

PD Newsletter

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

Winter 2015

A few notes...

This edition of the PD Newsletter includes Standards interpretations and clarifications set by the Council. Please review the updates that will be placed in the December 2014 Interpretive Guide.

Additionally, the ACOTE task group submitted its initial plan to explore the entry-level degree at the December 2014 meeting and will begin exploring the next steps to collect and evaluate the evidence on entry-level degree requirements. More information about this process is summarized on page 3 of the newsletter.

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

Heather Stagliano, DHSc, OTR/L
Director of Accreditation

Recruiting New RAE Members!

We are actively recruiting OT and OTA practitioners to meet demands with the increased number of OT and OTA programs. The 2015 application deadline is June 20, and the application form, as well as additional information, can be found at www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Accreditation/Announcements.aspx. Please encourage OT and OTA practitioners that would be valuable additions to the RAE to apply!

Further questions may be directed to hstagliano@aota.org

The AOTA Self-Study Preparation Workshop

The AOTA Self-Study Preparation Workshop is designed to meet the needs of program directors and faculty preparing for an upcoming self-study review and new program directors wanting to understand more about the accreditation process. The workshop includes didactic instruction and interactive sessions with a mock review of sample materials and interviews.

Topics covered include:

(1) How to get started on a report of self-study; (2) What to consider when writing the report; (3) What are the key elements in the self-study; (4) How much detail is needed; (5) What are the reviewers looking for in the self-study; (6) How to prepare for the on-site visit; (7) What do I need to show the on-site reviewers; and (8) Review of the e-Accreditation System

Attendance is limited to 30 participants.

Contact: vnjoroge@aota.org
Look under workshops at www.acoteonline.org.

Next Workshop:

Due to the high demand for the spring and fall workshops, a summer workshop is being added.

When: mid- June 2015

Where: Not yet determined, but will be in the metro DC area.

New Standard Interpretation for C.1.7

“Standard C.1.7 met through a Level I fieldwork experience must be comparable in duration and assessment methods to other Level I fieldwork experiences.”



Many programs use a Level I fieldwork experience to meet Standard C.1.7, but presently there are no minimum time requirements for Level I fieldwork.

The Council determined that if Standard C.1.7 is met through a Level I fieldwork experience, the experience **must be comparable in duration and assessment methods** to other Level I fieldwork experiences offered by the program.

For example, a 2-hour fieldtrip is not equivalent to a 3-day experience. The experience must be consistent with the curriculum design.

Further questions may be directed to hstagliano@aota.org

Standard C.1.7 Clarification

“Fieldwork Level I may be a separate entity and not attached to a course”



The Standards do not state that the psychological and social factors component of fieldwork has to be a part of a course.

Level I fieldwork has to be integral to the program's curriculum design and include experiences designed to enrich didactic coursework through directed observation and participation (C.1.8), but Level I fieldwork may be a separate entity and not attached to a course. The program should have appropriate and specific objectives to meet the intent of Standard C.1.7.

Ensure that at least one fieldwork experience (either Level I or Level II) has as its focus psychological and social factors that influence engagement in occupation.

Further questions may be directed to hstagliano@aota.org

Update on ACOTE's Task Group on Entry-Level Degrees

Given the recent dialogue within the profession on degrees for occupational therapy personnel, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) has taken initial steps to formally explore these issues.

The Council met with members of the Board of Directors during the August 2014 ACOTE® meeting to discuss the AOTA Board of Director's statement on entry-level doctoral education. In addition, the Council independently discussed the necessity to comprehensively examine entry-level practice for both the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant.

Consistent with ACOTE®'s mission of establishing standards for the preparation of competent occupational therapy practitioners, ACOTE® has established a task force to work alongside stakeholders to collect and evaluate evidence to identify the optimal entry level(s) of education for ethical, accountable, and efficient practice to meet society's occupational needs.

The task group submitted its initial plan at the December 2014 meeting and will begin exploring the next steps of collecting and evaluating the evidence on entry-level degree requirements and report to the Council for approval at the April 2015 meeting.

Further questions may be directed to
hstagliano@aota.org

Standard A.2.3 Update - Teaching Responsibilities

"Teaching responsibilities can be met through courses outside of the occupational therapy program."

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At the December 2014 ACOTE meeting, it was determined that Standard A.2.3 could be met through courses in an area **outside** of occupational therapy. It was confirmed that the academic appointment must be full-time and the teaching responsibilities may be met through one course that is not limited to the occupational therapy educational program.

Further questions may be directed to
hstagliano@aota.org

AOTA is pleased to announce a **new Research Track** at the 2015 AOTA Conference. Look for the 51 research papers in the following categories in the conference program:

- Assessment/Measurement
- Basic Research
- Health Services Research & Education
- Prevention and Intervention
- Translational Research

We also have 167 accepted research posters and 24 late-breaking research posters.

Abstracts from the Scientific Research Track will be published in a special online supplement to the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*. Each abstract will have its own unique DOI#.

