S2S 2027 Application Process for Sports Specialty Clinical Experience

Athletico Physical Therapy is proud to offer a Sports Specialty Physical Therapy Clinical Experience through our Student to Specialist program, S2S. A limited number of placements are available for DPT students completing their final clinical experience. Selected students will be placed with a Clinical Instructor who holds their Sports Certified Specialist (SCS), Orthopedic Certified Specialist (OCS) or an advanced certification in sports performance and treats a large population of youth and adult athletes. Students will focus on high level critical thinking and differential diagnosis using evidence-based treatment. Students will have exposure to techniques, which may include Dry Needling, Blood Flow Restriction, and Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Mobilization. Students may also be providing community education or participating in sideline experiences based upon their CI. This is a specialty experience, and an application is required.

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 interest in sports
- ❑ Exemplary professional behavior and communication skills

Preference: Desire to work in an Outpatient Orthopedic or Sports Medicine setting upon graduation. Licensed Athletic Trainer, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, or Certified Personal Training Certificate preferred but not required.

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. Top applicants will undergo a virtual interview in May/June and final decisions will be announced by June 17, 2026. This is a competitive application process. Athletico Physical Therapy has limited Specialty Sports 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 Sports 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 Sports Locations

Location	Approximate Caseload	Additional CI offerings
Ingersoll, (Des Moines) IA	20% sports	Video Gait, Video Throwing, Dry Needling, Sideline coverage may be available
Indianola, IA (South of Des Moines)	50% sports	Manual therapy, Dry Needling, Graston, Sideline coverage may be available
East Peoria, IL	65% sports	Video Gait, Video Throwing, ASTYM, BFR, Dry Needling, Sideline coverage may be available
Gurnee, IL	75% sports	BFR, Concussion, Sideline coverage may be available in the fall months
Naperville, IL	70% sports	BFR, Concussion, Sideline coverage may be available
Cincinnati (Montgomery), OH	20-30% sports	Dry Needling

Sports 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 Sports Specialty clinical experience.

Please return this rating form to the applicant. The applicant will submit this form 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/Gymnastic	
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 Sports Specialty Clinical Experience with Athletico Physical Therapy?
2. What are your post-graduation career goals?
3. What are your goals during your Sports clinical experience?
4. What sets you apart from other candidates applying for a Sports Specialty clinical experience with Athletico?

