

APTA WI Rising Leader Program: 2027

Program Overview:

The APTA WI Rising Leader Program is a 12-month experience marked by a series of mentored leadership development experiences. In addition, the Rising Leader will be exposed to APTA WI structure, leadership and current priorities. Based on past experiences and future goals, the Rising Leader will be matched with an experienced mentor. With the assistance of the assigned mentor and the APTA Leadership Development Committee, the Rising Leader will complete a Capstone Project that will provide a means to apply all that has been learned.

Rising Leader Application Process (submit to LDC@aptawi.org)

1. Requirements
 - a. APTA/APTA WI member
 - b. Licensed DPT/PTA by start date of the cohort's program (January 15, 2027)
2. Please submit the following:
 - a. Resume or CV
 - b. Personal Statement – Please provide a statement that generally describes your professional journey. Please highlight specific leadership experience(s) and what you learned from the experience(s). (500 words or less)
 - c. Statement – Please describe why you want to participate in the APTA-WI Rising Leaders program? (500 words or less)
3. Application Schedule
 - a. Application deadline is October 1st 2026
 - b. Notification of application status will occur by November 1st, 2026

Rising Leader Experiences

An individualized leadership development experience will be created for each Rising Leader. A foundation for the experience will include the APTA Academy of Leadership and Innovation's LAMP (Leadership, Advocacy, Management Practice) 101 course to be held in Madison, WI on March 6/7th (APTA WI will pay for the LAMP course experience), and an introduction to APTA WI mission, vision and governance structure. This will be followed by monthly brainstorming sessions with the mentor, attending a mix of APTA WI's Spring and/or Fall conferences and Board of Director meetings, and other leadership development experiences.

2026 Schedule (Dates/Times of the mentoring sessions will be determined by the Rising Leader and mentor)

Month	Activities
January	1. Virtual kick-off meeting with Leadership Development Committee, mentors and Rising Leaders. 2. With mentors begin planning of Rising Leader project.
February	1. Attend Leadership Development Committee virtual meeting 2. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person) 3. Finalize Rising Leader Project
March	1. Monthly mentoring session (live or in-person) 2. LAMP 101 scheduled for March 6/7th
April	1. *APTA WI Spring Conference, Strategic Planning meeting and associated Board Meetings 2. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person)
May	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person)
June	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person)
July	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person) 2. Attend Leadership Development Committee virtual meeting, including Rising Leader Project update

August	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person)
September	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person)
October	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person) 2. *APTA WI Fall Conference and Board Meeting
November	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person) 2. Complete Rising Leader Project and submit a summary to the Leadership Development Committee
December	1. Monthly mentored session (live or in-person) 2. Attend Leadership Development Committee virtual meeting-wrap-up and debrief

*Rising Leaders will attend (in-person) the APTA WI Spring and/or Fall Conference and associated Board of Director Meetings.

For any questions, please contact Bill Boissonnault and Jeff Wilkens, co-chairs of APTA WI Leadership Development Committee, at: LDC@aptawi.org