S2S 2027 Application Process for Gymnastics/Cheerleading Specialty Clinical Experience

Athletico Physical Therapy is proud to offer a Specialty Clinical Experience in the sports of Gymnastics and Cheerleading through our Student to Specialist program, S2S. A limited number of placements are available for DPT students completing their final clinical experience. This rotation offering is primarily Outpatient Orthopedics with exposure to patients who participate in gymnastics and cheerleading with experiences both in the clinic and in the community. The caseload may vary from 5% to 20% of gymnastics/cheerleading patients. Selected students will be placed with a Clinical Instructor who specializes in treating gymnasts, cheerleaders, and dancers. Students will treat the general orthopedic population but will have exposure to gymnasts of all ages and all competitive levels (recreational, X-cel, USAG, high school, and/or collegiate level) and of various disciplines such as men's and women's artistic gymnastics, rhythmic, trampoline and tumbling. Exposure to cheerleaders at the middle school and high school level and All-Star teams may also be available depending on your location. The student and clinical instructor will treat patients in the clinic, and there may be opportunities to shadow at one of our affiliations, participate in onsite screenings, and participate in community outreach events. This is a specialty rotation, and an application is required. Please learn more about our Gymnastics/Cheerleading program here: Athletico Gymnastics and Cheerleading video.

Requirements:

- ❑ **Application items to upload:**
  - Resume
  - Letter of Intent
  - Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member
  - Completed DCE Acknowledgement Form
- ❑ Final Clinical Experience for 2027
- ❑ Strong Orthopedic background and knowledge of gymnastics/cheerleading terminology
- ❑ Exemplary professional behavior and communication skills

Interested applicants should submit their application packet electronically at this link by March 27, 2026. Click here to apply.

Applications will be reviewed by Athletico's Student Clinical Education Team, as well as the Gymnastics and Cheerleading Program Manager. Top applicants will undergo a virtual interview in May or early June, and final decisions will be announced by June 17, 2026. This is a competitive application process as Athletico Physical Therapy has limited Gymnastics and Cheerleading rotations available.

Terms:

- Final clinical experience is defined as a terminal experience immediately preceding graduation.
- Athletico Physical Therapy will accept applications from academic programs which we do not currently hold a contract with. If the applicant is chosen, Athletico will execute a one-time contract.
- If an applicant does not receive a Gymnastics/Cheerleading Specialty Clinical, they may still be considered for a general outpatient orthopedic placement at the request of the DCE.

Deadline for Applications: March 27, 2026
Decisions will be announced by: June 17, 2026

S2S Gymnastics/Cheerleading Locations

- Gilbert, AZ
- Marion, IA
- Northern Chicago, IL suburbs – Niles/Glenview area
- Westchester, VA
- St. Louis, MO, or the surrounding area, up to 1 hour driving distance.

Gymnastics and Cheerleading Specialty Clinical Experience
Letter of Recommendation

Materials due by: March 27, 2026

Name of Applicant: _____

Please provide your views on the following by placing "X" in the appropriate column below.

	Very Weak	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Very Strong
Applicant's capacity for analytic thinking and problem-solving					
Ability to work effectively with others					
Communication and interpersonal skills					
Commitment to learning					
Sense of responsibility and professional obligation					
Motivation					
Accountability for actions, decisions, and behaviors					
Demonstrates technical competency in basic manual and joint mobilization skills					

Please attach a brief written statement elaborating further on the above qualities and describing what distinguishes this applicant from other candidates applying for Athletico Physical Therapy's Gymnastics and Cheerleading Specialty clinical experience.

Please return this rating form and the written letter to the applicant. The applicant will turn in with their other materials electronically as one application packet.

Name (please print): _____

Signature (electronic acceptable): _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

DCE Acknowledgement Form

Student's name: _____

Dates of Final Clinical experience: _____

DCE's name: _____

DCE's email: _____

Please indicate which specialty experience the student is applying for:

Cheerleading/Gymnastics	
Endurance Athlete	
Manual Therapy	
Pelvic Health	
Performing Arts	
Sports	

The Athletico team is excited that your student has elected to apply for a specialty clinical experience with us in 2027. As the DCE, we want to be certain you are aware of the student's application and Athletico's timeline. Please discuss with the student their top geographic choices based upon the options available in the application. **Applications are due by March 27, 2026**. The top candidates will have a virtual interview in May or early June. Final decisions will be sent via email by **June 17, 2026.** You will be cc'd on all correspondence between Athletico and the student throughout the process.

If a student is not selected for a specialty experience, they may still be considered for a general outpatient orthopedic placement at your request. Athletico will gladly assess availability for a general outpatient placement based upon the student's desired geographical location.

If you have any questions regarding Athletico's Student to Specialist clinical experiences, please contact clinicaleducation@athletico.com. Thank you for assisting your student with this application process.

Please return this acknowledgement form to the applicant. The applicant will submit this form with their other materials electronically as one application packet.

Signature of DCE _____ Date _____

Letter of Intent

In one page or less please answer the following:

1. Why are you interested in a Gymnastics and Cheerleading Specialty Clinical Experience with Athletico Physical Therapy?
2. What are your post-graduation career goals?
3. What are your goals during your Gymnastics and Cheerleading clinical experience?
4. What sets you apart from other candidates applying for a Gymnastics and Cheerleading Specialty clinical experience with Athletico?

