



Academic Programs Annual Data Report

Academic Year 2020–2021

Prepared by:

Knowledge Division
Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FNAP, FAOTA—Chief Officer
American Occupational Therapy Association
6116 Executive Blvd
Suite 200
North Bethesda, MD 20853-4929
301-652-AOTA (2682)
www.aota.org

Note: The data contained in this document is self-reported by the academic programs through the annual data survey submitted to AOTA in March of each year.
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Section I: Programs

Number of accredited programs

	OT Doctorate	OT Master	OTA Bachelor	OTA Associate
Accredited	63	133	1	218
Candidate	69	8	5	8
Applicant	67	27	12	15
Total	199	168	18	241

Notes:

Accredited: The academic program is accredited by ACOTE®.

Candidate: The program has been granted candidate program status by ACOTE and can admit students but has not yet completed the initial on-site evaluation that leads to granting accreditation.

Applicant: The academic program has submitted a letter of intent to apply for developing program status.

The Master/ Associate total does NOT include programs that will be closing once transition to Doctorate/Bachelor is completed.

Regional distribution of accredited programs (including additional locations)

	OT Doctorate	OT Master	OTA
MW	36%	28%	30%
NE	21%	35%	21%
S	27%	20%	27%
SW	10%	9%	14%
W	6%	7%	8%
other	0%	1%	<1%
	100%	100%	100%

Regional distribution of applicant/candidate programs

	OT Doctorate	OT Master	OTA Bachelor	OTA Associate
MW	28%	15%	29%	38%
NE	24%	21%	29%	14%
S	21%	25%	29%	29%
SW	14%	15%	6%	14%
W	12%	21%	6%	5%
other	1%	3%	0%	0%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Section II: Program Formats

Primary Format

Doctoral-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students		
	Number of Programs	Percent
Weekday- Traditional full-time format only	48	76%
Other format options: weekend, evenings, blended	15	24%
Total	63	100%

Master's-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students*		
	Number of Programs	Percent
Weekday- Traditional full-time format only	127	74%
Other formats: weekend, evenings, blended	45	26%
Total	172	100%

Programs for occupational therapy assistant students*:		
	Number of Programs	Percent
Weekday: Traditional full-time format only	146	66%
Other formats: weekend, evenings, blended	76	34%
Total	222	100%

* Note: A number of programs offer multiple tracks with different formats.

Percentage of programs offered by distance education

Doctoral-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students		
	Frequency	Percent
Zero %	17	27%
1%–24%	26	41%
25%–49%	6	10%
50%–74%	7	11%
75%–100%	7	11%
Total	63	100%

Master's-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students		
	Frequency	Percent
Zero %	50	29%
1%–24%	87	51%
25%–49%	14	8%
50%–74%	14	8%
75%–100%	7	4%
Total	172	100%

Programs for occupational therapy assistant students		
	Frequency	Percent
0%	86	39%
1%–24%	97	44%
25%–49%	21	9%
50%–74%	16	7%
75%–100%	2	1%
Total	222	100%

