

*Updates from ACOTE and AOTA Academic Affairs*

## Notes from the department.....

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It has been a busy fall for the Council and staff as we implement the new e-Accreditation online system, deal with an unprecedented growth in new programs, and prepare to implement the new 2011 Standards.

Over 130 program directors, or their designees, have attended the fall ACOTE workshops on the new Standards. In addition, a further 38 program representatives attended the self-study workshop in October. Six more workshops are being planned over the next 4 months (page 3). The one-day workshops have received very positive feedback as programs prepare to be in compliance with the new Standards effective July 31, 2013.

Over the last year, the department has received 42 applications for new program locations. With the 40 program locations in the candidacy stage, this totals 82 new programs in the system (page 5). ACOTE will conduct over 70 on-site

reviews in the next academic year.

While the bulk of the new program locations (56) are offered at the OTA level, there are 26 new program locations for the occupational therapist. This includes 10 new locations at the doctoral level.

In the middle of all this activity, ACOTE was successful in gaining renewed recognition from the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education for a period of 5 years. This was a rare feat in the current regulatory environment that sees a growing focus and scrutiny of higher education.

This fall, ACOTE will submit the petition for renewal of recognition by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). ACOTE has been scheduled for a March 2013 hearing with the CHEA Recognition Committee.

ACOTE will be meeting November 30 – December 2, 2012. There are 185

individual program actions on the agenda. In addition, the Council will be establishing transition rules for the implementation of the new 2011 Standards.

ACOTE will also be discussing a request for a transition rule for programs transitioning from a masters-degree-level program to a doctoral-degree-level program for the occupational therapist. Current procedures require a full application and 3-step review for accreditation of the doctoral-degree-level program. The request was to reconsider the requirements for existing accredited masters-degree-level programs that have had recent ACOTE self-study and on-site reviews.

*Neil Harvison, PhD,  
OTR/L, FAOTA  
Director, Accreditation and  
Academic Affairs*

## Education Summit 2013 - Call for Submissions

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“submission period will be from November 26, 2012 through January 16, 2013. The link will go live on November 26, 2012”

AOTA invites educators, scholars, post-professional graduate students, and clinicians who share the common vision of enhanced understanding of teaching and learning in occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant degree programs, to submit a proposal for presentation at the Education Summit to be held in Atlanta on October 4-5, 2013.

The submission period will be from November 26, 2012 through January 16, 2013. The link will go live on November 26, 2012.

The three presentation tracks will be:

- **Pedagogy and Instructional Design:** Pedagogy is the manner in which teaching is delivered to influence the learning context. Instructional design is the systematic development of instructional

specifications using learning and instructional theory to ensure the quality of instruction. It is governed by the background, resources, knowledge, experience, and environment of the learner.

- **Foundations for OT/OTA Education and Practice:** The philosophy, social forces, institutions, and human relations upon which OT/OTA education and practice are based.
- **Capacity Building with the Profession and Academia:** Identifying, creating and implementing strategies to develop the human and non-human resources that will be needed to support the 2012 Vision and priorities for the profession as we address the occupational needs of society over the next century.

You are encouraged to

submit proposals that include these concepts from one of the following session types:

- 20-minute Papers (a volunteer committee will group 4 papers into 1.5-hour Panels)
- Posters – 1.5 hour Poster Sessions will be held over each lunch period.

Proposals will be peer reviewed from January 28, 2013 through March 4, 2013 and final selections will be made in early spring. All submissions will be peer reviewed. Neither names nor affiliations are provided to the reviewers.

Notification regarding the status of the proposal submission will be e-mailed to all submitters in late May 2013.

Please send any questions to [specialtyconference@aota.org](mailto:specialtyconference@aota.org)

## USDE Recognition Review

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“USDE Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education awarded ACOTE renewed recognition for the maximum period of 5 years.”

In July 2012, the USDE Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education awarded ACOTE renewed recognition for the maximum period of 5 years. The recognition

resulted from the reviews of ACOTE completed by both the US Department of Education (USDE) staff and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and

Integrity (NACIQI). Both reports identified no areas of concern with the ACOTE petition.

## 2011 Standards Workshops

In the fall of 2012, ACOTE hosted the following workshops:

- Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC – 9/14/12
- Adventist University of Health Sciences, Orlando, FL – 9/21/12
- New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY – 9/26/12
- York College, Queens, NY – 9/28/12
- University of Toledo, Toledo, OH - 10/12/12
- North Shore Community College, Danvers, MA – 10/27/12

The final 2012 workshop will be held at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles on December 14, 2012.

