

Program Director News

Updates from ACOTE and the AOTA Accreditation Department

Annual Data Report

Inside:

ACOTE Meets	2
RAE Members	2
New Team Chairs	3
NBCOT Data	3
Pass Rate Plans	3
Program Numbers	4
Research Standard	4
PD Credentials	5
Scheduling	5
COE Statements	5
Contacts	6
AON's	6

The annual data report for 2008-2009 will be posted on the AOTA Web site at the end of June.

The report will summarize the data collected through the annual survey of academic programs. Highlights from the report include the following:

Program Growth: At the time of the survey, there were 27 applicant programs (3 OT master's & 24 OTA) and 7 developing programs (1 OT doctoral & 6 OTA). In addition, there were 11 (OTA) applicant and 7 developing (1 OT doctoral, 3 OT master's & 3 OTA) additional locations. No programs closed during the year.

Students: OT doctoral and OT master's program enrollment grew by 10%. There were 303 doctoral students and 13,187 master's degree students. OTA enrollment grew by 13% to 5,513.

Faculty: The vacancy rate among full-time faculty in OT programs was 6.8% nationally.

The lowest rate was 4.6% in the northeast and the highest was 11.9% in the southwest.

The vacancy rate for OTA faculty was 4.4% nationally. The lowest rate was 3.5% in both the northeast and midwest and the highest was 8.7% in the southwest.

The percentage of faculty who were categorized as "adjuncts" grew in both OT and OTA program levels.

At the OT program level, the percentage of faculty who were adjuncts grew from 13% in the previous academic year to 17%. At the same time, full-time faculty decreased from 79% to 77% and part-time faculty from 8% to 6%.

At the OTA program level, the percentage of faculty who were adjuncts grew from 17% in the previous academic year to 24%. At the same time, full-time faculty decreased from 75% to 70% and part-time faculty from 9% to 7%.

Outcomes: The NBCOT pass rate for all new graduate, first-time test takers for the OT certification exam for the 2006-2008 period was 87.07% versus the 2005-2007 rate of 87.86%. The number of candidates grew from 8,484 to 9,544.

The NBCOT pass rate for all new graduate, first-time test takers for the OTA certification exam for the 2006-2008 period was 86.12% versus the 2005-2007 rate of 87.98%. The number of candidates grew from 4,757 to 5,410.

The percentage of OT level programs reporting a retention rate of 90 percent or greater grew from 79% to 80%.

The percentage of OTA level programs reporting a retention rate of 90 percent or greater dropped from 27% to 23%.

ACOTE Spring Meeting in Houston

On April 25-26, ACOTE convened its 2009 spring meeting in Houston. The shorter 2-day spring meeting focused on program actions and review of applications for new programs.

There were 16 applications for developing program status (2 master's-degree-level programs for occupational therapists and 14 programs for occupational therapy assistants). In

addition, there were 9 applications for new additional locations for occupational therapy assistant programs.

ACOTE Seeks New Accreditation Evaluators

"OT practitioners and OTA educators are especially needed."

ACOTE is seeking new members for the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE).

All new members of the RAE will receive 2½ days of training at the February 2010 Accreditation Evaluator Workshop to learn how to review and evaluate programs. Newly trained evaluators will begin their 3-year term July 1, 2010.

RAE members are expected to participate in on-site accreditation evaluations as requested; complete paper reviews and peer evaluations as requested; and maintain communication with AOTA accreditation staff and ACOTE. All expenses for on-site visits are fully reimbursable.

For the positions to be filled in summer 2010, ACOTE is placing a strategic emphasis on the recruitment of a diverse

pool of accreditation volunteers. OT practitioners and OTA educators are especially needed and are strongly encouraged to apply.

To qualify as an accreditor, the applicant must:

- be either an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant
- be a member in good standing with AOTA
- have at least 5 years' of experience as an occupational therapy practitioner, including 3 years in education or fieldwork, occupational therapy administration, or another area of expertise
- NOT hold concurrent positions on any AOTA policy-making or decision-making body to include the Representative Assembly (Representative or Alternate), Board of Directors, Ethics Commission, or Commission on Education. In addition,

RAE members may not hold a position in a credentialing capacity, e.g., National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) Executive Board member or Certification Examination Item Writer.

Applications will be accepted by the AOTA Accreditation Department until June 30, 2009. Members of the ACOTE Executive Committee, in collaboration with AOTA accreditation staff, will review all eligible applications and the final list of applicants will be reviewed by members of ACOTE. After the selections are made, all applicants, whether selected or not, will be informed in writing of ACOTE's decision by September 2009.

Application materials are available at: <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/Announcements>

New Team Chairpersons

Due to the growing number of on-site visits and program reviews, ACOTE has expanded its pool of trained on-site visit team chairpersons. The following members of the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators have completed the training workshop and will start leading on-site

teams over the next year.

