



February 2024

**Subject: National April 15th Deadline for Student Acceptance of Admission**

Dear CAPCSD Colleagues,

Most of us are in full swing with the process of reviewing applications for admission to our programs for the 2025 – 2024 academic year. As President of CAPCSD, I am sending this annual reminder regarding adherence to the national April 15th deadline for student acceptance of admission and financial aid offers to students admitted to CSD graduate programs beginning in the fall 2024 semester.

As a professional organization that supports accessibility in CSD higher education, and to facilitate recruitment of students, CAPCSD endorses adherence to the April 15th deadline for programs that begin in the fall semester. This common deadline provides students with a consistent message so they can make decisions 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 15th deadline. Consistent with CAPCSD core values, member programs collaborated to create the April 15th deadline as a solution-centered approach to the challenges of the annual admissions process. While the April 15th deadline is not a perfect solution, it does give students the best opportunity to complete the application process within a consistent framework and level playing field.

For context, some background material is included as an appendix to this letter, starting with the CAPCSD resolution affirming support for the deadline. In 2013, CAPCSD, as an organization, passed resolutions stating that students should not be required to confirm acceptance of admission or financial aid offers until April 15th for the upcoming fall term. This decision is in line with the guidelines of the Council of Graduate Schools, an organization whose membership includes most CAPCSD member institutions. We recognize that there are a few CAPCSD member institutions who are not members of the Council of Graduate Schools. However, CAPCSD members must comply with the resolutions that support students having the opportunity to consider their admissions and financial aid offers thoroughly.

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 recognize 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 15th student acceptance agreement if their program begins in the fall semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Simpson'.

Jennifer Simpson, President  
CAPCSD Board of Directors

## **APPENDIX**

## RESOLUTION BACKGROUND ON APRIL 15th DEADLINE

**Resolution 06-01:** Whereas, the Council of Graduate Schools (COGS) in 1999 renewed its resolution to establish April 15<sup>th</sup> 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 that begin in the fall semester be allowed until April 15<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> to make final decisions regarding acceptance of offers of admission for the following academic year, with or without offers of financial aid, for programs that begin in the fall semester. **Therefore, be it resolved that the CAPCSD re-endorses the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for responding to offers of financial assistance to students admitted to graduate programs in CSD that begin in the fall semester.**

**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<sup>th</sup> to do so, that institutions and students should be able to view acceptances in force after April 15<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> for programs that begin in the fall semester; 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<sup>th</sup>, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15<sup>th</sup>. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **CGS Resolution**

The link to the PDF version of the CGS resolution <https://cgsnet.org/resources/for-current-prospective-graduate-students/april-15-resolution/>

You can also read a listing of all the universities that are signatory to the agreement. Please note that most CAPCSD member institutions are represented.