

Program Director News

Updates from ACOTE and AOTA Academic Affairs

ACOTE Web-Based Accreditation System

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Development of the Web-based accreditation system is proceeding on schedule.

In February, we launched the annual data survey on the system. Over 89% of program directors indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement when surveyed: ***“The Web-based format was easy to navigate and understand.”***

At this time, the developers are working on creation of the database

and the application and initial self-study report site for new programs.

Timeline:

Year One - 2011

- Launch the Web-Based Annual Survey (January 2011)
- Launch the Application and Self-Study Report Sites for New Programs (late 2011)

Year Two - 2012

- Launch Benchmarking Web Site
- Launch a system to

Report and Track all Minor and Major Changes, etc.

- Launch Reviewers’ Portal and Council Portal for New Programs (late 2012)

Year Three - 2013

- Launch Self-Study, On-Site Visit & Follow-up Program Tracking for Continuing Programs
- Launch Interim Report

Questions: Please direct any follow-up questions to Neil Harvison at nharvison@aota.org.

Save the Dates:

2011 Fall Program Directors’ Meeting ~ Arlington, VA

October 11-12	Self-Study Preparation Workshop
October 13	Orientation for New Program Directors
October 13	Capitol Hill Lobbying Day
October 14-15	Program Directors’ Meeting

The Westin Arlington Gateway
801 N. Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22203
Single/double room - \$175 per night

Questions: Please direct any follow-up questions to Valeta Njoroge at vnjoroge@aota.org

New ACOTE Members

“new ACOTE members will begin their first 3-year term of office on August 7, 2011”

The following new ACOTE members will begin their first 3-year term of office on August 7, 2011:

Deborah J. Bolding, MS, OTR/L

Manager of Professional Development
Stanford Hospital and Clinics
Rehabilitation and Respiratory Care Services,
Stanford, CA

Ann Jadin, EdD, OTR, BCB

Instructor,
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program,
Fox Valley Technical College,
Appleton, WI

practitioner in mental health from Schertz, TX.

Doreen Olson, MS, OTR
Associate Dean of Allied Health and Public Safety,
Western Technical College, LaCrosse, WI.

The following members completed their terms of office this year:

Constance Daby, MHS, OTR, FAOTA, an OT

Call for RAE Nominations

“doctorally-prepared practitioners and OTA educators are especially needed”

ACOTE is in the process of seeking new members for the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) for positions to be filled in January 2012.

ACOTE will continue to focus on increasing RAE membership that is reflective of diversity in age, ethnicity, gender, practice expertise, geographical region, and educational level.

Doctorally-prepared OT

practitioners and OTA educators are especially needed and are strongly encouraged to apply.

The full announcement and application forms are located in the [ACOTE Announcements & Newsletters](#) section of the ACOTE Web page. Direct links are:

[ACOTE Seeks New Accreditation Evaluators article](#)
[RAE Application for Educators](#)

[RAE Application for Practitioners](#)

Applications are due no later than June 15, 2011.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in applying, please direct them to the above links. Thanks for your assistance.

For more information contact Sarah Cho, On-Site Program Coordinator at scho@aota.org.

New ACOTE Alternate Public Member

At the December 2011 ACOTE meeting, Dr. Clyde Jensen, currently Dean of Science at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon, will join the Council as the Alternate Public Member. Dr. Jensen has a great deal

of experience in accreditation and will be concurrently serving as Public Member for the Council on Chiropractic Education.

There are three public member positions on the

Council. A full list of Council members is available at: <http://www.aota.org/Educate/Accredit/Overview/38126.aspx>.

Standards Review Timeline and Next Steps

The Educational Standards Review Committee (ESRC) continues to work on the revisions to the accreditation standards. At the AOTA Annual Conference in Philadelphia, the ESRC held three hearings to accept feedback on the first draft of the revised Standards. In addition to the open hearing conducted during the general conference session, the ESRC met with the program directors and academic fieldwork coordinators. The committee has also received 187 online comments and over 30 letters from stakeholders.

