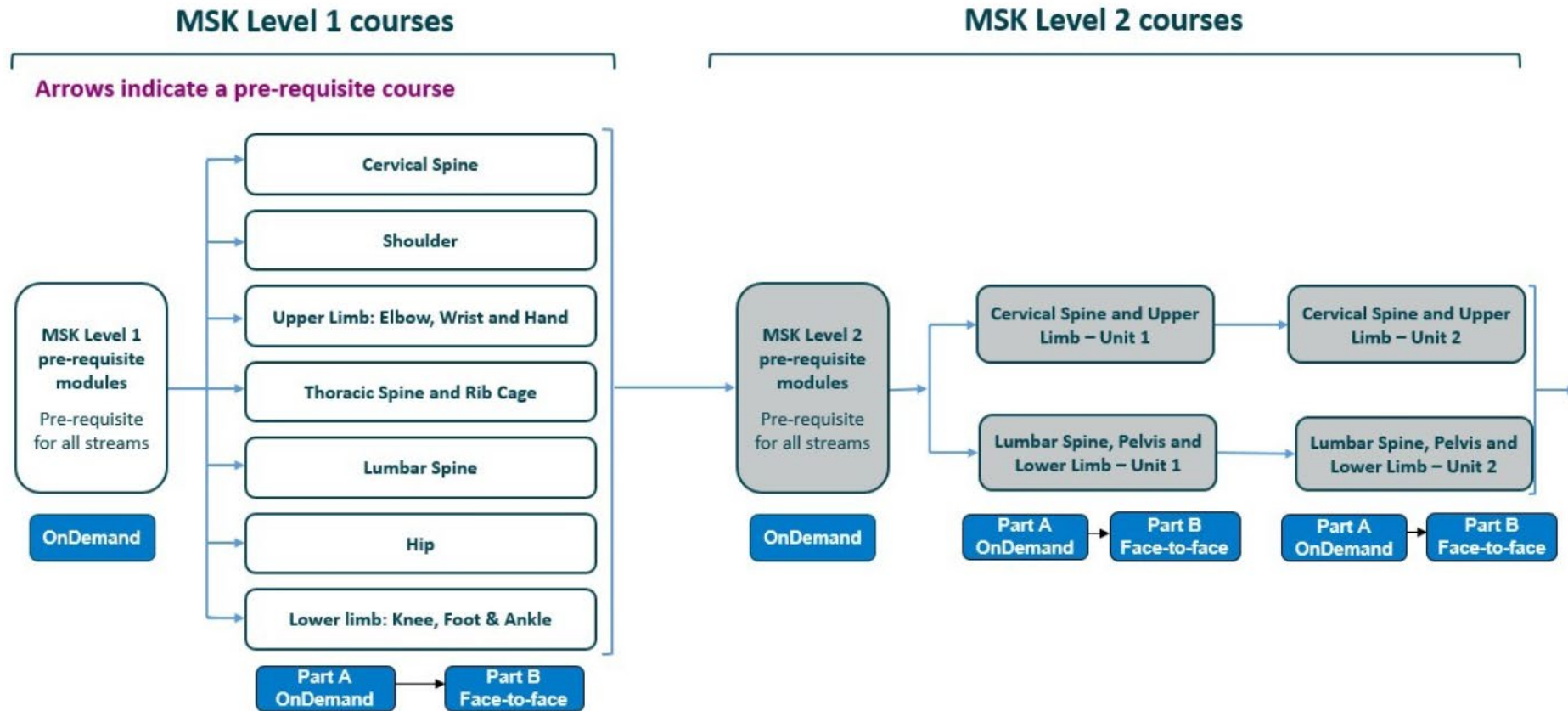
An exemptions process applies to all courses. Please refer to the MSK Exemptions Guide for information about eligibility criteria and how to apply.

