Summer 2013

Program Director News

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Notes from the division.....

This edition of the PD News includes a copy of the revised ACOTE transition rule related to the change in the certification exam pass rate standard. The rule will impact programs with an existing area of noncompliance for pass rates under the current Standards and will come into effect with the new Standards on July 31, 2013.

The newsletter also includes excerpts from the revised policy on significant program changes. The new section provides an overview of the requirements for accredited master's-degree-level programs transitioning to an entry-level doctoral program.

I hope to see many of you at the fall meeting of the Program Directors' Councils in Atlanta on October 3, 2013. The one-day meeting will be followed by the first NBCOT/AOTA Education Summit on October 4-5, 2013. Registration for both meetings is now available online (see page 5). Please remember to confirm your housing as soon as possible to ensure that you are at the meeting hotel.

Following the spring meeting of the Representative Assembly, an ad hoc committee has been appointed to investigate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of changing the occupational therapy assistant entry-level degree from the current associate degree to either 1) include both the associate degree and bachelor's degree as options for OTA education, or 2) elevate the entry-level degree exclusively to the bachelor's degree. The ad hoc committee will provide an interim report to the fall 2013 RA meeting and a full report to the spring 2014 RA meeting. The committee includes representation from both the OTA and OT Program Director Councils.

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Chief Academic and Scientific Affairs Officer

Student Membership Circle

Is your program missing from the Student Membership Circle List?

Thank you for helping students to begin their professional roles by becoming a student member of AOTA!

http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Educators/StuRecruit.aspx

Revised Transition Rule for Programs Carrying AON for Pass Rate

"transition rule will be applied during the first 3 years under the revised Standards"

The following transition rule applies to all programs carrying an area of noncompliance related to 2006 ACOTE Standard A.5.4 on July 31, 2013. The transition rule will be applied during the first 3 years under the revised Standards until a full 3 years of data is available.

After the July 31, 2013, implementation of the 2011 ACOTE Standards, all accredited programs carrying an area of noncompliance related to 2006 ACOTE Standard A.5.4 *(The average total pass rate of program graduates taking the national certification exam for the first time over the three most recent calendar years must be 70% or higher*) will have the area of noncompliance removed at the August 1-4, 2013 ACOTE meeting. The rationale for removal is that 2006 ACOTE Standard A.5.4 will be replaced with 2011 Standard A.5.6 with different criteria.

At the time of the April 2014 ACOTE meeting, all programs will be evaluated under the first year of data collected under 2011 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*."

In April 2014, exam data for calendar year 2013 will be available regarding the total pass rate of graduates sitting for the exam within 12 months of their graduation date, irrespective of the number of attempts.

The following actions will be taken at the April 2014 ACOTE meeting for all programs that were carrying an area of noncompliance related to 2006 ACOTE Standard A.5.4 on July 31, 2013:

(1) If the program has achieved a calendar year 2013 pass rate of 80% or higher for graduates sitting for the exam within 12 months of their graduation date (regardless of the number of attempts), the program will be considered compliant with 2011 Standard A.5.6.

(2) If the program has a calendar year 2013 pass rate of less than 80% for graduates sitting for the exam within 12 months of their graduation date (regardless of the number of attempts), the program will be given an area of noncompliance and informed that ACOTE will withdraw accreditation from the program if the area of noncompliance is not corrected within the specified period of time (unless the period for achieving compliance is extended for good cause).

Master's-Degree-Level Programs changing to a Doctoral-Degree-Level Program

At the April 2013 meeting, the Council approved the following changes to Policy IV.B.1 (Significant Program Changes) to clarify the process for programs transitioning from a master's to a doctoral-level program:

Accredited master's-degree-level occupational therapy programs that are planning to change to an entry-level doctoral program must follow a separate accreditation procedure for the new doctoral-degree-level program. ACOTE review and acceptance of the OT Doctoral-Degree-Level Candidacy Application is required prior to the admission of students into the doctoral curriculum. The accreditation status of the existing program does not accrue to the doctoral program until the procedures for accreditation of a doctoral program are successfully completed.

STEP 1: THE APPLICATION REVIEW

An accredited master's-degree-level program seeking accreditation for a new doctoral-degree-level program will follow the steps outlined in ACOTE Policy III.A.1. Step One: The Application Review, including submission of the Letter of Intent, Letter of Intent Data Form, and OT Doctoral-Degree-Level Candidacy Application.

The program applying for Candidacy Status for a new entry-level doctoral program must document in the Letter of Intent that it meets the following criteria:

1. The master's degree program must be currently accredited by ACOTE and hold no areas of noncompliance.
2. The program must provide evidence of all necessary approvals to offer the doctoral degree from the institution, the educational licensing and/or governing board(s) of the state(s) in which the program is to be offered, and the institutional accrediting body. In cases where no approval is needed, statements to that effect from the relevant body are required.
3. The program director must possess all of the experience and credentials required for a doctoral-degree-level educational program.

ACOTE may elect to waive the 12-program cap on submission of Candidacy Applications for currently accredited master's-degree-level programs changing to the doctoral-degree-level. The program will not be subject to the fees related to initial accreditation.

If the application documents that the program meets the requirements for Candidacy Status and indicates the program's potential to achieve compliance with the Standards, the action will be to grant Candidacy Status. As soon as the institutional officials receive notification from ACOTE that the program has been granted Candidacy Status, they may admit students into the doctoral-degree-level program according to the approved timeline and move on to the second step, which is the initial review. AOTA will officially list the doctoral program as having Candidacy Status.

