ACOTE UPDATE

Lynn Kilburg, DHSc, MBA, OTR/L
Chair, ACOTE
Outline

• Programs
• Standards Interpretative Guidance
• COVID-19 Impact
• Announcements / Resources
Programs
**Program Numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Status</th>
<th>OT Doctoral</th>
<th>OT Master’s</th>
<th>OTA Baccalaureate</th>
<th>OTA Associate</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accredited</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>172*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>221**</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate or Preaccreditation</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>199</strong></td>
<td><strong>207</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
<td><strong>244</strong></td>
<td><strong>668</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Of the total, 38 accredited master’s degree programs are transitioning to the doctoral degree level
**Of the total, 4 accredited associate degree programs are transitioning to the baccalaureate degree level

[https://acoteonline.org/all-schools/](https://acoteonline.org/all-schools/)
On-Site Accreditation Visits

- All programs must adhere to a full comprehensive review prior to accreditation term expiration.
- Programs that decide NOT to transition (i.e. maintain both OTD and MOT programs) will be required to complete a full self-study and participate in a 2.5-day onsite evaluation before their accreditation term expiration.
Standards
Standard A.5.3. Program Length

• ACOTE adopted an interpretive guide
  – Program length must be reflective of this ACOTE defined commonly accepted academic standards for degree levels in occupational therapy.
  – Informed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) (Institute of Education Sciences: NCES – statistics, research, and evaluation arm of the USDE)

• Webinar presentation is posted on the ACOTE website
Considerations

• Institutional accrediting and state agencies
• Institutional policy
• Program’s curriculum design.
• Relevant definitions:
  – Full Time Enrollment, Academic Year, Credit Hour
• Relevant Policies:
  – Degree awarded, Dual or Concurrent Degrees credits, Method for awarding credit for experiential hours
Timeline

- Compliance evidence required with reports submitted after 8/1/2022.
- The current procedure for correcting an area of noncompliance applies.
  - Allowed up to 2 years to repair an AON, depending upon program length. Plan of correction/progress reports required.
  - An extension “for cause” may be approved if the program shows evidence of progress toward meeting the standard.
As you review your programs:

- The AOTA Accreditation Department is available to discuss program specific questions (accred@aota.org).
- AOTA Inspire Session: April 1 1:00-3:00
Policy V.E. Standard Revision Process

- within 5 years after new accreditation standards are adopted, a new ESRC is appointed to evaluate and revise the standards.
- Process has started.
- First of many call for comments have been sent out

Stakeholder feedback is essential! Please watch for opportunities to provide input!
ESRC Members – Thank you!

Chairperson:  
Patty Coker-Bolt, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Vice Chairperson:  
Barbara Seguine, MAEd, COTA/L, ROH

Amanda Amaro
Richard Cicero
Jewell J. Dickson-Clayton, OTD, MPH, ATP, OTR/L
Kimberly Ganzevoort, COTAL, CNIS, FWEd
Eileen R. Garza, OTR, PhD, ATP, FAOTA
Brenda Hughes, DrOT, MA, OTR/L, CAPS

Ranelle Nissen, PhD, OTR/L
Ketki D. Raina, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA
Audrea Niccole Rowe, BA, COTA/L
Earl “Gip” Seaver, PhD
Mary Smith, EdD, OTR/L
Sophia Uehara, MPH, COTA/L
Donald E. Walkovich, DHSc, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Teresa Brininger, PhD, MBA, OT/L, CHT (staff)
Your input is critical to the process!!

- Please respond to the Educational Standards Review Committee calls for comment!!
  - The ESRC will explore entry-level competencies needed at each degree level as a priority.
  - The ESRC will continue to analyze program length data.
COVID-19 Impact
Reflections on the Pandemic

2019-2020 NBCOT Pass Rate
• OTD – 100% (30 of 30)
• OTM – 97% (169 of 174)
• OTA – 86% (189 of 221)

2020-2021 NBCOT Pass Rate
• OTD – 100% (37 of 37)
• OTM – 94% (168 of 174)
• OTA – 70% (158 of 225)

2021-2022 NBCOT Pass Rate
• OTD – 100% (49 of 49)
• OTM – 99% (172 of 174)
• OTA – 90% (206 of 226)
On-Site Visits

• On-site visits scheduled in the fall are scheduled as an in-person visit
• ACOTE recognizes an in-person visit may not be possible
• If the status of your program changes regarding on-site visitors, please notify the Accreditation Department
Didactic Coursework

- The US Department of Education continues to allow for institutions to use distance education modalities to accommodate students without going through the regular approval process for the duration of the COVID-19 national emergency continues.
- ACOTE follows this guidance. You do not need to notify ACOTE if you are temporarily moving to distant education modalities during the pandemic.
- Choosing to make a permanent change involving distance education requires ACOTE approval through the eAccreditation Portal using the Substantive Change tab (see ACOTE Policy IV.B.1. Additions or Changes).
- All programs are expected to remain in compliance with the 2018 ACOTE Standards.
Doctoral Capstone

- ACOTE will continue to allow flexibility regarding the timing of the doctoral capstone during the pandemic.
  - Programs may determine it is appropriate for a student to begin their doctoral capstone experience before completion of Level II fieldwork within limits. (For example, if a student’s capstone experience is an in-depth exposure to enhance clinical practice skills, it would not be appropriate for the student to start his/her capstone experience before completing all Level II fieldwork.)
  - Programs must ensure that the capstone experience is in compliance with all D.1.0 Doctoral Capstone Standards. (For example, the student can only begin the capstone experience if they have completed all coursework and all preparatory activities defined in ACOTE Standard D.1.3.)
Announcements and Resources
Goodbye’s and Hello’s!

• Retirements
  – Sue Graves – 43 years of service
  – Barb Ostrove – 5 years of service

• Welcome
  – Laure Rea, OTD, MBA, OTR/L – Accreditation Manager, Training and Operations
  – Sherry Kolodziejczak, MS, OTR/L – ACOTE Treasurer/Secretary

• Join us!!
  – Consider joining the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators – Refer practitioners too!
Workshops

• **Self-Study Workshop**
  – Designed to meet the needs of the program directors and faculty preparing for an upcoming self-study review
  – For the new program directors wanting to understand more about the accreditation process

**Next Workshop:**
April 28, 2022
• Please be sure to read each Director’s Update, which is posted on the ACOTE website after every ACOTE meeting for the most up to date information regarding Standards’ Interpretations and policy changes

• Previous publications of the PD Newsletters are posted on www.acoteonline.org under “News and Updates”
REQUESTS and COMMUNICATIONS

• ACOTE will periodically send an email request, survey, or communication – please read and respond!

• Current Survey: PLEASE REPLY!
  – Do you access/receive any federal funds that require your program be ACCREDITATED BY ACOTE as an eligibility criteria?