

PD Newsletter

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION

Fall 2016

From the Director of Accreditation:

Over the past few months, ACOTE, the Educational Standards Review Committee (ESRC), and the Post-Professional Committee have been very busy compiling data and questions to address the changing needs in occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant education. The Post-Professional committee has met multiple times to develop the Post-Professional Guidelines and plans to send out a Call for Comment survey in the coming weeks. The ESRC met for the second time in Bethesda September 23-24, 2016 to write Draft I of the new ACOTE Standards. After ACOTE review, the first draft of the new standards will be sent out in early spring 2017, accompanied by a survey for feedback. The committee is thankful for all of the comments received, which have helped to shape this new set of standards.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of occupational therapy education.

Heather Stagliano, DHSc, OTR
Director of Accreditation

Educational Standards Review Committee (ESRC)

The Educational Standards Review Committee (ESRC) met for the second time September 23-24, 2016 to write Draft I of the new OT (doctoral and master's degree level) and OTA (baccalaureate and associate's degree level) accreditation standards. The first draft incorporated the data and stakeholder feedback from the Call for Comment survey and direction from ACOTE. In addition to completing the first draft of the new standards, the committee also developed a survey to ascertain feedback on Draft I.

ACOTE will review Draft I and the survey at its next meeting in December, and will host an Open Hearing regarding the standards at AOTA's Annual Conference and Expo in April 2017. The ESRC will then hold a conference call in early spring and meet again in May 2017 to review the Draft I survey responses, feedback from the Open Hearing, and any further direction from ACOTE, and will complete Draft II based on this information. A report of the ESRC's actions will take place at the Academic Leadership Council meeting in San Diego in October 2016.

The ESRC anticipates submitting a final draft of the new Standards for ACOTE review and approval by December 2017. Subject to ACOTE approval, the implementation of the new standards will take place in mid-2019 or 2020, and all programs will have 18 months to implement the new set of standards. Programs will be able to submit Letters of Intent to seek accreditation of new baccalaureate-level OTA programs once the new baccalaureate-level OTA standards are adopted by ACOTE.

Standards Interpretive Changes

An interpretation for Standard A.6.9 has been added to clarify that the information provided on the relationship of the courses to the curriculum design must be available to students. This information does not need to be included on the course syllabi, but must be provided in a document accessible to students.

Interpretation added to Standard A.6.9

INFORMATION ON THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE COURSES TO THE CURRICULUM DESIGN MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS. THIS INFORMATION MAY BE INCLUDED ON THE COURSE SYLLABI OR WITHIN ANOTHER DOCUMENT, WHICH IS READILY AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.

An interpretation for Standard A.4.2 has been added to clarify that programs must include a total number of graduates. This information does not need to be provided via a table, as it could be presented in a narrative. Please note that graduation rates must be posted on each program's website, but not necessarily on the program's home page.

Interpretation added to Standard A.4.2

THE NUMBER OF PROGRAM GRADUATES MUST BE TOTALED FOR THE 3-YEAR REPORTING PERIOD. IF THE PROGRAM HAS ONLY ONE OR TWO YEARS OF GRADUATE DATA, THIS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE AND TOTALED. THE TOTAL MAY BE IN THE FORM OF A NARRATIVE OR WITHIN A GRID. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAM GRADUATES AND GRADUATION RATES MUST BE POSTED ON THE PROGRAM'S WEB PAGE.

The latest version of the ACOTE Standards and Interpretive Guide can be found here: [August 2016 Standards Interpretive Guide](#). Please remember to use the most recent Standards and Interpretive Guide as the interpretations, found in the grayed areas of the document, can and do change. The current document is the **August 2016** Interpretive Guide Version.

AOTA's NBCOT Exam Prep

AOTA's online NBCOT® Exam Prep program is the most comprehensive and effective way for new occupational therapy practitioners to get ready for the biggest test of their career—at their own pace, any time and any place. Developed and reviewed by top occupational therapy leaders and educators across all practice areas, Exam Prep includes hundreds of self-assessment questions and vital tools to help students and new graduates focus on the topics they'll need to master. Subscriptions include access for 1 year from the date of purchase. For more information and to order, visit: [AOTA's NBCOT Exam Prep](#).

Policy Changes

[ACOTE Policy III.A. "Overview of the Initial Accreditation Process"](#) was updated to provide clarification that if a program loses its program director during the Preaccreditation phase, the accreditation process will be delayed until a qualified program director is hired and on staff. Additionally, this policy was updated to stipulate that all reports and documentation must be submitted in English.

[ACOTE Policy VI.D. "Inactive Status"](#) was updated to include sample statements for inactive programs.

[ACOTE Policy VI.C. "Statement of Ethical Responsibilities and Conflict of Interest Guidelines"](#) was revised to eliminate the option for program directors to strike 5 names for no cause. This will not be effective until the 2017/2018 on-site year and all programs and reviewers must still complete the conflict of interest form to note any conflicts.

