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

The Need for Traffic Rules

The admissions traffic rules for physical therapist (PT) education programs and applicants were developed in response to comments from both applicants and faculty/staff involved in admissions and enrollment processes at institutions across the United States. In May 2014, a national survey revealed that seventy-six percent of applicants preferred “more consistency in the timing of admissions decisions across programs.” Applicants also commented that admissions decision timelines and deposit deadlines were 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. On the PT education program side of the equation, the majority of programs that responded to the 2014 survey identified the following issues as concerns in the admissions process at that time: 1) applicants holding onto multiple acceptances, 2) applicants forfeiting deposits late in the admissions cycle, and 3) applicants not notifying programs that they do not intend to matriculate. In 2014, it was also known that many other health profession education associations had successfully adopted admissions traffic rules to protect member institutions and applicants.

The Current Rules for Applicants and Programs

The current traffic rules for applicants and PT education programs (see below) were designed to address the concerns outlines above and create a more unified admissions and enrollment process to benefit programs and applicants. The rules exclude individuals applying to guaranteed freshmen entry pathways, dual-degree programs, post-professional degree programs, and those applying as PTCAS early decision candidates. The admissions traffic rules apply to individuals applying to both PTCAS and non-PTCAS programs. The rules became effective in the 2016-2017 admissions cycle, and a work group within ACAPT has been gathering data from various stakeholders to evaluate the efficacy of the rules to inform future decision-making about the rules as currently constructed.

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.

ADMISSIONS TRAFFIC RULES FOR PROGRAMS: The Members of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy adopted the following Admissions Traffic Rules for Physical Therapist Education Programs on October 2, 2015:

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

2) Programs cannot require a deposit prior to January 15 of the year of enrollment or January 15 of year prior to enrollment for January and February start programs.

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

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

5) Programs should not knowingly accept or enroll applicants who have started classes at another program.

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