

PD Newsletter

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

Winter 2016

A few notes...

This edition of the PD Newsletter includes important notifications, updates to several policies, and information on some of the institutes which will be presented at conference in April. On page 2, you will find an update on the process regarding ACOTE's decision on the entry-level degree for the OT and the OTA. Additionally, the most frequently cited areas of noncompliance (AONs) from the past 2 ACOTE meetings are posted on page 4.

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

Heather Stagliano, DHSc, OTR
Director of Accreditation

Important Browser Information for the e-Accreditation System

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We are working with the developers at e-Accred to ensure that the system runs seamlessly for all end-users. The developers recommend that all users run the system through the **Chrome** or **Firefox** browsers. Please download either of these browsers (they are free) and begin using one of them for all of your work in e-Accred. The system does not support Internet Explorer 9 or 10 and using IE 9 or 10 will result in distorted information.

Final Notice! ***Website reviews of Standards A.4.2 and A.4.3 to begin February 1st***

WARNING! On February 1, 2016, accreditation reviewers will start assessing your websites for compliance with Standards A.4.2 and A.4.3. Please review the information on your website to ensure it is accurate and meets the Standards. **Your program will be cited with an area of noncompliance** at the April 2016 ACOTE meeting if your website does not meet these Standards. ACOTE has determined that when reporting graduation rates, **both a 3-year breakdown and totals are required**. A sample of what is required to meet Standard A.4.2 can be found here: [Sample Program Web Page](#)

Further questions may be directed to hstagliano@aota.org

Update on the Process regarding ACOTE's Decision on the Entry-Level Degree for the Occupational Therapist and the Occupational Therapy Assistant

ACOTE determined at their August 2015 meeting that the entry-level degree requirement for the occupational therapist will remain at both the master's and the doctoral degree. Additionally, the Council determined that the entry-level degree for the occupational therapy assistant will be offered through both an associate and bachelor's degree. Staff consulted with the U.S. Department of Education and legal counsel and it was determined that the ability to offer the entry-level degree for the OTA at the baccalaureate level will not become active until the baccalaureate entry-level Standards are written and adopted by ACOTE.

The Educational Standards Review Committee (ESRC) will begin meeting in spring 2016. They do not anticipate having new standards finalized and approved by ACOTE until December 2017 (or possibly August 2018 if ACOTE does not approve the Standards in 2017) with an implementation date of mid-2019 or 2020.

Programs will be able to submit applications for baccalaureate OTA programs once the standards are adopted by ACOTE, and then will have 18 months to implement the new set of standards. The process typically takes 1.5 to 2 years before a program receives accreditation after submission of a Letter of Intent. At this time, ACOTE does not have any specifics on what the differences will be in the standards, only that there will be a separate set of standards for the associate's degree level OTA and the baccalaureate degree level OTA. This means there will be four sets of standards - two entry levels for the OTA and two for the OT.

A Call for Comment Survey will be distributed in February 2016 to begin the process of assessing needed updates or changes to the Standards.

Further questions may be directed to hstagliano@aota.org

Policy Updates

Policy IV.B.2. "Additional Locations" has been updated to address the ability of ACOTE to defer action on Candidacy Status for an Additional Location a maximum of two times. The updated policy can be found here: [IV.B.2. Additional Locations](#)

Policy IV.B.3. "Additional Locations Transitioning to Independent Accreditation" has been updated to more clearly define when the on-site evaluation and self-study documents will be due. The updated policy can be found here: [IV.B.3. Locations Transitioning to Independent Accreditation](#)

Policy VI.E. "Sample Statements and Use of Logo" has been updated to reflect language programs can post when granted Preaccreditation Status. The updated policy can be found here: [VI.E. Sample Statements and Use of Logo](#)

ANNUAL FEES: Annual fees are due each year, including the year in which an on-site evaluation is scheduled. For new programs, the annual fee becomes effective with the first full academic year for which the program has accreditation status. See current [Fee Schedule](#). Invoices for 2016 annual fees will be mailed by July 1, 2016 and payment is due no later than October 15, 2016. For accredited programs and all accredited program locations, the 2016/2017 annual fee is \$3,760. For programs with a status of Accreditation-Inactive, the 2016/2017 annual fee is \$1,880. The AOTA Accreditation Department should be notified if early notification is required to facilitate processing of a purchase order for payment.

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 the reviewers are looking for in the self-study; (6) How to prepare for the on-site visit; (7) What 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

Next Workshop: October 2016

Where: In conjunction with the ALC meeting in San Diego.

Post-Professional OTD Updates

Post-Professional OTD Committee has been formed

ACOTE has formed a post-professional OTD committee that will be working on developing guidelines and a voluntary recognition process for oversight of post-professional occupational therapy doctorates. The committee began meeting in fall 2015, and it is anticipated that the guidelines will be adopted by ACOTE in late 2017. The committee will be sending out a Call for Comment survey in the coming months.

