

PharmCAS 2020-2021 Cycle Enhancements

Summary of Changes for the 2020-2021 PharmCAS Cycle:

#	Description	Portal(s)
1.	New Colleges Attended User Experience	Applicant Portal
2.	CAS-Level Source Tracking with Google Analytics	Applicant Portal
3.	Allow for Post-Submission Edits to Advisor Release	Applicant Portal
4.	Visa Information Editable after Submission	Applicant Portal
5.	New Canadian-Inclusive Language	Applicant Portal
6.	State Drop-Down Options (limited to Advisor Portal only)	Advisor Portal
7.	Application Lockout Security	Applicant Portal
8.	Display Password Requirements in the Applicant Portal	Applicant Portal
9.	Updated Transcript Entry Video	Applicant Portal
10.	Check Status Definitions	WebAdMIT
11.	Multiple Choice Questions Configured with One Answer Option	Configuration Portal
12.	Reorder Prerequisites	Configuration Portal
13.	Updated Interface	Configuration Portal
14.	New Question Rules Link	Configuration Portal
15.	Session Timeout	WebAdMIT
16.	Usage Help Panel Updates	WebAdMIT
17.	Reset Criteria Button on Search Pages	WebAdMIT
18.	Search by 'Any Value' and 'None'	WebAdMIT
19.	New Fields in Applicant Header	WebAdMIT
20.	Local Status and Decision Code Details in Designations Panel	WebAdMIT
21.	Updated Interview Interface	WebAdMIT
22.	PDF Manager Templates and Program-Specific Questions Included in Settings Transfer	WebAdMIT
23.	Program Name Added to the Full Application PDF Header	PDF
24.	Designations by Decision Report Update	WebAdMIT
25.	Institution Manager Search Filter	WebAdMIT
26.	Program Code Field Added to PDF Manager	PDF
27.	State of Legal Residence to Search Screen	PDF
28.	Migrate to the Liaison Assisted Deferral Process	WebAdMIT
29.	Add Reapplicant Questions as Program Questions	Configuration Portal
30.	Improve Instructions for Experiences	Applicant Portal, Help Center
31.	New PharmCAS Logo	Applicant Portal, WebAdMIT
32.	New PharmCAS Background Image	Applicant Portal
33.	Update Coupon Code Amounts Available	Applicant Portal
34.	Add COVID-19 Impact Custom Questions to Application	Applicant Portal

PharmCAS 2020-2021 Enhancements

35.	New PharmCAS School Directory	Directory Portal
36.	New PharmCAS Website	Website
37.	Invitation Codes	Applicant Portal
38.	Application Deadline Time Zone	Applicant Portal

*Items highlighted in yellow were deemed to be of particular importance to PharmCAS users and were featured in the related announcement in AACP Connect.

Configuration and Enhancement Changes for the 2020-2021 PharmCAS Cycle

1. New Colleges Attended User Experience

Learn more [here](#).

2. CAS-Level Source Tracking with Google Analytics (this applies to Association users only)

This new feature allows the CAS to create a Google account with tracking codes. These codes are installed in the application, allowing the CAS to track how traffic is directed to the application, helping associations track campaign or marketing performance. Associations can install more than one Google Analytics tracking code. AACP will enable this feature for Pharm4Me and PharmCAS communications for prospective students and other stakeholders.

3. Allow for Post-Submission Edits to Advisor Release

In many cases, applicants do not realize that by answering “no” to the advisor release that their advisors cannot see their applications in the Universal Advisor Portal (UAP) or help them with their pharmacy school application process. Currently, if applicants do not answer “yes” to the advisor release, they cannot change their answer once they submit.

Applicant Portal Changes

Applicants will now be permitted to change their answer to the Advisor Release even if they have submitted their application.

Advisor Release

* By selecting **Yes**, you authorize PharmCAS to release parts of your PharmCAS application and application status to health profession advisors and advisory committees at schools you previously attended. Your advisor can then better assist you throughout the admissions process. Once you submit your application, you cannot edit this response.

☐

Yes

☐

No

4. Visa Information Editable after Submission

This feature allows applicants who self-select as a non-U.S. citizen, the ability to edit their Visa block entry post-submission. Learn more [here](#).

5. New Canadian-Inclusive Language

This feature updated several questions and sections of the application to accommodate the addition of Canadian applicants. Learn more [here](#).

6. State Drop-Down Options (limited to Advisor Portal only)

This UAP feature limits the state drop-down options for advisors when creating a new account to U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canadian provinces only. Learn more [here](#).

7. Application Lockout Security

This feature locks applicants out of their account after five failed login attempts. Learn more [here](#).