- Jason Baxter, DHS, OTR/L; Apex Physical Therapy, Effingham, IL
- Teresa Brininger, PhD, OTR/L, CHT; Deputy for Rehabilitation and Reintegration Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center

(TATRC) Fort Detrick, MD

- Tia Hughes, MBA, OTR/L; Florida College of Health Sciences, FL
- Vicki Smith, EdD, MBA, OTR/L; Keuka College, NY
- Karen Walters, OTR/L, ATP; Central New York Developmental Services Office, Syracuse, NY

Reporting NBCOT Data

Programs must use the number of first-time new graduate test-takers and number of first-time new graduate test-takers passing the certification exam that are reported by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

The percentage pass rate must be calculated for the **TOTAL** number of first-time new graduate exam takers during the **THREE** most recent calendar years.

To access this information online, programs must obtain a username and password from NBCOT (www.nbcot.org).

The rationale for using NBCOT's data is to assure that verifiable data is being used by all programs. It is possible that the program's tracking of graduate performance on the certification exam will not match the reports generated by NBCOT. The program may contact NBCOT to address

discrepancies.

In addition to reviewing NBCOT data in conjunction with a scheduled review of the program's published data (e.g., biennial, self-study, on-site), ACOTE will review the NBCOT reported data on all programs annually. If NBCOT reported data indicates the program's 3-year pass rate is lower than 70%, ACOTE may cite an area of noncompliance with Standard A.5.4.

"ACOTE will review the NBCOT reported data on all programs annually."

Plans of Correction for Low Pass Rates

When a program is **initially** cited by ACOTE as being in noncompliance with Standard A.5.4., the program is requested to submit a plan of correction. The plan of correction should include an amended program evaluation plan that includes the following:

- 1) Analysis of factors contributing to low pass rates.
- 2) Plan to address targeted factors.
- 3) Annual improvement targets.

- 4) A timeline for correction within 2 years.

If the program is still in noncompliance at the end of 2 years, it may request an extension for good cause. The rationale for extension for good cause must demonstrate that the program implemented the plan of correction and maintained or demonstrated an upward trend in the pass rate during the correction period.

If the program is still in noncompliance at the end of the extension for good cause, the program may request one additional 2-year extension for good cause. Following the initial time period and two extensions for good cause, failure to attain compliance may lead to withdrawal of accreditation.

The full policy is available online at <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/Policies/Policies.asp>

"The plan of correction should include an amended program evaluation plan."

Number of programs

	<u>Accredited</u>	<u>Developing</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Total</u>
OT				
Masters Programs	142	2	1	145
Doctoral Programs	5	1	0	6
Masters Additional Locations	8	3	1	12
Doctoral Additional Locations	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total OT Locations	155	7	1	164
OTA				
Programs	130	11	19	160
Additional Locations	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>24</u>
Total OTA Locations	139	20	25	184
Totals				
Programs	277	14	20	311
Additional Locations	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>37</u>
Total Locations	294	27	27	348
2007 Change	<u>289</u> 5	<u>5</u> 22	<u>15</u> 12	<u>309</u> 39

¹ Developing Programs have proceeded to the second step and can admit students, but will not gain accreditation until successful completion of a self-study and on-site visit.

² Applicant Programs have submitted a letter of intent to start a new program or additional location.

Interpretive Guide Change to Master’s Standard B.8.7.- Implementing Research

At the spring meeting, ACOTE approved the following change to the interpretive guide for Master’s-Degree-Level Standard B.8.7. The added language differentiates use of systematic reviews from narrative reviews in relation to implementing research methodology. The added language is highlighted.

Standard B.8.7: Implement one or more aspects of research methodology. These may be simulated or actual and may include, but are not limited to, designing research instruments, collecting data, and analyzing or synthesizing data. These research activities may be completed individually, with a group, or with a faculty member.

THE INTENT OF STANDARD B.8.7 IS TO EMPHASIZE THE “DOING” PART OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS THAT CAN SUPPORT BEGINNING RESEARCH SKILLS IN A PRACTICE SETTING. (COMPLETING A REVIEW OF THE EXISTING LITERATURE WOULD NOT MEET THIS STANDARD, BUT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE LEARNING ACTIVITY FOR STANDARD B.8.2. OR B.8.3.) **SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS THAT REQUIRE ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS OF DATA MEET THE REQUIREMENT FOR THIS STANDARD. NARRATIVE REVIEWS DO NOT MEET THIS STANDARD.**

A CULMINATING PROJECT RELATED TO RESEARCH IS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE MASTER’S LEVEL. IF IT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROGRAM’S CURRICULUM DESIGN AND GOALS, THE PROGRAM MAY CHOOSE TO REQUIRE A CULMINATING RESEARCH LEARNING ACTIVITY (E.G., SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF LITERATURE, FACULTY-LED RESEARCH ACTIVITY, STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT).