“majority of the feedback has been in support of the changes made in the first draft.”

Overall, the majority of the feedback has been in support of the changes made in the first draft. Many of the suggested changes provided on the surveys and at the hearings relate to terminology and language suggestions. Some concerns were raised regarding the proposal to increase qualifications for key faculty positions, including program directors and academic fieldwork coordinators. The comments received focused on the ability of programs to find qualified candidates.

The suggested change to increase the minimal faculty in an OTA program from 2 to 3 full-time equivalents did result in a lot of comments. The community appears to be split on this issue. There is a slight majority in favor of the change, arguing that the current Standards disadvantage OTA programs when compared to other programs in institutions. Those speaking against the change argue that mandating 3 FTEs will lead to closure of some smaller and rural programs.

The overwhelming majority of comments were in favor of the proposed changes to the fieldwork standards, with some suggested edits that would not change the content currently proposed.

As outlined in the timeline, the next step is for the ESRC is to meet in June to review all of the feedback received from the stakeholders and complete a second draft revision of the Standards. The second draft will be amended and/or adopted by the Council at its August meeting. The second draft will then be released for comment in the fall. If there are minimal changes, it is likely that the final version will be adopted by the Council at the December meeting. A December 2011 adoption date would mean a July 1, 2013 implementation date for compliance.

March 15	First draft of Standards and call for comment distributed.
April 12-15	Open Hearings at AOTA Conference
April 30	Call for Comment closed
June 2-3	ESRC meets to review feedback and revise draft
August 4-7	ACOTE to review and revise changes
Sept-Oct	2nd draft Standards and call for comment distributed
November	ESRC meets to review feedback and revise draft
Dec 2-4	ACOTE – Review/ Revise/ Adopt??

Revision to Policy IV.C.: Requirement for a site visit prior to involuntary withdrawal of accreditation

At its April 2011 meeting, ACOTE adopted revisions to ACOTE Policy IV.C.

ACCREDITATION WITHDRAWN—INVOLUNTARY

(For failure to be in substantial compliance with the Standards or with administrative requirements.)

Accreditation may be involuntarily withdrawn from a program with Probationary Accreditation if the accreditation review process, which must include either an on-site evaluation or a fact-finding visit, confirms that the program has not come into substantial compliance with the Standards within the period of time mandated by USDE.

Accreditation may also be involuntarily withdrawn from a program on Administrative Probationary Accreditation if the program has not complied with the administrative

requirements for maintaining accreditation within a reasonable period of time, usually no longer than 1 year.

What is a fact-finding visit?

ACOTE may schedule a fact-finding visit if:

- (1) a program is a risk involuntary withdrawal of accreditation;
- (2) as a result of a formal complaint (or potential violation of ACOTE's Doctrine of Integrity policy (see Accreditation Manual Section VI.I);
- (3) if ACOTE is unable to determine a program's compliance with one or more Standards through written documentation and finds it necessary to obtain information via on-site data gathering.

A fact-finding visit is a focused review and is typically 1-2 days in duration. It includes a

team of 2-3 evaluators. Prior to the visit, the program is informed of the reason for the visit and the areas that will be the focus of the review. In addition, the program director will be provided with a schedule and requested list of interviewees for the visit.

At the completion of the visit, the team will complete the Fact-Finding Team's Report to ACOTE. The report is reviewed by the full Council at its next scheduled meeting.

The ACOTE Manual is available online at <http://www.aota.org/Education/Accredit/Policies.aspx>.

"Accreditation may be involuntarily withdrawn from a program with Probationary Accreditation if the accreditation review process, which must include either an on-site evaluation or a fact-finding visit, confirms that the program has not come into substantial compliance."