Post-Professional Program Web Updates

Post-professional occupational therapy programs should check the following website <http://www.aota.org/Education-Careers/Find-School.aspx> to ensure the information regarding your program is correct. Please email accred@aota.org with any updates.

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](#).

**PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE 018:
ACADEMIC FIELDWORK COORDINATION**

Basic Survival Skills Leading to Competency

TOPIC: The pre-conference institute will focus on training faculty who are new to the role of AFWC

INSTRUCTORS: Jamie Geraci (COE), Jaynee Taguchi-Meyer (USC/FW Educators Certificate) and Jeanette Koski (Utah/EDSIS FW Chair)

WHEN: Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 12:00 noon—6:30 pm

WHERE: McCormick Place, Chicago, Illinois

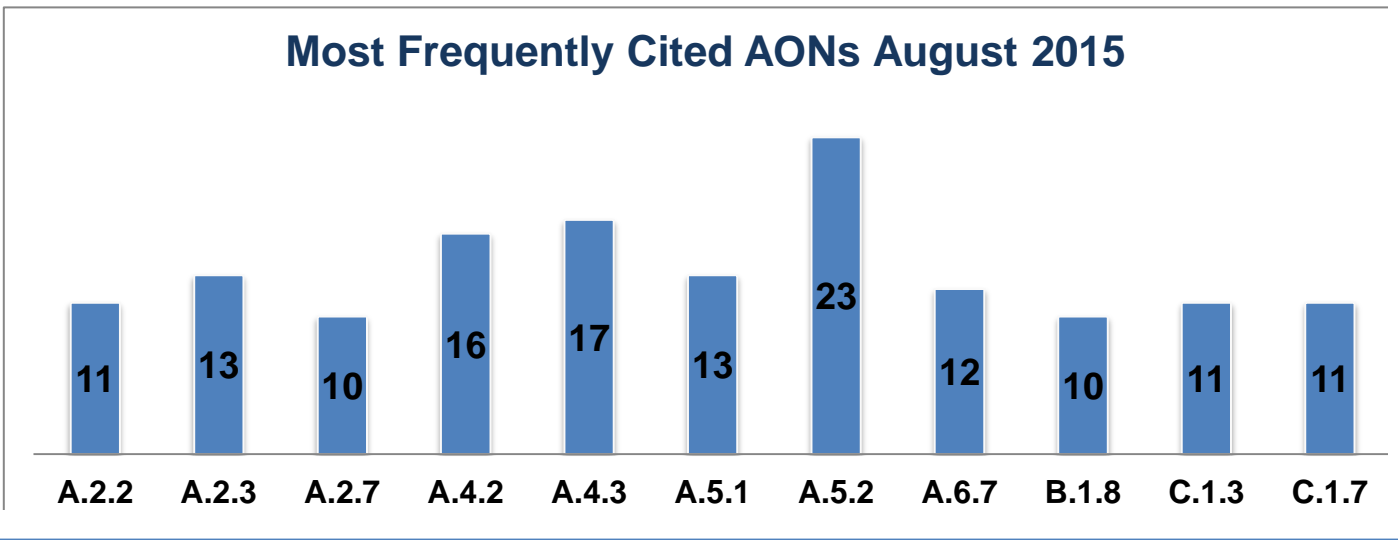
REGISTRATION: <http://www.aota.org/Conference-Events/Annual-Conference/register.aspx>

➔ **Attention NEW Academic Fieldwork Coordinators**
Check out this institute opportunity at AOTA's Annual Conference!

