

PTCAS APPLICANTS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE 2020-2021 ADMISSIONS CYCLE

The global COVID-19 pandemic has caused uncertainty and questions about the future and DPT admissions is no exception. However, hopefully the information provided below will help answer some of your questions. Most of the DPT admissions process is remaining the same; however, there are some things you should consider during this time.

Note that all final decisions on changes to a program's admissions process rest entirely with the program. If you have a specific question about transcripts, observation hours, letters of recommendation, etc., please contact the program(s) you plan on applying to directly. On May 20 you will be able to log into the DPT Program Directory pages at <https://ptcasdirectory.apta.org> to see updated program information for the 2020-2021 DPT application cycle.

Official vs Unofficial Transcripts

PTCAS understands that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some applicants may not be able to obtain official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended. To assist applicants with this hardship, PTCAS will grant some applicants an exception and allow them to upload unofficial transcripts instead. If you believe you need this exemption, please follow the steps listed in the [applicant help center](#) and contact [PTCAS Customer Service](#) directly with questions or issues.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to work with the colleges and universities they attended to obtain an official transcripts if at all possible. If an official transcript is available, please DO NOT request an exemption or upload an unofficial transcript.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Some PTCAS programs may still require applicants submit an official transcripts before they're application will be reviewed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the programs they are applying to directly for program specific requirements.

Pass/Fail Vs Letter Grading

Many colleges and universities around the country are mandating that all students receive pass/fail courses for the Spring 2020 semester. Others are giving students the option to receive either a letter grade or pass/fail. Whatever your situation, be sure to consider the following:

- Check with the DPT program(s) you are planning on applying to for their stance on pass/fail courses amid the COVID-19 crisis.
- Include all pass/fail courses in the coursework entry section of the PTCAS application. DPT programs will be able to see the credits that were completed for the pass/fail courses entered.
- Find out if you will have to take prerequisite courses as pass/fail. If so, reach out to DPT programs to determine their rule on this.

GPA's

As was the case before the pandemic's disruption of higher education, there is no continuity among colleges and universities in how they factor pass/fail courses into GPAs. Some consider a C as passing and will not factor in a fail, some will only include fail in the GPA and not include pass, etc. Contact programs directly with questions about GPAs, or review the DPT Program Directory Pages after May 20.

PTCAS will NOT factor in pass/fail grades into GPA calculations.

- Programs will be able to see that you received credit for the courses; however, the pass or fail grade will not be factored into the GPA.
- As a result, you may see a difference in the GPA calculations on your transcript and the PTCAS GPA calculations.
- This is not a change; this has always been the process PTCAS has used when factoring in pass/fail grades, and DPT programs are aware of this.

Helpful Links

APTA: <http://www.apta.org/Coronavirus/>

PTCAS: <http://www.ptcas.org/COVID-19/>

CAPTE: <http://www.capteonline.org/Home.aspx>

APPLICANT HELP CENTER: [https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS Applicant Help Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center) AND

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS Applicant Help Center/Filling Out Your PTCAS Application/Supporting Information/COVID19 Transcript Hardships](https://help.liaisonedu.com/PTCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_PTCAS_Application/Supporting_Information/COVID19_Transcript_Hardships);