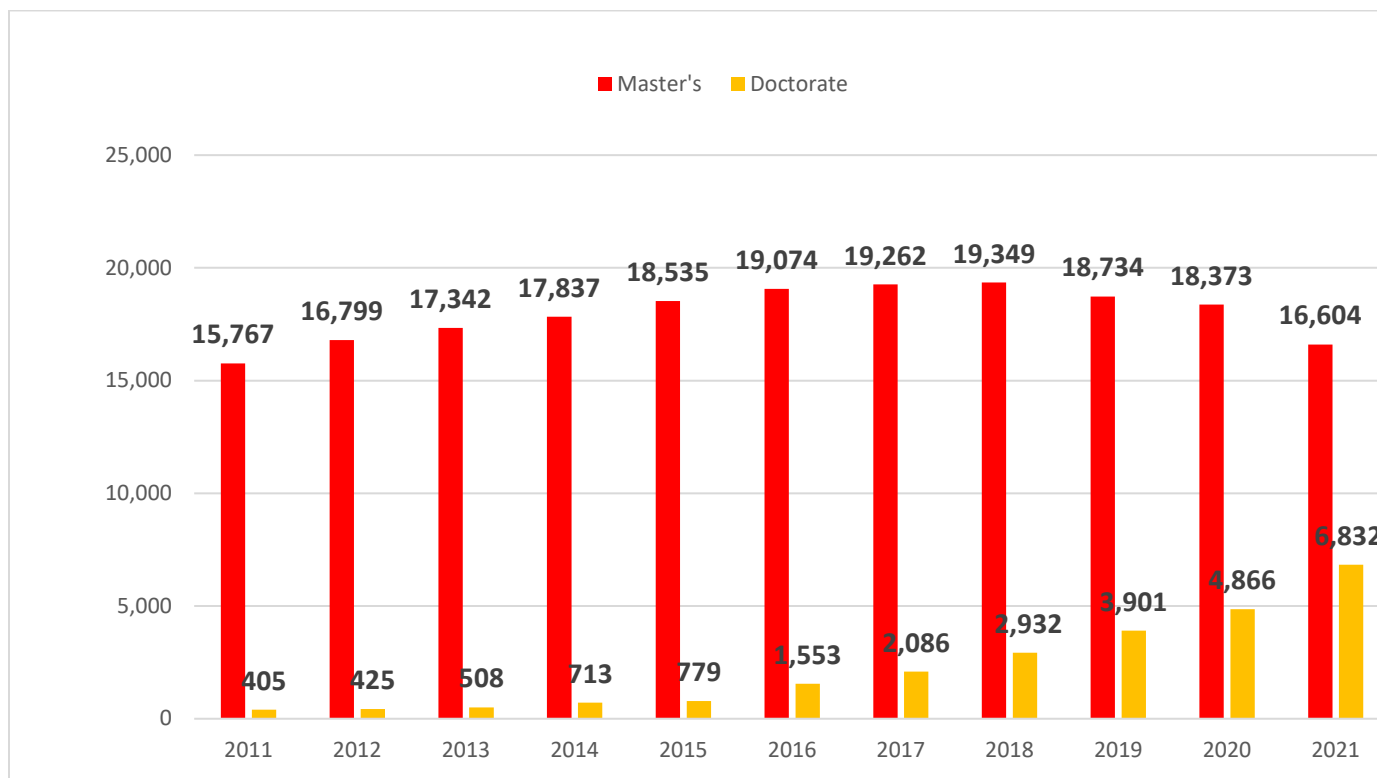
Section III: Students

Number of students currently enrolled

Students preparing for entry into practice as an occupational therapist		
Master	16,604	81%
Doctorate	6,832	19%
Total	23,436	100%

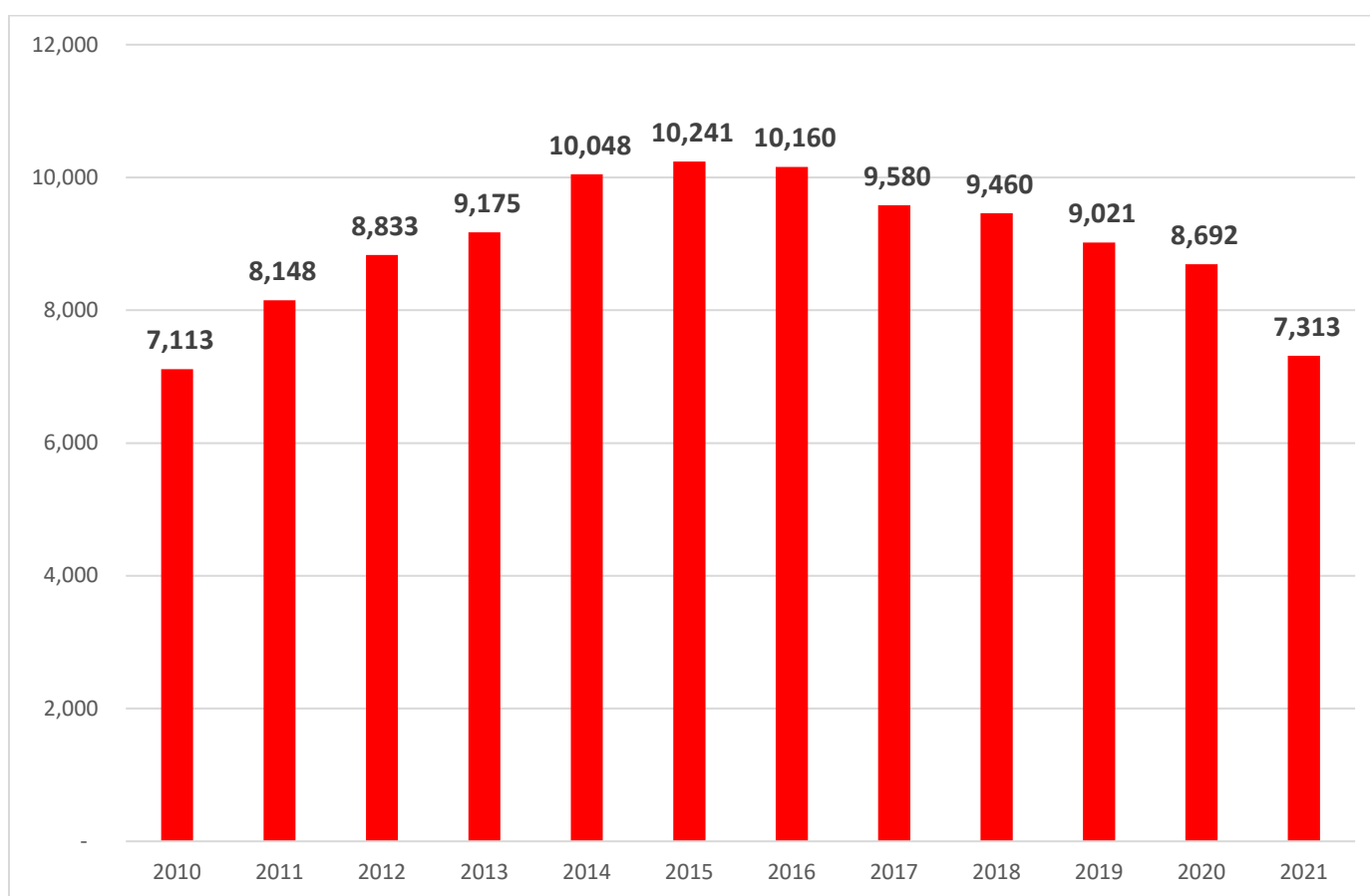
Students preparing for entry into practice as an occupational therapy assistant:		
Total	7,313	100%

