

Quick Start Guide to Holistic Admissions for Physical Therapy Education Programs



Holistic admissions is a mission-focused application review that considers the entire applicant when making admission decisions, as opposed on prioritizing academic metrics.

Goals for implementing holistic admissions:

- Increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Develop well-rounded PTs and PTAs — more than “book smart.”
- Improve physical therapy outcomes within all populations.

Steps to implementation:

- Review your mission — both your program's and your institution's.
- Access your application review process — does your application review process support the mission? If not, what needs to be changed?
- Understand the centralized application service data in terms of what applicant data is available and what tools are available to in WebAdMIT.
- Analyze scoring models for use of cognitive versus non-cognitive factors.
- Prepare your admissions committee for execution of holistic objectives.

Noncognitive factors to consider in holistic admissions:

- Extracurricular activities.
- Teacher/counselor recommendations.
- Special circumstance such as disabilities, illnesses, and financial situations.
- Sustained interest that shows personal development or leadership skills.
- Trends over the course of the academic year.
- Personal essays.
- Community service.
- Special talents and/or passions.

Application items to consider:

- Essays.
- Transcripts.
- Extracurricular activities.
- Recommendation letters.
- Test scores.
- Interview.
- Personal information.
- Economic, educational, and environmental factors.
- Academic record statement.

Resources:

- [The Impact of a Holistic Admissions Review Process in a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.](#)
- [Holisticadmissions.org.](#)
- [APTA Academy of Education — Prepare for Holistic Admissions Take-Off: Perspectives From 5 PT Programs.](#)
- [Liaison WebAdMIT Recorded Webinars.](#)
- [Holistic Admissions in the Health Professions: Strategies for Leaders.](#)
- [AAMC Holistic Review.](#)
- [PTCAS Applicant Data Report.](#)
- [A Vision for Excellence in Physical Therapy Education.](#)
- [Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities — Holistic Admissions.](#)
- [Navigating the SCOTUS Affirmative Action Decision with WebAdMIT webinar recording.](#)