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Levels 1 and 2 course structure



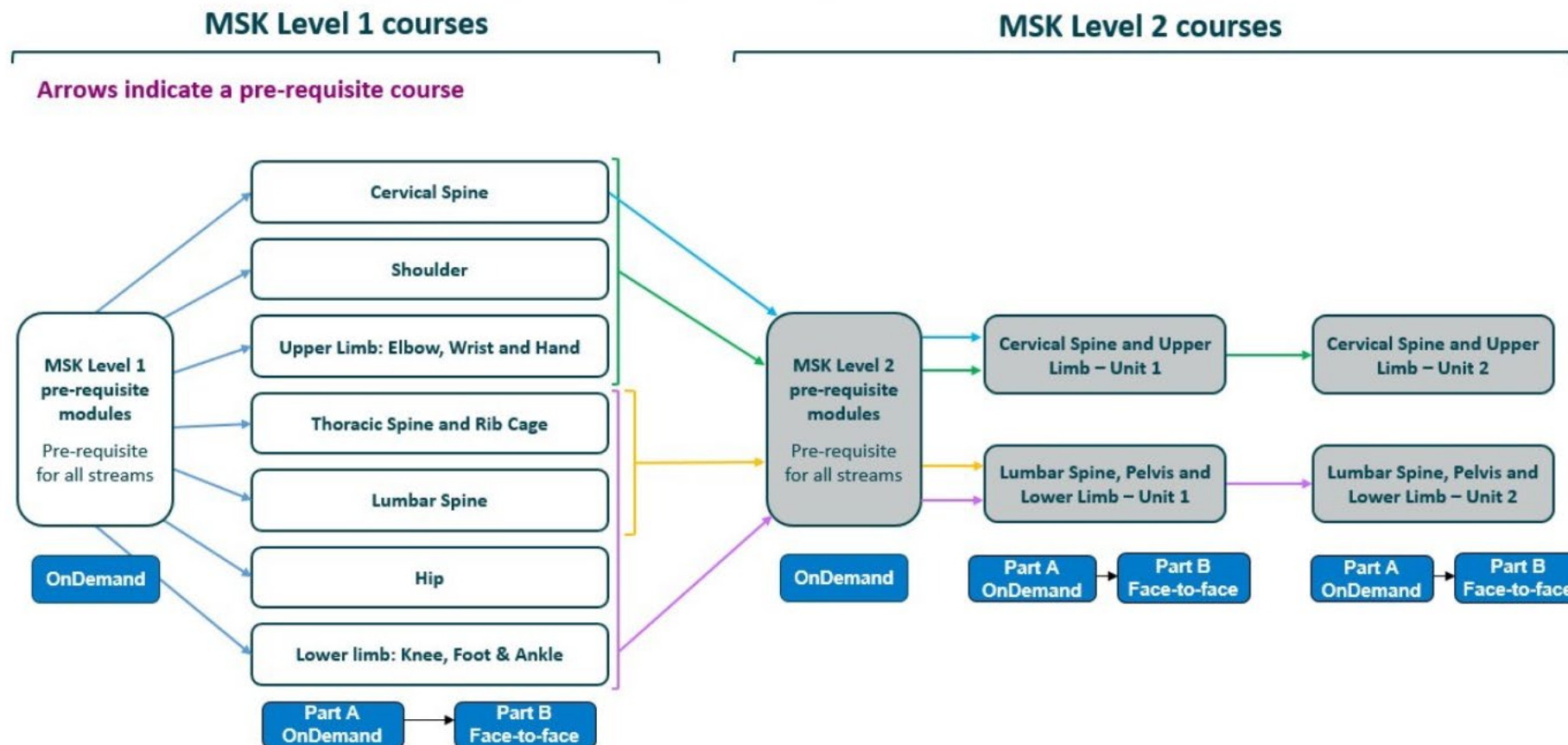
There are two ways to progress through the Musculoskeletal physiotherapy courses depending on whether you are following the Musculoskeletal Career Pathway or doing them as independent Professional Development courses. The diagrams on the next two pages illustrate these progressions.

Musculoskeletal Career Pathway progression



If you are undertaking the courses to progress through the Career Pathway, you will need to do the Level 1 pre-requisite modules, followed by all the Level 1 courses. You can then do the Level 2 pre-requisite modules, followed by all the Level 2 courses.

Musculoskeletal Professional Development progression



If you are undertaking the courses as independent Professional Development, you will need to do the Level 1 pre-requisite modules, followed by some of the Level 1 courses. You can then do the Level 2 pre-requisite modules, followed by some Level 2 courses.

Note: If you start doing the courses as Professional Development, and then decide to undertake the Career Pathway, you can backfill any courses that you have not yet completed.