Trends in enrollment: OT student enrollment



Number of students preparing for entry into practice as an occupational therapist:											
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Master	15,767	16,799	17,342	17,837	18,535	19,074	19,262	19,349	18,734	18,373	16,604
Doctorate	405	425	508	713	779	1,553	2,086	2,932	3,901	4,866	6,832
Total	16,172	17,224	17,850	18,550	19,314	20,627	21,348	22,281	22,635	23,239	23,436

Trends in enrollment: OTA student enrollment



Number of students preparing for entry into practice as an occupational therapy assistant											
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	8,148	8,833	9,175	10,048	10,241	10,160	9,580	9,460	9,021	8,692	7,313

Applications:

Doctoral-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students:				
	Admission Slots	Applications Submitted	Number of Students Admitted	Filled
2015	299	1,973	288	96%
2016	595	3,066	549	92%
2017	765	3,862	702	92%
2018	1,128	5,660	1,067	95%
2019	1,550	7,028	1,380	89%
2020	1,836	7,560	1,649	90%
2021	2,711	10,361	2,405	89%

Master's-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students:				
	Admission Slots	Applications Submitted	Number of Students Admitted	
2015	7,181	45,083	7,084	99%
2016	7,395	44,934	7,236	98%
2017	7,436	42,661	7,327	99%
2018	7,531	41,052	7,147	95%
2019	7,256	34,135	6,835	94%
2020	6,997	27,839	6,376	91%
2021	6,950	26,362	6,137	88%

Associate-degree-level programs for occupational therapy assistant students:				
	Admission Slots	Applications Submitted	Number of Students Admitted	
2015	7,608	14,372	6,428	85%
2016	8,129	14,861	6,548	81%
2017	7,301	13,793	6,137	84%
2018	7,489	12,736	6,068	81%
2019	7,407	11,183	5,848	79%
2020	7,193	9,889	5,130	71%
2021	7,257	8,987	4,747	65%

Ethnicity—Percent of enrolled students who self-identify as Hispanic:

Self-identified ethnicity of doctoral-degree-level students			
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Other
2014	4%	96%	
2015	3%	97%	
2016	4%	96%	
2017	3%	97%	
2018	4%	96%	
2019	3%	97%	
2020	7%	90%	3%
2021	10%	85%	5%

Self-identified ethnicity of master's-degree-level students			
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Other
2014	6%	94%	
2015	6%	94%	
2016	6%	94%	
2017	7%	93%	
2018	7%	93%	
2019	8%	92%	
2020	8%	87%	5%
2021	10%	85%	5%