Number of Programs

	<u>Accredited</u>	<u>Developing</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Total</u>
OT				
Masters Programs	144	3	4	151
Doctoral Programs	4	1	3	8
Masters Additional Locations	11	2	0	13
Doctoral Additional Locations	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total OT Locations	160	6	7	173
OTA				
Programs	145	20	28	193
Additional Locations	<u>20</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>
Total OTA Locations	165	28	29	222
Totals				
Programs	293	24	35	352
Additional Locations	<u>32</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>43</u>
Total Locations	325	34	36	395
2007 Change	<u>289</u> 36	<u>5</u> 29	<u>15</u> 21	<u>309</u> 86

¹ Developing 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.

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

Growth in Program Numbers

The department continues to receive letters of intent for new programs and additional locations at an unprecedented rate. We are seeing interest in new occupational therapy programs in all regions of the United States. These include both master's and doctoral entry-level programs.

However, the biggest growth has been in applicant and developing OTA programs. In April 2011, the midwest and southern regions both had more than 15 new locations in the application and developing stages. The western region had 11 locations and the southwest 8 locations. The only region that was not experiencing such a dramatic change was the northeast, which had 4 new OTA locations in the applicant or developing stages.

A complete list of applicant and developing programs is available online at <http://aota.org/Educate/Schools.aspx>.

	OT	OTA		OT	OTA
1990-1991	74	67	2001-2002	146	172
1991-1992	76	70	2002-2003	148	159
1992-1993	78	75	2003-2004	150	147
1993-1994	84	82	2004-2005	150	134
1994-1995	87	96	2005-2006	149	130
1995-1996	99	108	2006-2007	145	129
1996-1997	104	119	2007-2008	147	128
1997-1998	111	135	2008-2009	147	129
1998-1999	121	157	2009-2010	146	131
1999-2000	131	170	2010-2011	146	141
2000-2001	141	178			

American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane
PO Box 31220
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220

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

Important dates...

- ACOTE Summer Meeting
August 4-7, 2011
Baltimore, MD
- Team Chair Training
August 7-8, 2011
Baltimore, MD
- ACOTE Winter Meeting
December 2-4, 2011
Charleston, SC
- ACOTE Spring Meeting
April 28-29, 2012
Indianapolis, IN

Resources...

Available at

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
- Workshops

Staff Contacts:

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Director of Accreditation and Academic Affairs
E-mail: nharvison@aota.org
Phone: 301-652-6611, x2202

Sue Graves
Assistant Director of Accreditation
E-mail: sgraves@aota.org
Phone: 301-652-6611, x2912

Angelica Grigsby
Accreditation Program Manager
E-mail: agrigsby@aota.org
Phone: 301-652-6611, x2915

Sarah Cho
On-site Program Coordinator
E-mail: scho@aota.org
Phone: 301-652-6611, x2914

New Position at AOTA

Valeta Njoroge was recently promoted to the newly created Education Operations Coordinator position at AOTA. This new position will allow Valeta to be available full-time for education-related projects and meetings.

Valeta Njoroge

Education Operations Coordinator
Professional Affairs Division
American Occupational Therapy Association
E-mail: vnjoroge@aota.org
Phone: 301-652-6611 x2932

ACOTE's Director Elected as Chair of ASPA

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA was elected as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) at its annual meeting in April. Dr. Harvison had previously served as an accreditor member on the board of directors.

ASPA provides a collaborative forum and a collective voice for the community of U.S. agencies that assess the quality of specialized and professional higher education programs and schools. ASPA represents its members on issues of educational quality facing institutions of higher education, governments, students, and the public. ASPA also advances the knowledge, skills, good practices, and ethical commitments of accreditors, and communicates the value of accreditation as a means of enhancing educational quality.

Specialized and professional accrediting bodies in the United States operate to ensure that students in educational programs receive an education consistent with standards for entry into practice or advanced practice in each of their respective fields or disciplines. With more than 60 member agencies, ASPA is the only unified, national voice that supports the importance of specialized and professional accreditation.

More information on ASPA is available at <http://www.aspa-usa.org/>.