



Policy Title:
Admission Deferral Policy

Policy Identifier:
PA105

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Category: Admissions Policies	

Scope

This policy applies to all University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia Physician Assistant (PA) students who have been offered admission to the program.

Policy Statement

The USC PA Program may grant a deferral of admission on a case-by-case basis for accepted applicants who are unable to matriculate as scheduled due to documented extenuating circumstances. Deferrals are not guaranteed and are granted at the program's discretion, based on the merits of the request and program capacity.

Approved deferrals will only be granted for one academic year. Applicants who do not matriculate after the approved deferral period must reapply for admission.

Reason for Policy

This policy establishes a fair and consistent process for reviewing requests to defer admission while maintaining program capacity, supporting student needs, and ensuring compliance with institutional and accreditation expectations.

Definitions

- **Deferral of Admission:** Authorization allowing an accepted applicant to delay matriculation to a future cohort, typically the following academic year.
- **Extenuating Circumstances:** Significant, unforeseen events that prevent matriculation, such as medical emergencies, military obligations, or other substantial personal hardships.

Procedures

1. Deferral Request Submission

- a. The accepted applicant must submit a written request for deferral to the Admissions Director.



- b. The request must include a detailed explanation of the circumstances and supporting documentation.
- c. Requests must be submitted at least one (1) month prior to the program start date.

2. Review Process

- a. The Admissions Director will review the request and present it to the Admissions Committee.
- b. The Admissions Committee will evaluate the request and provide a recommendation.
- c. The Program Director will make the final decision regarding approval or denial.

3. Notification of Decision

- a. The applicant will be notified in writing of the final decision by the Program Director.

4. Seat Deposit Requirements

- a. If a seat deposit has been paid and the deferral is approved, the deposit will be applied to the following year’s matriculation.
- b. If the deferral request is denied and the applicant declines admission, the seat deposit will be forfeited.
- c. If no deposit has been paid at the time of approval, the applicant must submit the required deposit prior to matriculation at a time specified by the program.

5. Confirmation of Intent to Matriculate

- a. Applicants granted a deferral must notify the program of their intent to matriculate by October 1 of the deferral year.
- b. Failure to notify the program by this deadline may result in forfeiture of the reserved seat.

6. Additional Requirements

- a. Deferred students must comply with all program requirements in effect at the time of matriculation, including updated admission criteria, background checks, and health requirements.

Contacts

Admissions Director
USC PA Program

History

Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template