The agenda for the workshops has focused on:

- (1) Reviewing the changes in the 2011 Standards and the timeline for compliance.
- (2) Providing examples of how programs can bring themselves into the compliance with the new Standards.
- (3) Providing live

demonstrations of ACOTE Online, the new Web-based accreditation system that will become mandatory in July 2013.

Spring workshops are being planned for the following locations:

- Philadelphia, PA
- Hillsboro, OR
- Houston, TX
- St. Louis, MO
- Milwaukee, WI

More information: [accred@aota.org](mailto:accred@aota.org)

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## Psychosocial Focused Fieldwork

Many programs have approached staff seeking clarification on evidence to support compliance with ACOTE 2011 Standard C.1.7: *Ensure that at least one fieldwork experience (either Level I or Level II) has as its focus psychological and social factors that influence engagement in occupation.*

Examples of possible evidence include:

- Documented student learning outcomes for fieldwork placement that focus on psychological and social factors influencing engagement in occupation.
- Population(s) served in the fieldwork placement.
- Assignments linked to the fieldwork placement.

- Intervention approaches and assessments to which the student(s) will be introduced in the placement.

More information: [nharvison@aota.org](mailto:nharvison@aota.org)

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*"...evidence to support compliance with ACOTE 2011 Standard C.1.7..."*

## Self-Study Workshop

The spring 2013 self-study workshop will be held on February 22-23, 2013. The workshop will be conducted in Northern Virginia just minutes from Washington DC Reagan National Airport.

Registration for the workshop opened November 19, 2012 and typically fills quickly. Attendance at the workshop is capped at 30 participants.

The next workshop will be held in fall 2013 in

conjunction with the Education Summit in Atlanta, GA.

**For information** about the workshops, contact AOTA's Education Coordinator, Valeta Njoroje at [vnjoroje@aota.org](mailto:vnjoroje@aota.org).

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*"Registration for the workshop opened November 19, 2012 and typically fills quickly."*

## E-Accreditation Updates

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*“All fall 2013 self-study submissions will be online.”*

AOTA staff members have been working with the vendor to develop, revise, implement, and manage the new e-Accreditation system. The current status is summarized below:

- Applications for Candidacy Status online: Seven applicant programs (5 OTA and 2 OTM) submitted online Candidacy Applications on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Self-study online submissions being piloted: The new self-study

module has been opened up to all developing programs due to submit an initial Self-Study Report by December 3<sup>rd</sup> and to programs scheduled for reaccreditation visits under the new Standards in Spring 2013. All fall 2013 Self-Study submissions will be online.

- 2013 Annual Report: All changes to the 2013 Annual Report that were requested by ACOTE have been submitted to e-Accreditation staff. The online Annual

Reports are on target to launch as scheduled in January 2013.

- Interim Reports: The 2013 Interim Reports will be in the traditional paper format and the 2014 Interim Reports will be online. Webinars will be scheduled for all programs with online submissions.

More information: [sgraves@aota.org](mailto:sgraves@aota.org)

## Transition to the 2011 Standards Pass Rate

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*“At the December 2012 ACOTE meeting, the Council will vote on proposed transition rules for implementation of the new requirements.”*

On July 31, 2013, the new criteria for certification pass rates will go into effect:

*ACOTE Standard A.5.6.: The average pass rate over the 3 most recent calendar years for graduates attempting the national certification exam within 12 months of graduation from the program must be 80% or higher (regardless of the number of attempts). If a program has less than 25 test takers in the 3 most recent calendar years, the program may include test takers from additional*

*years until it reaches 25 or until the 5 most recent calendar years are included in the total.*

Retrospective data will **not** be available for the certification results. The following data will be available to ACOTE and programs:

**April 2014:** Pass rate data for students sitting the exam within 12 months of graduation in the calendar year 2013.

**April 2015:** Pass rate data for students sitting the exam within 12 months of

graduation in the calendar years 2013 and 2014.

**April 2016:** Pass rate data for students sitting the exam within 12 months of graduation in the calendar years 2013, 2014, & 2015.

At the December 2012 ACOTE meeting, the Council will vote on transition rules for implementation of the new requirements during the transition period 2013-2015.

