



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

*The following rules will be effective in the 2016-17 admission cycle. For questions, please contact [acapt@apta.org](mailto:acapt@apta.org) and your email will be forwarded to the appropriate individual(s) for response.*

**ADMISSIONS TRAFFIC RULES FOR APPLICANTS:**

*The Membership of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy adopted the following Admissions Traffic Rules for Applicants to Physical Therapist Education Programs on October 2, 2015:*

1. Each applicant shall comply with the application, acceptance, and admission procedures at each physical therapist education program to which the applicant has applied, including PTCAS rules and requirements, as appropriate.
2. Each applicant shall provide accurate and truthful information in all aspects of the application, acceptance, and admission processes for each physical therapist education program to which the applicant has applied.
3. Each applicant is responsible for the collection and timely submission of all application requirements to each physical therapist education program and PTCAS, as appropriate, by or prior to the established deadline dates.
4. Each applicant shall promptly notify the physical therapist education program and PTCAS, as appropriate, of any changes, permanent or temporary, in contact information.
5. Each applicant shall respond promptly to a physical therapist education program's invitation for interview, as required. Any applicant who cannot appear for a previously scheduled interview should notify the physical therapist education program immediately of the cancellation of the appointment in the manner requested by the program.
6. Applicants holding multiple acceptances are expected to immediately withdraw their application from those programs they are no longer considering attending.
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 RULES WERE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA:**

Admissions traffic rules for applicants would improve the efficiency of the admissions process for physical therapist education programs by reducing number of applicants who hold multiple acceptances, submit multiple deposits, or withdraw from one program after start of classes to attend another program;

Admissions traffic rules for applicants would be limited to individuals applying to entry-level, Doctor of Physical Therapy education programs in the United States;

The admissions traffic rules for applicants would exclude individuals applying to guaranteed freshmen entry pathways, dual-degree programs, post-professional degree programs, and as PTCAS early decision candidates;

The admissions traffic rules for applicants would apply to individuals applying to both PTCAS and non-PTCAS programs;

Physical therapist education programs must hold applicants accountable to the rules for the common good;

The proposed rules would be effective beginning in the 2016-2017 admissions cycle; and

Multiple health profession education associations have successfully adopted admissions traffic rules to protect member institutions and applicants.

**NEED FOR ADMISSIONS TRAFFIC RULES:**

A more unified admissions and enrollment process should benefit programs and applicants. Forty-nine percent of all programs that responded to the Admissions Task Force survey in May 2014 were supportive of the idea of establishing admissions traffic rules, and an additional 37% were undecided. The majority of programs that responded to the survey identified the following issues as concerns in the current admissions process:

- Applicants holding onto multiple acceptances.
- Applicants forfeiting deposits late in the admissions cycle.
- Applicants not notifying programs that they do not intend to matriculate.

Programs currently compensate for these issues by establishing longer wait or alternate lists and by communicating more frequently with accepted applicants to confirm their intent to enroll.

Seventy-six percent of applicants who responded to the PTCAS applicant survey in May 2014 indicated they would prefer "more consistency in the timing of admissions decisions across programs." Applicants commented that admissions decision timelines and deposit deadlines were currently staggered in such a way that deposits for some programs were due before other programs had started interviewing, resulting in unnecessary deposits for "safety" purposes.



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## **FEEDBACK FROM PT ADMISSIONS COMMUNITY**

A previous version of the admissions traffic rules were presented to the ACAPT membership in fall 2014. The motion was defeated. In response to member feedback, the ACAPT board reconvened the task force and charged it with revising the rules incorporating member feedback with the goal of introducing the revised motion at the ACAPT annual business meeting in October 2015. Matthew Nuciforo, chair, presented a revised set of proposed admissions traffic rules during the ACAPT Open Forum at the 2015 APTA NEXT Conference in National Harbor, Maryland on Friday, June 5, 2015. Faculty and staff who were unable to attend the open forum at NEXT were invited via the ACAPT blast-of-the-week and PTCAS to review the rules and provide feedback on the Task Force online discussion forum through July 2015. Feedback from attendees at the 2014 ACAPT annual business meeting and the open forum at 2015 NEXT, and member feedback on the Task Force Discussion Board were considered in the development of the revised set of rules.