Self-identified ethnicity of associate-degree-level students			
	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Other
2014	11%	89%	
2015	11%	89%	
2016	11%	89%	
2017	13%	87%	
2018	13%	87%	
2019	14%	86%	
2020	14%	82%	4%
2021	17%	80%	3%

Race–Percent of enrolled students who self-identified:

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Missing/ Other
Doctoral	<1%	8%	5%	<1%	76%	10%
Master's	<1%	8%	6%	<1%	74%	11%
OTA	<1%	5%	11%	1%	68%	14%

Race–2010 versus 2021

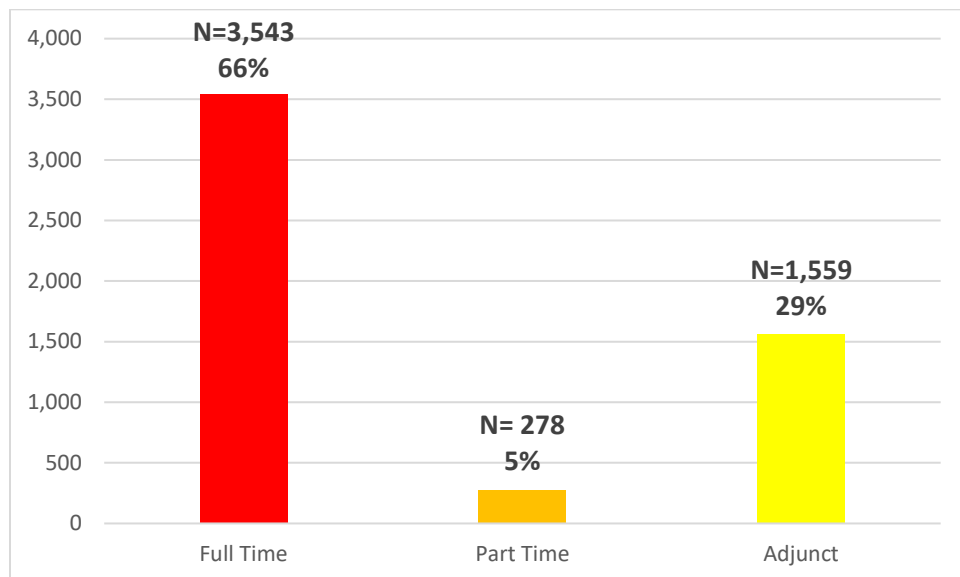
	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian		Black or African American		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		White		Missing/ Other	
	2010	2021	2010	2021	2010	2021	2010	2021	2010	2021	2010	2020
Doctorate	0%	<1%	4%	8%	4%	5%	0%	<1%	88%	76%	4%	10%
Master	0%	<1%	5%	8%	6%	6%	1%	<1%	86%	74%	1%	11%
OTA	1%	<1%	2%	5%	13%	11%	1%	1%	82%	68%	2%	14%

Gender:

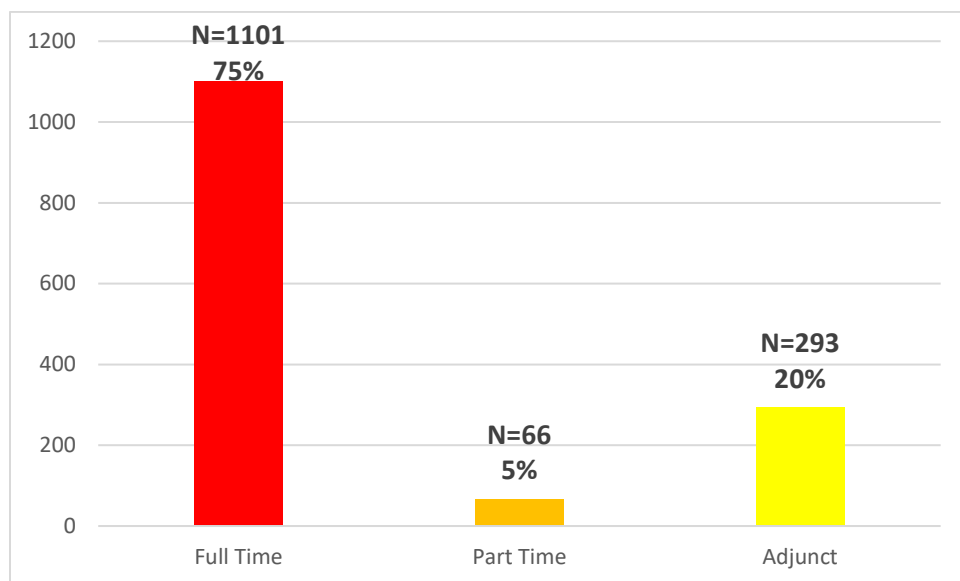
Self-identified ethnicity of associate-degree-level students			
	Female		Male
Doctorate	91%		8%
Master	89%		10%
OTA	85%		14%

