



**February 18, 2026**

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

Dear CAPCSD Colleagues,

As we review applications for the 2026-2027 academic year, I want to reaffirm CAPCSD's commitment to the April 15th national deadline for graduate admission and financial aid acceptance decisions.

This shared deadline, established through member collaboration, reflects our dedication to:

- Creating an equitable admission process for all students
- Providing students adequate time to evaluate all their options
- Maintaining consistency across CSD graduate programs
- Supporting accessibility in CSD higher education

While we recognize that some programs face external pressures or have different start dates, adherence to this deadline for fall-semester programs is crucial. It aligns with Council of Graduate Schools guidelines and, more importantly, gives students a fair opportunity to make informed decisions about their academic futures.

**Important Context and History**

In 2013, CAPCSD formally adopted resolutions establishing the April 15th deadline, aligning with the Council of Graduate Schools' guidelines. While not all CAPCSD member institutions belong to the Council of Graduate Schools, our organizational commitment to this deadline remains firm. The full text of these resolutions is attached below for your reference.

**Key Requirements for Fall 2026**

Please ensure that:

1. Students are not required to confirm admission before April 15th
2. Financial aid acceptance decisions follow the same timeline
3. Any institutional exceptions are clearly communicated to applicants

This common deadline helps manage the challenging balance between admissions and acceptances while providing a supportive framework for both programs and students. Even when faced with external scholarship deadlines or institutional pressures, we urge all programs to maintain this standard for the benefit of our student applicants.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in maintaining this important standard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tricia Montgomery". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light-colored background.

Tricia Montgomery, 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.