The April 2009 version of the Standards Interpretive Guide can be found at:
<http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/StandardsReview/guide/42369.aspx>

Standard A.2.1: Program Director's Academic Credentials

Doctoral-Degree-Level Standard A.2.2. requires that the program director hold a doctoral degree. At this time, the program director must hold a doctoral degree in order to be in compliance.

Master's-Degree-Level Standard A.2.2. requires that the director hold academic qualifications comparable to the majority of other program directors within the institutional unit (e.g., division, college, school) to which the program is assigned. By July 1, 2012, the program director must hold a doctoral degree. Prior to 2012, if the program director holds a doctoral degree, the program is in compliance with the comparable qualifications requirement. If the director does NOT currently hold a doctoral degree, the program is in noncompliance with the comparable qualifications requirement if all, or a clear majority, of program directors within the unit to the program is assigned have a doctorate.

OTA Standard A.2.2. requires that the director hold academic qualifications comparable to the majority of other program directors within the institutional unit (e.g., division, college, school) to which the program is assigned. By July 1, 2012, the program director must hold a master's degree. Prior to 2012, if the program director holds a master's degree, the program is in compliance with the comparable qualifications requirement. If the director does NOT currently hold a master's degree, the program is in noncompliance with the comparable qualifications requirement if all, or a clear majority, of program directors within the unit to the program is assigned have a master's degree.

The April 2009 version of the Standards Interpretive Guide can be found at:

<http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/StandardsReview/guide/42369.aspx>

Change in procedure for scheduling on-site visits

Past practice has been to allow programs to select a preference for a fall, spring, or summer on-site visit. With the growing number of on-site visits and the increasing demands being placed on the pool of volunteer evaluators, this practice will be eliminated when planning the academic year 2010-2011 schedule. The on-site schedule will have black-out dates for major holidays. In addition, programs will be able to black out up to four (4) calendar weeks during the period from August 15th to July 15th. The on-site visit can be scheduled at any time between August 15th and July 15th with the exception of the black-out dates.

Revised COE Statements

At the 2009 meeting of the Representative Assembly (RA), the delegates supported a motion by the Commission on Education (COE) to **rescind** the following role papers:

- *Role Competencies for an Academic Fieldwork Coordinator*
- *Role Competencies for a Fieldwork Educator*
- *Role Competencies for a Professional-Level Occupational Therapist Faculty Member in an Academic Setting*
- *Role Competencies for a Faculty Member in an Occupational Therapy Assistant Academic Setting*
- *Role Competencies for a Program Director in an Occupational Therapy Assistant Academic Setting*

At the same meeting, the RA voted to accept the COE motion to **adopt** the following skills paper to replace the rescinded role papers:

- *Specialized Knowledge and Skills of Occupational Therapy Educators of the Future.*

The skills paper is available at <http://www.aota.org/Educate/EdRes/COE/COEdocs.aspx>

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.acoteonline.org

Important dates...

ACOTE Summer Meeting:
July 30 - August 2, 2009
Alexandria, VA

ACOTE Winter Meeting:
December 4-6, 2009
Savannah, GA

Resources...

Available at
www.acoteonline.org:

- ACOTE Announcements & Newsletters
- ACOTE Standards
- Interpretive Guides
- ACOTE Manual Policies & Procedures
- ACOTE Forms

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Most frequently cited Standards!

Numbers of currently cited areas of noncompliance are listed below::

2006 OT Doctoral-Level Standard:	#	2006 OT Master's-Level Standard:	#	2006 OTA Standard:	#
				A.2.2.	5
				A.2.3.	7
				A.4.2.	3
				A.5.1.	2
				A.5.2.	2
				A.5.3.	2
		A.5.4.	7	A.5.4.	7
		A.5.5.	2	A.5.5.	5
				A.5.6.	2
				A.6.5.	3
		B.10.1.	3		
		B.10.5.	2		
		B.10.10.	2		
		B.10.15.	3		

OTA Standards A.2.2 and A.2.3: Address academic and experience requirements for program directors.

OTA Standard A.4.2: Requires that publication of pass rate conforms to required format.

OTA Standards A.5.1-A.5.3: Standards addressing program evaluation.

Master's and OTA Standard A.5.4.: Requires a 3-year aggregate pass rate of 70% or greater.

Master's and OTA Standards A.5.5 and A.5.6.: Requirement for routine analysis of outcomes data and annual report and that the results of evaluation are reflected in the strategic plan and other key aspects of the program.

Master's Standard B.10.1: Selection of fieldwork sites reflect the curriculum design.

Master's Standard B.10.5: Collaboration in establishing fieldwork objectives.

Master's Standard B.10.10: 5-year review of MOU.

Link to Interpretive guide:

<http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/StandardsReview.aspx>