



Changes to University of Colorado PT Program prerequisite and other application requirements for Covid-19

Effective for the 2020-21 Admissions Cycle in PTCAS

Interviews:

All components will be online this year. There will be many opportunities to learn about our program and scheduled interviews for us to learn about you!

- **Get to Know Our Program:** Links to several 15-20-minute recorded modules will be included in the invitation to interview, which will be sent via email. These modules will provide information regarding several important aspects of the PT Program, including:
 - Curriculum Overview
 - Clinical Education Overview
 - Research Opportunities
 - Financial Aid Office
 - Student Presentations
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 12:30-1:00 PM MST (conducted via Zoom):** Welcome Session with the Program Director, Michael Harris-Love, PT, MPT, DSc, FGSA
- **Wednesday, December 16, OR Thursday, December 17, 2020:** Interviews will occur via Zoom
 - Applicants will schedule two, one-on-one, 20-25-minute interviews with a faculty member and/or clinical partner.
- **Friday, December 18, 2020, 12:00 PM MST (conducted via Zoom):** Follow-Up Q&A with Faculty, Staff and Students

Online and/or distance learning courses: As many undergraduate institutions have closed campuses and moved courses to online instruction, we will waive requirements for prerequisite courses to be completed in person and will accept spring, summer and fall 2020 coursework that is delivered via online or distance learning to fulfill a prerequisite course requirements. In the event that an applicant was intending to take specific prerequisite courses on campus, and they are no longer available, we will consider waiving the requirement entirely with documentation that shows course cancellation.

Pass/Fail: As many undergraduate institutions have closed campuses and moved courses to online instruction, we will waive letter grade requirements for prerequisite courses, and accept

spring, summer, and fall 2020 coursework that is graded on a Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis to fulfill a prerequisite course requirement, particularly if the applicant was not given the choice to take the course on this basis.

GRE testing: With test facilities closed across the country and scheduled test dates canceled or postponed, we understand that this may have an impact on our last acceptable test date. At present, we are intending to maintain the date and will consider additional accommodations for impacted test takers later only in unique situations. We will now accept the new at-home GRE testing being offered by ETS in place of in-person exams. The applicant may decide which option may allow optimal performance. More information on the home GRE testing is available on the [ETS website](#).

Transcripts: We will continue to offer admissions advice using unofficial transcripts. However, applicants will still be required to provide official transcripts as part of their application through PTCAS.

PT shadowing/observation hours: During and following this public health crisis, applicants will likely experience difficulty when attempting to complete PT shadowing experiences in the time leading up to the application deadline. We encourage applicants to complete at least 30 hours of shadowing*, in at least two locations or settings, when possible. We prefer that the applicant attempt to shadow in different setting types and with different patient diagnoses. However, during the 2020-2021 application cycle, we are waiving requirements for the minimum number of 45 shadowing hours, as well as requirements for shadowing experiences in 3 settings, particularly in inpatient settings that may be more difficult to complete.

*Shadowing can include additional options outside of a clinical environment, including observation of telehealth sessions (at an appropriate social distance or via an online connection). Observation of telehealth sessions would require the same PT verification in PTCAS as in-person observation hours.

Applicants are encouraged to pursue other measures to gain insight into the PT profession. This could include interviews with PTs about their work setting and the patient populations they treat. Such informational interviews will NOT count toward the shadowing/observation requirement but may assist applicants in responding to essay prompts related to PT exposure.

Letters of Reference: As many undergraduate institutions have closed campuses and moved courses to online instruction, we recognize that it may be difficult to obtain our required reference from a professor who knows you through in-person courses. Although references from professors who know you well are preferred, we will also accept references from instructors of on-line courses, assuming they know you well enough to complete the form and provide comments. A reference from a PT who was able to observe you in a setting with patients is preferred, however, we will accept a reference from a PT with whom you conduct an informational interview, if that is all that is possible in the current healthcare environment.