8. Display Password Requirements in the Applicant Portal

This feature enhances visibility of password requirements in the applicant portal. Learn more [here](#).

9. Updated Transcript Entry Video

This feature provides an updated transcript entry video for applicants. Learn more [here](#).

10. Check Status Definitions

This feature provides updated definitions of several commonly used CAS terms or phrases. Learn more [here](#).

11. Multiple Choice Questions Configured with One Answer Option

This feature allows users to configure multiple choice questions with only one response option. PharmCAS users have an opportunity to learn about this feature during the Configuration Portal webinar. Learn more [here](#).

12. Reorder Prerequisites

This feature allows users to drag and drop to reorder course prerequisites, as needed, during configuration. Learn more [here](#).

13. Updated Interface

This feature updated the configuration portal interface with enhanced tools and layout. Learn more [here](#).

14. New Question Rules Link

This feature includes a link to 'Rules Builder' in the configuration portal which will allow users to show or hide items in the Program Materials (Quadrant 4) section of the PharmCAS application based on specific conditions defined by the school user (e.g., conditional questions). Learn more [here](#).

15. Session Timeout

This feature will automatically log out any user who is inactive in WebAdMIT after three hours. Learn more [here](#).

16. Usage Help Panel Updates

This feature updates WebAdMIT 'Usage Help' panels to 'Help' and includes several new training links. Learn more [here](#).

17. Reset Criteria Button on Search Pages

This feature allows a user to fully reset all criteria when searching on applicants, interviews, etc. Learn more [here](#).

18. Search by 'Any Value' and 'None'

This feature allows users to search by 'Any Value' and 'None' on specific WebAdMIT search pages. Learn more [here](#).

19. New Fields in Applicant Header

This feature allows 'Citizenship Status' and 'Holds Visa Status' to be added to the applicant header. Learn more [here](#).

20. Local Status and Decision Code Details in Designations Panel

This feature allows users to view local status and decision code last changed by/on details in the Designations panel in WebAdMIT for applicants. Learn more [here](#).

21. Updated Interview Interface

This feature updates the interface for the list of available users for interview assignments in WebAdMIT. Learn more [here](#).

22. PDF Manager Templates and Program-Specific Questions Included in Settings Transfer

This feature includes PDF manager templates and program-specific configured questions to carry over into the next cycle during the Transfer Settings process. Learn more [here](#).

23. Program Name Added to the Full Application PDF Header

This feature shows the program name up to 119 characters, in the header of the full application PDF. Learn more [here](#).

24. Designations by Decision Report Update

This feature limits the 'Designations by Decisions' report to include only applicants in the applications statuses the CAS can view in WebAdMIT. Learn more [here](#).

25. Institution Manager Search Filter

This feature allows users to filter by institution manager when searching admissions users at a program in WebAdMIT. Learn more [here](#).

26. Program Code Field Added to PDF Manager

This feature allows users to select the Program Code field when naming specific document types in the PDF Manager. Learn more [here](#).

27. State of Legal Residence to Search Screen

This feature allows users to search for an applicant's state of legal residence from the primary search screen in WebAdMIT. Learn more [here](#).

28. Migrate to the Liaison Assisted Deferred Applicants Process

PharmCAS schools often do not know that applicants will defer until after classes begin. In addition, schools would prefer for as much data as possible to be brought carried forward. The current process for deferring applicants, through the Transfer Settings process, does not meet these needs.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 application, deferred applicants will no longer carry forward in WebAdMIT after completing Transfer Settings. Instead, PharmCAS will migrate to a new Liaison Assisted Deferral Process, which will allow PharmCAS to pull selected application data over for deferred applicants in the 2019-2020 cycle into the new 2020-2021 cycle on October 1. PharmCAS will not be able to pull any new deferred applicants over after October 1. PharmCAS will send a reminder about this process in September.

Details on the Liaison Assisted Deferral Process, including what data will and will not be transferred and important notes about the new process, can be found in the [WebAdMIT Help Center](#).

29. Add Reapplicant Questions as Program Questions

For each program in PharmCAS, preload the following two questions in the custom questions section of the Configuration Portal:

- Question Block: Previous Applications to this Program
 - Question 1: Have you previously applied to this PharmD program? (Yes/No, Required)
 - Question 2: If you are reapplying to this program, how have you strengthened your application? (Essay, 500 characters, Conditionally Required if Question 1 is "Yes")

Note: Programs that wish to opt-out of these questions must remove them from their custom questions before submitting configurations to the AACCP for review.