More information: [nharvison@aota.org](mailto:nharvison@aota.org)

## Number of Programs

|                               | <u>Accredited</u> | <u>Candidacy</u> | <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>OT</b>                     |                   |                  |                  |              |
| Masters Programs              | 145               | 3                | 11               | 159          |
| Doctoral Programs             | 4                 | 5                | 5                | 14           |
| Masters Additional Locations  | 10                | 1                | 1                | 12           |
| Doctoral Additional Locations | <u>1</u>          | <u>0</u>         | <u>0</u>         | <u>1</u>     |
| <b>Total OT Locations</b>     | <b>160</b>        | <b>9</b>         | <b>17</b>        | <b>186</b>   |
| <b>OTA</b>                    |                   |                  |                  |              |
| Programs                      | 159               | 30               | 24               | 213          |
| Additional Locations          | <u>27</u>         | <u>1</u>         | <u>1</u>         | <u>29</u>    |
| <b>Total OTA Locations</b>    | <b>186</b>        | <b>31</b>        | <b>25</b>        | <b>242</b>   |
| <b>Totals</b>                 |                   |                  |                  |              |
| Programs                      | 308               | 38               | 40               | 386          |
| Additional Locations          | <u>38</u>         | <u>2</u>         | <u>2</u>         | <u>42</u>    |
| <b>Total Locations</b>        | <b>346</b>        | <b>40</b>        | <b>42</b>        | <b>428</b>   |

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

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

## ACOTE's New Address

Due to the closure of a mail handling facility, the ACOTE address has been changed. The new address (which no longer includes a PO box) is as follows:

**ACOTE**  
**c/o Accreditation Department**  
**American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)**  
**4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200**  
**Bethesda, MD 20814-3449**

**Effective immediately**, all mail sent to ACOTE from accredited programs must be addressed to the new address. This will ensure that correspondence is received in a timely fashion. *(Note that accreditation fees should continue to be sent to the address reflected on the invoice, which is the Eagle Bank lockbox in Pittsburgh, PA.)*

Standard A.4.3: The program's accreditation status and the name, address, and telephone number of ACOTE must be published in all of the following materials used by the institution: catalog, Web site, and program-related brochures or flyers available to prospective students. A link to [www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org) must be provided on the program's home page.

**Effective August 1, 2013**, all program Web sites must reflect the new address to be in compliance with 2011 Standard A.4.3.

**Effective August 1, 2014**, all program publications must reflect the new address to be in compliance with 2011 Standard A.4.3.

## American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane  
Suite 200  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

PHONE:  
(301) 652-6611 Ext. 2914

FAX:  
(301) 652-1417

E-MAIL:  
accred@aota.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org)

### Important dates...

- ACOTE Winter Meeting  
November 30-Dec 2, 2012  
Albuquerque, NM
- ACOTE Spring Meeting  
April 27-28, 2013  
San Diego, CA
- ACOTE Summer Meeting  
August 1-4, 2013  
Arlington, VA

### Resources...

Available at

[www.acoteonline.org](http://www.acoteonline.org):

- Accreditation Surveys, Forms, and Templates
- Announcements & Newsletters
- Current ACOTE Accreditation Standards
- Overview (ACOTE History, Meetings, Members)
- Policies and Procedures (ACOTE Manual)
- Resources
- Schools
- Workshops

## Staff Contacts:

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## Questions about accreditation...

Please remember that all members of the Council are volunteers. Unless you are discussing logistical arrangements for an on-site evaluation, you should **never phone, e-mail, or attempt to contact** a member of the Council when you have a question or complaint related to ACOTE. All inquiries should be directed to the office at [accred@aota.org](mailto:accred@aota.org) or 1-800-877-1383 (extension 2914).

## We value your feedback....

Programs are reminded to complete the online Post Site Visit Questionnaire (PSQ) following completion of the on-site visit and self-study review. A separate link is forwarded by accreditation staff to the institutional administrators and program director.

The data collected is aggregated for the purposes of program enhancement. In addition, the feedback on the team members' performance is important for personal growth and development and in planning future review assignments. All feedback is treated confidentially and it is never shared until after the final decision related to the review has been completed and published.

## New Public Member

At the December ACOTE meeting, the Council will be welcoming the following new Public Member, who will be representing the consumer in health care, business, and/or the community:

- **Bruce Marshall, MPH, DDS**  
Director of Medical and Professional Services  
Helen Hayes Hospital  
West Haverstraw, NY