

National April 15 Deadline for Student Acceptance of Admission

February 6, 2018

Dear CAPCSD Colleagues:

As February begins, most of us are in full swing with the process of reviewing applications for admission to our programs for the 2018 – 2019 academic year. As President of CAPCSD, I am sending this annual reminder regarding adherence to the national April 15 deadline for student acceptance of admission and financial aid offers.

To refresh everyone's memory, some background material, starting with the CAPCSD resolution affirming support for the deadline, is included in an appendix to this letter. As an organization, CAPCSD passed resolutions supporting the notion of students not being required to confirm acceptance of admission or financial aid offers until April 15 for the upcoming fall term admission. This decision is in line with the guidelines of the *Council of Graduate Schools*, an organization whose membership includes most CAPCSD member institutions. The underlying concept is that students should have the opportunity to thoroughly consider all of their opportunities until April 15.

For each of us in our individual programs, a goal of the admissions process is to admit a strong cohort of students who have the potential to succeed in our graduate program and become well prepared professionals in audiology or speech-language pathology. Programs nationally have high numbers of applicants who are vying for a relatively small number of admission slots. Students are under a tremendous amount of pressure to perform at a high level in order to secure one of those slots.

As a professional organization whose mission it is to promote accessibility in CSD higher education, and to facilitate recruitment of students, adherence to the April 15 deadline provides students with a consistent message so that they can make their decision in a supportive environment. We all deal with the moving target of admissions vs. acceptances, which is compounded when programs insist that a student commit to an offer prior to the April 15 deadline. Consistent with CAPCSD Core Values (<http://www.capcsd.org/about-capcsd-2/core-values/>) member programs collaborated to create the April 15 deadline as a solution-centered approach to the challenges of the annual admissions process. While the April 15 deadline is not a perfect solution, it does give students the best opportunity for completing the application process within a consistent framework and level playing field.

The CAPCSD Board of Directors acknowledges that many programs may be under pressure to demand commitments from students outside of the common deadline and that some of that pressure may come from scholarship deadlines defined outside of the CSD department. We also recognized that there are a few programs that do not have a fall semester start. However, for the protection of our students and programs, we urge CAPCSD members to support the April 15 student acceptance agreement.

Sincerely,



Mark DeRuiter, M.B.A., Ph.D, CCC-A/SLP
President CAPCSD Board of Directors

APPENDIX

RESOLUTION BACKGROUND ON APRIL 15 DEADLINE

Resolution 06-01: Whereas, the Council of Graduate Schools (COGS) in 1999 renewed its resolution to establish April 15 as the common national deadline for graduate students to accept an offer of admission and financial support (scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year; and Whereas, the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD) once again endorsed the COGS resolution in 2013 which read:

CAPCSD Resolution 2013 -1

TITLE: Resolution to Endorse a Common Applicant Response Deadline for Admissions

WHEREAS, to clarify the intended meaning of previous Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders resolutions (98-5, 06-01) which resolved that applicants to entry-level clinical graduate programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders be allowed until April 15 to make final decisions regarding acceptance of offers of admission, with or without funding.

WHEREAS, a common deadline for applicants to respond to offers of admission both levels the playing field and reduces pressures on applicants to Communication Sciences and Disorders programs

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders expects member programs to allow applicants to entry-level graduate clinical programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders at least until April 15 to make final decisions regarding acceptance of offers of admission for the following academic year, with or without offers of financial aid.

Therefore, be it resolved that the CAPCSD re-endorses the April 15 deadline for responding to offers of financial assistance to students admitted to graduate programs in CSD.

The Council of Graduate Schools Resolution. The Council of Graduate Schools has published a statement entitled "Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants," which was renewed in 2014. The Resolution is concerned with the conditions surrounding the acceptance of offers of certain kinds of graduate student financial assistance, namely, scholarships, fellowships, traineeships, and assistantships. The general spirit of the Resolution is that students should have an opportunity to consider more than one offer and should have until April 15 to do so, that institutions and students should be able to view acceptances in force after April 15 as binding, that everyone should know what the rules are, and that an offer by the institution and its acceptance by the student constitute as agreement which both expect to honor. The Resolution acknowledges that students, after having accepted an offer, may change their minds and withdraw that acceptance. The intent of the Resolution is to provide a uniform and widely acceptable framework for so doing, one that provides protection for both student and institution.

Rationale behind the CGS resolution. Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

The link to the PDF version of the CGS resolution is <http://www.cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution>. You can also read a listing of all the universities that are signatory to the agreement. You will note that most CAPCSD member institutions are represented.