Section IV: Faculty

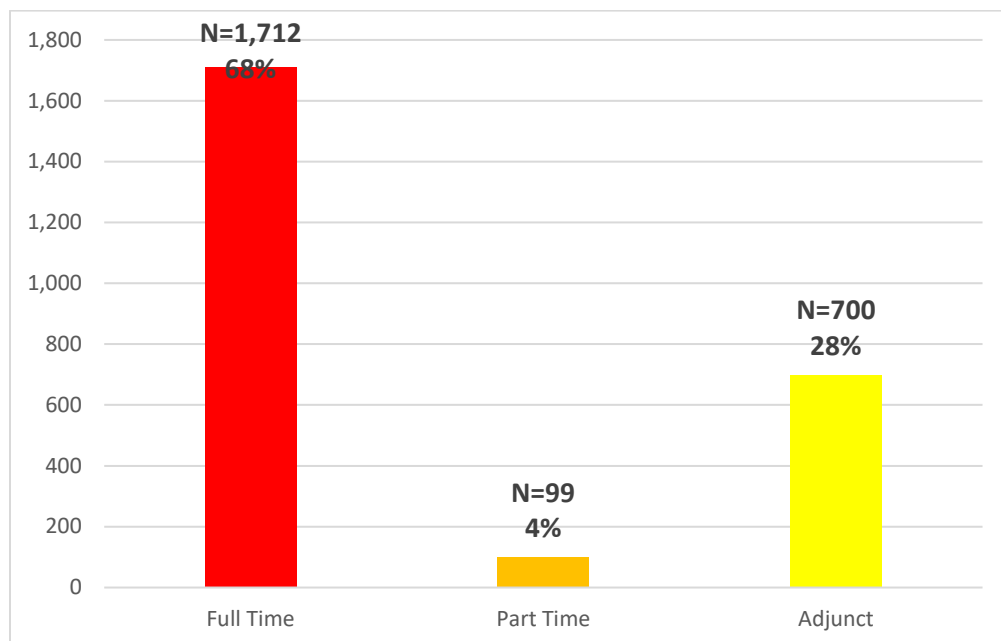
All Faculty



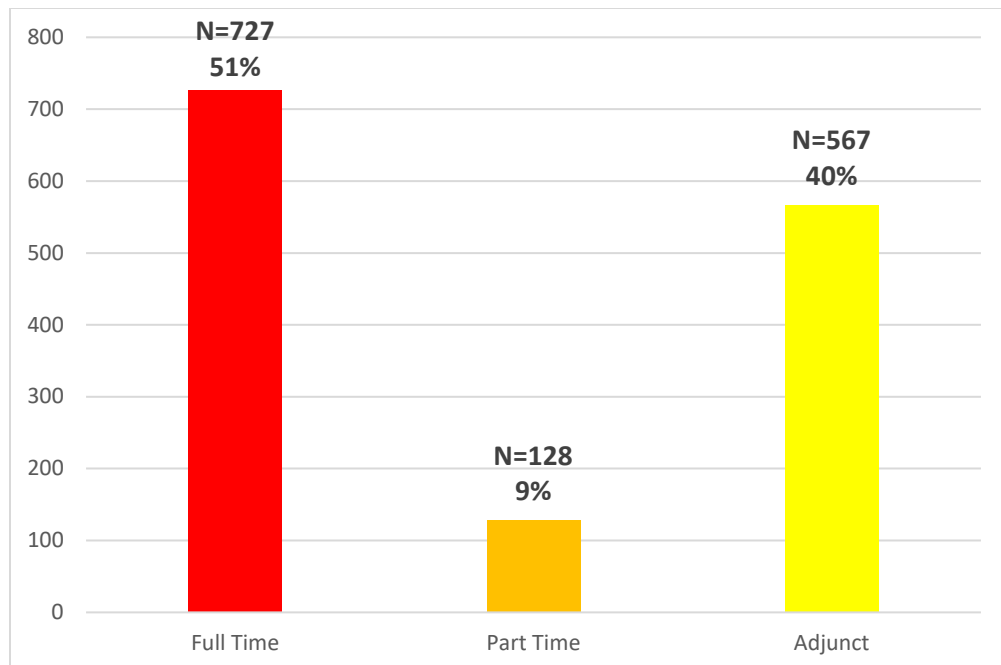
OT-Doctorate Program Faculty



OT-Master Program Faculty



OTA Program Faculty



Faculty: Student ratios in labs

Doctoral-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students			
	Minimum	Maximum	Median
Lab	1:7	1:33	1:14

