

DEFEATED: AC-4-14: Admissions Traffic Rules for Programs Motion Proposed by ACAPT
Admissions Task Force – Michael Sheldon

That the following be adopted:

PROPOSED ADMISSIONS TRAFFIC RULES FOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PASSED: Preamble (moved from Support statement)

The traffic rules do not apply to students who are currently enrolled as undergraduate, pre-PT students in an early assurance DPT pathway programs. This traffic rule does apply to those students who apply to other programs outside the early assurance, or professional students who wish to transfer from one physical therapist education program to another via an approved institutional process, as available.

1. Programs may begin extending offers of admission on applications deemed complete by the program at any time during the admissions cycle.

PASSED: Delete #2

3. Programs must indicate to applicants whether deposits are non-refundable, including those voluntarily paid before the deposit deadline.

4. The maximum deposit amount an entry-level PT education program may require accepted applicants to pay as a commitment to enroll is \$1,500.

PASSED: Delete #5.

SS1: The traffic rule is intended to clarify that PT education programs can continue to make admission decisions on applications received at any time during the admissions cycle. More than a third of programs begin to make admission decisions on applications before all applications are received or reviewed. Programs in PTCAS are instructed not to make admission decisions on applications until they are processed and verified by PTCAS.

SS2: The purpose of the proposed rule is to make it easier for applicants applying to multiple PT education programs to navigate the different decision and deposit deadlines and, as a result, reduce the number of applicants who submit multiple deposits and forfeit deposits. The staggered deposit deadlines based on program start dates should make it easier for applicants applying to multiple programs to make informed decisions about programs, regardless of when they are first notified about admission decisions. More information to support this motion can be found in the full task force report.

March and April were identified as the most common times for accepted applicants to forfeit deposits to programs. The movement of deposit decisions by applicants has a ripple effect on PT education programs across the country and can make it more difficult for programs to fill classes with qualified applicants.

SS3: The majority of programs (83%) require non-refundable deposits. Programs will continue to have the ability to decide whether a deposit is refundable or non-refundable at any point in the cycle. Programs must publish their related deposit policies in their admissions materials for applicants.

SS4: Rising deposit amounts may pose a potential burden on applicants. Programs may choose to increase deposit amounts in an attempt to identify an amount that applicants are not willing to forfeit. Deposit amounts required by programs in PTCAS range from \$0 to \$1,500 for the 2015 entering class. Of the programs that require a deposit, the mean amount is \$499.76, and the median is \$500. Three programs currently require a deposit of \$1,500.

SS5: The standard set of PTCAS admission decision codes does not currently include a matriculation code. APTA staff will work with the PTCAS Work Group and software developers to create a new “matriculation” admission decision code in the 2015-16 admissions cycle for the 2016 entering class. Beginning in the 2015-16 admissions cycle, programs participating in PTCAS will select the “matriculation” admission decision code to indicate an accepted applicant has enrolled and started classes at the program.

PTCAS will work with the PTCAS Work Group to develop a report that will allow participating programs to view a full or restricted list of applicants that have matriculated into another PT education program. PTCAS will explore the possibility of collecting matriculation data from programs that do not participate in PTCAS.