**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Admissions Traffic Rules for Applicants to Physical Therapist Education Programs**

**Updated October 2020**

**Q: Who is ACAPT and how did these rules come about?**

A: The American Council of Academic Physical Therapy (ACAPT), is a component of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The purpose of ACAPT is to advance the enterprise of academic physical therapy by promoting the highest standards of excellence within physical therapy education. ACAPT approved a set of admission traffic rules for PT education programs and applicants which became effective in the 2016-2017 admissions cycle. The rules were modeled after those that exist in numerous other health professions education program admissions processes and were created to enhance the admissions process for applicants and limit the financial burden of deposits to multiple programs.

**Q: What changes were made to the traffic rules in 2020?**

The admissions traffic rules for applicants to physical therapist education programs were modified by a vote of the ACAPT membership at their Annual Business Meeting in October 2020 by eliminating Rule 6: *Applicants holding multiple acceptances are expected to immediately withdraw their application from those programs they are no longer considering attending* and Rule 7: *Following the start of classes, each student should immediately withdraw his or her application from all other programs at which he or she remains under consideration.*

The rationale for eliminating these rules is related to a decision in 2019 by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) to remove similar language from its Code of Ethics and Professional Practice in response to concerns about possible violations of antitrust laws. The concerns relate to limiting student choice. The recent action by PTCAS to eliminate the early decision process is related to the same antitrust concern. While this issue is currently playing out in the undergraduate admissions world, ACAPT has taken proactive action on this matter by removing these rule. Similar language has been removed from the admissions traffic rules for physical therapist education programs.

**Q: Do the Traffic Rules apply to all applicants?**

A: Admissions traffic rules for applicants are limited to individuals applying to entry-level, Doctor of Physical Therapy education programs in the United States. The admissions traffic rules for applicants exclude individuals applying to early assurance programs, dual-degree programs such as DPT-PhD, post-professional degree programs. The admissions traffic rules for applicants apply to individuals applying to both PTCAS and non-PTCAS programs.

**Q: What are my responsibilities related to the rules?**

A: You should make yourself aware of the rules which were developed for applicants and abide by them. Applicants who hold multiple acceptances are especially encouraged to withdraw their application from those programs they are no longer considering attending.

**Q: What if I believe a program has violated a Traffic Rule?**

A: First, we encourage you to contact the program for clarification regarding the rules and your specific situation. To ACAPT’s knowledge, the majority of programs do follow and abide by the rules. If after contacting the program you would like to speak with ACAPT regarding your experience, please contact us at ACAPT@APTA.org. There is no formal compliance or enforcement arm of ACAPT. When the ACAPT Board receives a complaint/concern about a program not following the rules, the approach has been to contact that program directly to engage in a conversation about the concern that was brought to our attention to a) confirm the accuracy of the complaint/concern and b) if accurate, explore the challenges/barriers to that program following the rules. ACAPT continues to monitor applicant experiences through the annual PTCAS applicant survey.

**Q: Who do I contact with further questions?**

A: We are interested in learning more about your experience with the Traffic Rules. If you have a question or concern, please contact us at [ACAPT@APTA.org](mailto:ACAPT@APTA.org)