[ACOTE Policy IV.B.1. "Additions or Changes"](#) was revised to add deadline dates for submission of both minor and significant program changes. Programs will be guided to only submit minor changes by the following deadlines:

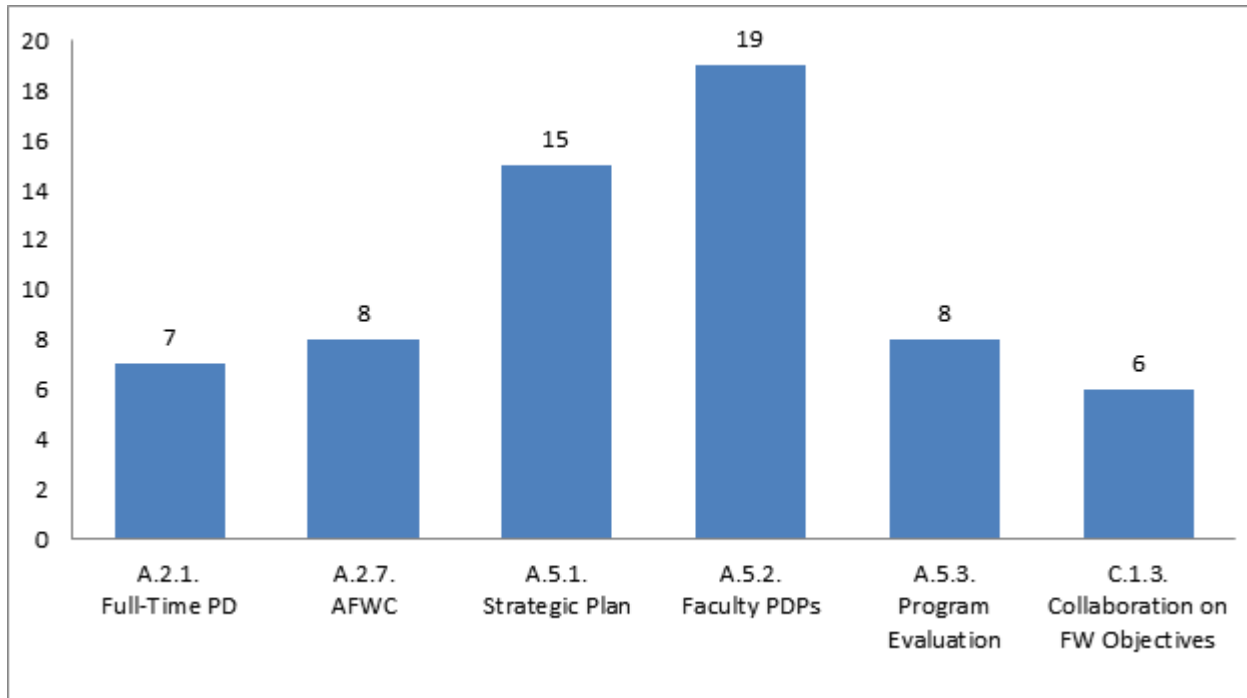
- January 15th
- March 15th
- May 15th
- July 15th
- September 15th
- November 15th

Significant program changes are to be submitted on the following schedule to allow for review by ACOTE prior to the ACOTE meeting:

- February 20th (for review at the April ACOTE meeting)
- June 20th (for review at the August ACOTE meeting)
- October 20th (for review at the December ACOTE meeting)

PD Newsletter

Most Frequently Cited Areas of Noncompliance August 2016



Program Numbers

As of September 26, 2016, the number of program locations accredited or in the accreditation process totaled 510.

Program Status	OT Doctoral	OT Master's	OTA	TOTAL
Accredited Programs NOTE: 11 of the accredited OTM programs are transitioning to the OTD.	14	155	220	389
Accredited Additional Locations	0	10	11	21
Candidate Programs	13	17	17	47
Developing Additional Locations	0	1	1	2
Applicant Programs	13	12	25	50
Applicant Additional Locations	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	40	196	274	510

August 2016 ACOTE Meeting Actions

At the August 2016 meeting, ACOTE reviewed and took action on 413 program reports including the following:

Initial Accreditation Visits:

- 2 programs were granted initial accreditation for a term of 7 years.
- 6 programs were granted initial accreditation for a term of 5 years.

Reaccreditation Visits:

- 6 programs were reaccredited for a term of 10 years.
- 12 programs were reaccredited for a term of 7 years.

Candidacy Application (Step 1 of the Initial Accreditation Process):

- 6 programs were granted Candidacy Status.

Preaccreditation Review (Step 2 of the Initial Accreditation Process):

- 6 programs were granted Preaccreditation Status.
- 1 program was denied Preaccreditation Status.

Accreditation Status Changes

- 3 programs had their accreditation status changed from Probationary Accreditation to Accreditation based on review of a Plan of Correction or Progress Report.
- 1 program had their accreditation status changed from Accreditation to Probationary Accreditation based on review of a Report of Fact-Finding Visit.

A full report on ACOTE Actions is available online here: [August 2016 ACOTE Actions](#).

New ACOTE Treasurer

ACOTE has announced that Barbara Seguire, MAED, COTA/L was elected as the new ACOTE Treasurer. Ms. Seguire began her term in August 2016 and replaces Melissa Tilton, BS, COTA/L, ROH.



OTCAS

The Centralized Application Service
for Occupational Therapy

To simplify the application process for prospective occupational therapy students and to facilitate the admissions process for OT programs, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is offering the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS).

BENEFITS TO OTCAS PROGRAMS

- Gives OT programs exposure to a broader national spectrum of applicants
- Enables targeted messaging to applicants through innovative communications tools
- Provides online access to rich applicant data including GPAs, test scores, demographic information, and other academic criteria to conduct analyses to make better admissions decisions
- Supports automatic ranking and scoring of applicants based on customizable criteria
- Frees staff from resource-intensive administrative tasks

BENEFITS TO OTCAS APPLICANTS

- Delivers an exceptional applicant experience with an intuitive, online application and applicant support to answer questions quickly
- Enables prospective students to apply to multiple programs using a single online application
- Lets applicants check the status of their applications in real time

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
<http://info.liaison-intl.com/otcas>

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