Master's-degree-level programs for occupational therapy students			
	Minimum	Maximum	Median
Lab	1:6	1:25	1:14

Associate-degree-level programs for occupational therapy assistant students			
	Minimum	Maximum	Median
Lab	1:2	1:20	1:10

Faculty Ethnicity

Self-identified ethnicity of faculty members		
Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	No Response
243 (4%)	4,735 (88%)	461 (8%)

Faculty Race

No Response	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Other
470 (8%)	10 (<1%)	306 (6%)	334 (6%)	20 (<1%)	4,153 (76%)	146 (3%)

Faculty Sex:

Self-identified ethnicity of associate-degree-level students		
Female	Male	No response
4,593 (84%)	748 (14%)	98 (2%)

Section V: Outcomes

Program Retention Rates

Retention Rates:			
	Doctoral	Master's	OTA
2015	98%	96%	85%
2016	98%	97%	83%
2017	98%	97%	85%
2018	98%	97%	86%
2019	98%	96%	85%
2020	98%	96%	80%
2021	96%	96%	78%

Program Graduates

Number of graduates:			
	Doctoral	Master's	OTA
2015	184	6,153	5,020
2016	221	6,485	5,472
2017	396	6,846	4,939
2018	591	7,183	4,860
2019	908	7,224	4,969
2020	1,199	6,273	3,846
2021	1,712	7,522	4,640

Program fieldwork Level II pass rates:

FW Level II Pass Rates:				
	Placements	Failed	Withdrawn	Completed / Pass
Doctoral	4,545	51	25	98%
Master's	14,815	145	141	98%
OTA	8,442	174	193	96%

Note: 95+% of withdrawal pandemic related.

Certification exam new graduate pass rates

Occupational therapy graduates:									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Passed	5,268	5,715	5,948	6,448	6,882	7,556	7,745	7,710	10,491
Candidates	5,396	5,848	6,052	6,549	6,987	7,431	7,927	7,947	10,708
Percentage	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	97%	98%

(2016: OT Master = 98%, OT Doctorate = 100%)

(2017: OT Master = 98%; OT Doctorate = 100%)

(2018: OT Master = 98%; OT Doctorate = 99%)

(2019: OT Master = 98%; OT Doctorate = 99%)

(2020: OT Master = 97%; OT Doctorate = 97%)

(2021: OT Master = 97%; OT Doctorate = 99%)

Occupational therapy assistant graduates									
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Passed	4,028	4,206	4,488	4,495	4,566	4,256	4,152	3,015	4,395
Candidates	4,236	4,512	4,905	4,839	5,083	4,652	4,665	3,524	4,044
Percentage	95%	93%	91%	93%	91%	91%	89%	86%	92%

Employment

Employment as reported by programs			
Percent of graduates employed in OT/OTA position within 6 months of graduation.	Number of Doctoral OT	Number of Master OT	Number of OTA
1%–24%	0	4	4
25%–49%	3	9	34
50%–74%	4	19	98
75%–100%	23	131	88

NOTE: A number of programs had no graduates in the reporting period.

Starting salary

Average starting salary as reported by programs:			
Average Salary Range	Number Doctoral OT	Number of Master's OT	Number of OTA
0–\$20,000	0	0	3
\$20,001–\$40,000	0	0	49
\$40,001–\$60,000	4	24	151
\$60,001–\$ 80,000	24	133	12
\$80,001–\$100,000	2	6	0
\$100,001-120,000	1	0	0
>120,000	1	0	0

NOTE: A number of programs had no graduates in the reporting period.



About AOTA

AOTA, founded in 1917 and based in North Bethesda, Md., is the national professional association of approximately 60,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and occupational therapy students. The association, a 501(c)(6) entity, represents 213,000 U.S. occupational therapy practitioners and students.