If the information received from the applicant is incomplete and/or insufficient for evaluation, the program's application will be deferred. Supplementary information will be requested for consideration at a subsequent ACOTE meeting.

The program will be denied Candidacy Status if 1) the program does not meet the requirements for Candidacy Status, or 2) the application does not indicate the program's potential to achieve compliance with the Standards.

If Candidacy Status is denied, the program will not be able to admit students and will not be eligible to proceed to the initial review step. The program may reapply for Candidacy Status by submitting a new Letter of Intent and starting the initial accreditation process again. Denial of Candidacy Status is an appealable decision.

STEP 2: THE INITIAL REVIEW

New OT doctoral-degree-level programs that have been granted Candidacy Status may proceed into Step 2 of the Initial Accreditation process, the Initial Review. The program will be required to submit a Report of Self-Study that addresses compliance with all of the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for a Doctoral-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist.

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Master's-Degree-Level Programs changing to a Doctoral-Degree-Level Program (cont...)

"The accreditation status of the existing program does not accrue to the doctoral program until the procedures for accreditation of a doctoral program are successfully completed"

Assigned reviewers will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the program's compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards and will make a recommendation to ACOTE regarding the status of the program.

If ACOTE determines that the proposed program appears to be in substantial compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for a Doctoral-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist, ACOTE may grant a status of accreditation without conducting an initial on-site evaluation. Factors that ACOTE will consider when making this decision include the history of the OT master's-degree-level program, the date of the last on-site evaluation, the date of the next scheduled on-site evaluation, and the ACOTE Standards that were in effect when the program had its last on-site evaluation.

STEP 3: THE INITIAL ON-SITE EVALUATION

If ACOTE determines that an initial on-site evaluation must be conducted prior to making an accreditation decision, the process will follow the steps outlined in ACOTE Policy III.A.3. The Initial On-Site Evaluation.

Since the accredited occupational therapy master's degree program has been paying annual accreditation fees that are designed to cover the cost of the on-site visit, no initial on-site fee will be charged.

The full policy is available online at:

http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Accreditation/Policies.aspx

Contact:
nharvison@aota.org

CHEA Review of ACOTE Completed

In April 2013, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures, and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 5-8).

ACOTE demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality, improvement, and accountability expectations that CHEA has established. ACOTE was granted recognition for 10 years.

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review at least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

Fall 2013 Program Directors Meeting & Education Summit
Atlanta, GA – Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel

October 3

Program Directors Education Councils Meeting

October 4-5

Education Summit

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. **Click here** for more information.

Fees:

Member Program Directors Meeting: $110
Member Combined Conference & PD Early: $399
Member Combined Conference & PD Regular: $444

Housing deadline: Friday, September 6, 2013

Hyatt Regency Atlanta
265 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

- Room rates: $159 single/double; $20 for each additional person. $199 Regency Club Single/Double.
- Rates do not include 16% state and local room tax (subject to change without notice).

Register now and book online at ….

http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Education-Summit.aspx

Number of Programs

Programs (Primary Sites)	Accredited	Candidate	Applicant	Total
OT Doctoral	5	4	8	17
OT Masters	146	6	11	163
OTA	166	26	30	222
TOTAL	317	36	48	402

Additional Locations	Accredited	Candidate	Applicant	Total
OT Doctoral	1	0	0	1
OT Masters	10	1	0	11
OTA	26	2	0	28
TOTAL	37	3	0	40

Total Program Locations	Accredited	Candidate	Applicant	Total
OT Doctoral	6	4	8	18
OT Masters	156	7	11	174
OTA	192	28	30	250
TOTAL	354	39	49	442

[1] Candidate 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

Self-Study Preparation Workshop

When: Tuesday, October 1, 2013 – 8:00am-5:00pm
Wednesday, October 2, 2013 – 8:00am-3:30pm
Continental breakfast provided at 7:30 each day

Where: Hyatt Regency Atlanta, GA

Format: The workshop will include didactic instruction and interactive sessions with mock a review of sample materials and interviews.

Instructors: Joyce Wandel, MS, OTR/L and Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA.

Registration: Access information at:

http://www.aota.org/~/media/Corporate/Files/EducationCareers/Accredit/45075/SelfStudyFlyer10-2013.ashx (limited to 30 participants) .

Fee: $625.00 AOTA members; $725.00 nonmembers. (Continental breakfast & breaks included)

Contact: vnjoroge@aota.org

American Occupational Therapy Association

Accreditation Department
4720 Montgomery Lane
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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

Important dates...

- ACOTE Summer Meeting
  August 1-4, 2013
  Arlington, VA
- ACOTE Winter Meeting
  December 6-8, 2013
  Savannah, GA

Resources...

Available at www.acoteonline.org:

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

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AOTA's Prospective Student Live Chat

Please refer prospective OT/OTA students to our free Live Chat with educators and current students from the Assembly of Student Delegates' Steering Committee. Their questions about occupational therapy as a career and admissions process can be answered in real-time.

Next Live Chat: August 20, 2013 (Tuesday)

Time: 7-8 pm EST

http://www.talkshoe.com/tc/29843

Phone Number: (724) 444-7444

Call ID: 29843

The schedule for future Live Chats will be on http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Considering-OT-Career.aspx . Special thanks to Tracy Chippendale, Julie McLaughlin Gray, and Myka Winder for being the moderators.