Please share the following AOTA-sponsored sessions related to research with colleagues:

Session	When & Where	Description
Institute 002: (AOTA/AOTF) Design and Conduct of Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials	Wednesday, Apr 15, 2015, 12:00 - 6:30 PM, MCC 201AB	Speakers will provide solutions for commonly encountered challenges of conducting, reviewing, and monitoring clinical trials involving behavioral interventions.
WS 315: National Institutes of Health (NIH): Research Funding and Grantsmanship	Saturday, Apr 18, 2015, 8:00 -11:00 AM Omni Hotel, Broadway Ballroom AB	National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), and National Institute on Aging (NIA) will present: NIH's research funding mechanisms and research training opportunities, scientific review process, and grantsmanship.
SC 410: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI): Mission and Research	Sunday, Apr 19, 2015, 9:30 -11:00 AM MCC 108	This session will describe the PCORI funding application and scientific review processes, particularly highlighting the uniqueness of PCORI's scoring criteria and merit reviews.
SC 357: How To Submit General and Research Proposals for Annual Conference	Saturday, Apr 18, 2015, 10:00 -11:00 AM MCC 103A	Learn what information is needed to ensure that your submission is complete and will more likely receive a positive review. This session is tailored to first-time submitters.
SC 156: Examining Occupational Therapy Treatments: A Structured Approach to Describe Content and Process	Thursday, Apr 16, 2015, 11:00 -12:30 PM Omni Hotel: Legends Ballroom FG	Using clinical rehabilitation cases and a treatment taxonomy, we'll examine key features of treatments and learn ways to document our clinical reasoning underlying skilled interventions.

AOTA-Sponsored Sessions Related to Accreditation



The following general sessions will be provided at conference.

(AOTA) Changing Practice Settings: Becoming an Occupational Therapy Educator

Wednesday, Apr 15, 2015, 12:00 PM - 6:30 PM SC 002

Making the transition from practitioner to an occupational therapy educator can be daunting. Participants in this Seminar will be introduced to the world of academia. Working in small groups with experienced educators each participant will develop a professional development plan and goals for making the transition.

(AOTA) Current Trends in Accreditation & Higher Education

Thursday, Apr 16, 2015, 10:00 AM -11:30 AM SC 122

This course will provide an overview and analyzes of changes in higher education policy and data trends that will potentially impact occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant education.

Staff Contacts

Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Chief Academic and Scientific Affairs Officer

E-mail: nharvison@aota.org

Phone: 301-652-6611, x2202

Heather Stagliano, DHSc, OTR/L

Director of Accreditation

E-mail: hstagliano@aota.org

Phone: 301-652-6611, x2911

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

Susan Lin, ScD, OTR/L

Director of Research

E-mail: slin@aota.org

Phone: 301-652-6611, x2091

Valeta Njoroge

Education Operations Coordinator

E-mail: vnjoroge@aota.org

Phone: 301-652-6611, x2932

Deborah Yi

On-site Program Coordinator

E-mail: dyi@aota.org

Phone: 301-652-6611, x2914

American Occupational Therapy Association

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4720 Montgomery Lane

Suite 200

Bethesda, MD 20814-3449

Phone:

(301) 652-6611 Ext. 2914

Fax:

(240) 762-5140

E-Mail:

accred@aota.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.aotsonline.org



Participation and support continues to grow for the Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service (OTCAS).

OT program participation in OTCAS has significantly grown over the past two years, with 66% of all eligible graduate programs choosing to utilize the service.

By joining OTCAS, your occupational therapy program will become part of a national platform for promotion and visibility, data collection and management, and the sharing of best practices. OTCAS is administered through a partnership between the AOTA and Liaison International, the leader in centralized application services (CAS) for the health professions.

Is your office understaffed?

Are you overwhelmed with the amount of paper documents you receive during the application cycle?

Do you have limited resources to manage your growing applicant pool?

Are you having difficulty filling seats reserved for out-of-state applicants?

OTCAS can help! The service offers:

- Attractive, modern, online applications for prospective students
- Exposure to a broader national spectrum of applicants
- A platform to cultivate and recruit applicants as soon as an OTCAS account is created
- CRM tools that enable targeted communications and messaging to in-progress applicants
- Access to secure, Web-based admissions software to make admissions decisions
- Rich database allows for comparative data on GPAs, test scores, demographic information, and other academic criteria
- Analytic platform supports automatic ranking and scoring of applicants based on customizable criteria
- Ideal platform for sharing best practices
- Decrease in administrative burdens enabled by integrated service model, in which transcripts are received, individual and aggregate GPAs are calculated, application documents are scanned, and support is provided to applicants via telephone, email, and social media

OTCAS is a service of AOTA and available free of charge to admissions teams managing Master's and Doctoral degree programs. Complimentary trainings can be scheduled at your convenience, as the OTCAS staff carefully tailors an onboarding experience to your meet the needs of your unique program.

Eligible programs can sign on to participate in OTCAS at any time.

For more information please contact Jessica Scott at jscott@liaison-intl.com.

Number of Programs

As of January 6, 2015, the number of program locations in the accreditation process totaled 470.

Program Status	OT Doctoral	OT Master's	OTA	TOTAL
Accredited Programs	7	149	189	345
Accredited Additional Locations	0	10	24	34
Candidate Programs	11	11	21	43
Developing Additional Locations	0	2	1	3
Applicant Programs	8	13	23	44
Applicant Additional Locations	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	26	185	259	470

In September 2007, there were 147 accredited programs for occupational therapy and 128 accredited programs for occupational therapy assistants. At that time there were NO applicant or candidate programs.

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.