

# OTCAS

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Do you know if it is the same as the PTCAS system?**

AOTA is in partnership with the same company that developed the PTCAS system. There will be many similarities to the PTCAS system but at the same time there will be features unique to OTCAS. We have the opportunity to customize the system to meet our needs.

Other CAS systems hosted by the company include: (1) PHARMCAS (pharmacy); (2) CSDCAS (communication); (3) AADSAS (dental); (4) OPTOMCAS (optometry); (5) CASPA (physician assistants); (6) VMCAS (veterinary medicine); (7) SOPHAS (public health). Nursing is in development.

### **Can the system be adapted to meet a specific university's application process? How specific it could be tailored to our program?**

There will be common application procedures shared by all programs subscribing to the OTCAS. For example: (1) academic history & transcripts; (2) letters of recommendation; (3) volunteer and work experience etc. In addition all programs will have a unique profile page. This page will include details on any additional application procedures unique to your program. In addition the profile page will give you the opportunity to note the unique features and strengths of your program.

### **What will be the fees for OTCAS?**

The fees to the applicant will be \$125 for the initial application. Any additional applications will be \$45.

Participating schools do NOT pay a fee.

### **It seems that applicants will have to pay twice – once for this CAS service and another for the individual school application fee.**

Schools will have the ability to charge a supplemental application fee in addition to the CAS fees if they choose to do so.

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## **Is it applicable for students interested in post professional master's / doctoral degree programs in occupational therapy?**

NO. The initial system will be for ACOTE accredited programs preparing students for entry to the profession as an occupational therapist.

## **Will we have access to the students information while the application is “in process” ?**

YES. More information will follow as the system is developed but the plan is for programs to have access. For example, you will not have to wait until all of the letters of recommendations are completed or grades verified before knowing who is in your candidate pool.

## **Will there be a common deadline for submitting the application?**

Programs will be asked to conform to set deadline dates. There will be several options available based current dates used by programs. We will be selecting the 4-6 most common dates.

## **Can the system be changed?**

YES. At the end of each admissions year the system can be modified based on feedback. It cannot be modified during the admissions year.

## **APTA is giving participating programs the ADMIT system which really helps the PT programs manage their applications. It is very expensive .... How much will it cost to have ADMIT?**

ADMIT will be available to all participating programs at no cost to the programs.

## **Will we end up with a large number of inappropriate applications and spend hours sorting through them.**

It is true that you will end up with more applications and some of these may be inappropriate for your program. The ADMIT system will help you manage these applications in an efficient manner once you establish your parameters.

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**We are a small regional program and attract most applicants from our local community. Our applicants will only apply to our school. This will cost them more so what would be the benefit?**

There would be a number of benefits for the stakeholders. While the costs would be more the **applicants** will have access to the status of their application in real time through the web. In addition, the overwhelming majority of today's applicants are more comfortable with web based applications and question when this is not available. The **schools** will benefit from the resources available at OTCAS. Precious staff resources will no longer have to be devoted to verification of transcripts, letters of recommendation and chasing down incomplete applications. In addition all of the data for managing applications will be available to you in real time on your desk top. The **profession** will benefit from having all applications in a common data base for tracking trends and workforce issues.

**Can we still admit students outside of the OTCAS system if we subscribe?**

Ultimately, the school has control over admission of students. However, it would **NOT** be beneficial to schools to admit whole cohorts of students outside of the OTCAS. This would result in duplicate services and resources. In addition the benefits of data management associated with OTCAS would be lost. It is strongly recommended that the policy be to admit all student through OTCAS.