30. Improve Instructions for Experiences

Information about work experience, pharmacy shadowing, volunteer experience, and other life experiences is a critical component of the application review process for pharmacy. Applicants, however, do not always complete the experience section in the desired way. New, clarifying language has been added to the application instructions PDF and Applicant Help Center under Experiences to better guide applicants on what information to include in each experience type.

31. New PharmCAS Logo

AACP has refreshed the PharmCAS, PharmGrad, and PharmDirect logos that will be used beginning in the 2020-2021 cycle. We had the following goals when working on the refreshed logos:

- Better distinguish each logo to minimize CAS confusion.
- Ensure that all 3 logos appeared to be in the same “family” and color palate.

**32. New PharmCAS Background Image**

The PharmCAS application will feature a new background image that features real student pharmacists.

33. Update Coupon Code Amounts Available

Coupon codes are application fee discounts that colleges and schools can use to incentivize applicants to apply. If your institution chooses to use this program, it will purchase coupon codes from Liaison and provide them to selected applicants. For the 2019-2020 (previous) application cycle, PharmCAS only offered coupon codes for a flat fee of \$55.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 application cycle, pharmacy programs will be able to purchase coupon codes in the amount of \$55 or \$175 to cover an applicant's incremental or base application fee, as desired.

34. Add COVID-19 Impact Questions to Application

PharmCAS will give applicants an opportunity to describe any challenges they have encountered as a result of the pandemic via a new COVID-19 question block. The new items will help programs to assess the impact of COVID-19 on applicants, including distance traveled, academic barriers, and economic challenges. It might also help schools to evaluate their writing skills.

Answers to these questions will appear on the PharmCAS Custom Questions tile in WebAdMIT and on the PharmCAS Custom Questions section of the application PDF.

COVID-19 Impacts

Did your school move to offering only online curriculum during the COVID-19 crisis?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Did you have an opportunity to receive a letter grade for any of your courses taken during the COVID-19 crisis?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Please describe how COVID-19 has impacted your pathway to pharmacy school?
Prompts that may help you get started but shouldn't limit your responses include:

- Academic: Were you able to interact with your professors? Did you have to leave an academic program stateside or abroad? Did your school require you to move to Pass/Fail systems? Did your original PCAT exam get cancelled, delayed? Other academic barriers?
- Professional: Did you hold a job? Did have to go out and seek new job opportunities? Did you lose a job? Other financial or professional barriers that you faced?
- Personal: Did you have to move out of a house or dorm? Did you have to cancel travel plans? Did you modify your planned experiences related to healthcare or volunteer opportunities? Did you seek out volunteer opportunities that arose from the crisis? Did help family members that were affected?

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35. New PharmCAS School Directory

On May 18, 2020, AACP will launch a new PharmCAS School Directory with enhanced navigation and data fields. The updated Directory is intended to enhance the ability of applicants to find programs and research admission requirements.

36. New PharmCAS Website

In early July, AACP will launch a new PharmCAS website that will provide enhanced navigation and functionality in mobile-friendly and contemporary design

Key Feature: All of the photos featured throughout the website have been provided by our pharmacy programs, so applicants will see actual pharmacy students, faculty, and programs, rather than stock photos. AACP has removed any school-specific logos or other identifiers, so the images are universal and equally beneficial to all member institutions.

37. Invitation Codes

Participating programs in PharmCAS may request a deadline extension for the entire applicant pool or individual applicants. The process remains unchanged for programs that want to extend their application deadline for the entire applicant pool. They should contact CAS@aacp.org with the request and we will process the extension accordingly.

For programs that want to extend their deadline for individual applicants, programs will request an “invitation code” from Liaison that is unique to the pharmacy program. The program can then share the code with the applicant approved for an individual deadline extension. The applicant will enter the code into the application to gain access to the designation after the deadline has passed.

Invitation codes will not expire during the cycle and are not unique to each applicant. Schools can request a single code or a batch of codes from Liaison at any time during the application cycle. Additionally, schools can run a report in WebAdMIT to view the list of applicants who have utilized invitation codes.

Learn more [here](#).

38. Application Deadline Time Zone

Each participating institution selects one PharmCAS application deadline date. Previously, each deadline expired at 11:59 pm ET. Beginning in the 2020-2021 application cycle, all deadlines will expire at 11:59 pm Hawaii Time (HT).

PharmCAS Institutional Deadline Date Options for 2020-2021:

- November 2, 2020 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- December 1, 2020 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- January 4, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- February 1, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- March 1, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- April 1, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- May 3, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)
- June 1, 2021 (11:59 pm Hawaii Time)