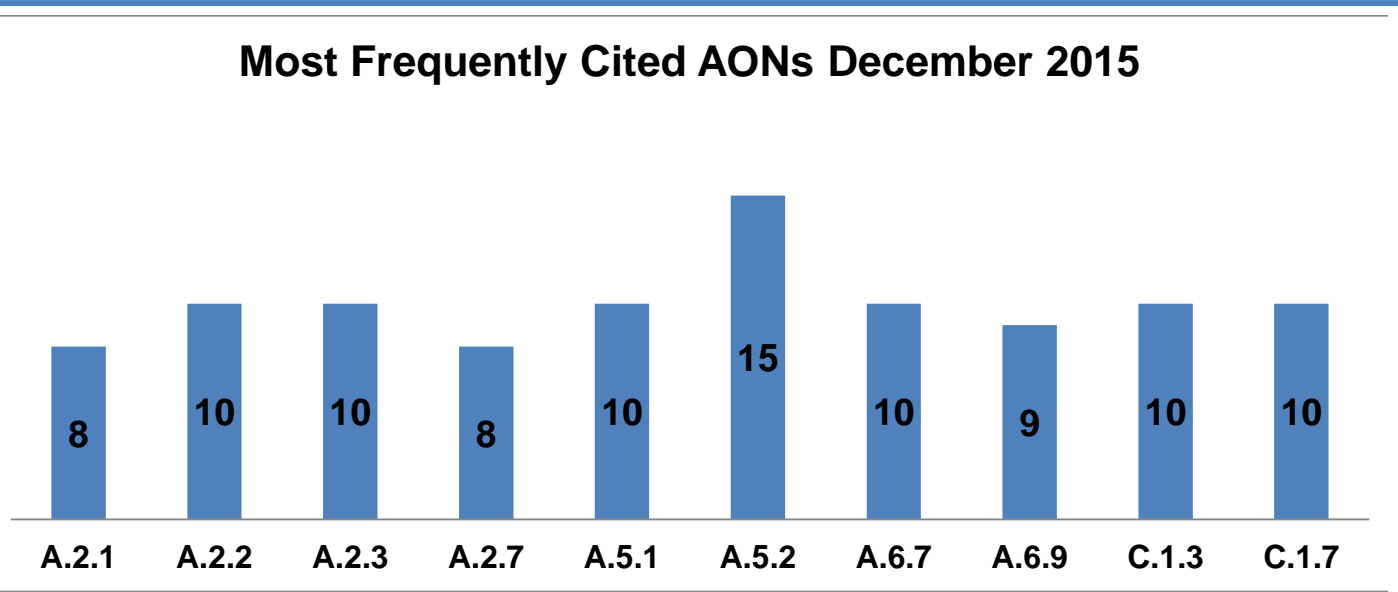


The American Occupational Therapy Association's
Annual Conference & Expo
April 7-19, 2016 • McCormick Place, Chicago, IL

Most Frequently Cited AONs August 2015



Most Frequently Cited AONs December 2015



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Institutes at Conference

Wednesday, April 6 12:00-6:30

Americans with Disabilities Act: What Academic and Fieldwork Sites Need To Know

Academic & Fieldwork Education

Sandy Hanebrink, OTR/L, CLP, Touch the Future, Inc., Anderson, SC; LaVonne Fox, PhD, OTR/L; Janet Jedlicka, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, both of University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND; Robin Jones, MPA, COTA/L, ROH, Great Lakes ADA Center, Chicago, IL; Kuzhilethu Kshepakaran, MEd, OTR/L, FAOTA, Retired, Owings Mills, MD

Academic and Fieldwork educators understand the need for inclusion of all students but often struggle with providing accommodations for students with disabilities. To ensure compliance, ADA regulations, roles, responsibilities, case studies, best practices and other resources will be presented.

(AOTA) Interprofessional Collaborative Education: Linking Student Learning to Patient, Population, and Health System Outcomes

Academic & Fieldwork Education

Patricia Coker-Bolt, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Nancy Carson, PhD, OTR/L, both of Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC; Kimberly Hartmann, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT; Neil Harvison, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, American Occupational Therapy Association, Bethesda, MD; Eileen Herge, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA; Stephen Kern, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA, both of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; Angela Hissong, DEd, OTR/L, CMCP, CMMT, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

This Institute will engage OT academic educators in how to effectively measure the impact of Interprofessional Education and Practice (IPE/P) for students, patients, populations, and health systems. The focus of IPE/P is to promote teamwork and collaborative practice, which are key to improving patient outcomes in today's healthcare environment. Positive outcomes associated with IPE/P have been documented at several levels from students to patient, client, and consumer, although changes in student attitudes and perceptions are by far the most commonly assessed variables. There is a call for all OT educators to link IPE/P more closely to person or population directed outcomes including measures of collaborative behaviors and successful teamwork interactions.



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>

New RAE Members

The following new Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE) members received their initial training at the November 13-15, 2015, Evaluator Training Workshop in Crystal City, Virginia. New RAE terms began on January 1, 2016:

Terrance Anderson, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Founding Chair/Program Director
Kettering College
Kettering, OH

Natalie DeLaCroix-Roy Ang, OTD, OTR/L, HTC, PAM

Clinic director/ OTA Instructor
Cerebral Fitness Inc
Huntington Beach, CA

Asha Asher, MA, MEdOT, OTR/L, SCSS, FAOTA

Private Practice
Redlands, CA

Maria Luz Barefield, OTR/L, MA

Assistant Chief, Occupational Therapy Department & Student Clinical Coordinator
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center
Bethesda, MD

Crystal Bay, OTR/L, BCP

Pediatric Clinical Lead
Florida Hospital
Orlando, FL

Emily Bubel, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist
Deptford Center Rehabilitation
Deptford, NJ

Choi Iok Chio, OTD, OTR/L

Senior Occupational Therapist
Genesis Rehab Services
San Jose, CA

Jo Anne Crain, PhD, OTR/L

Dean and Program Director
Master of Occupational Therapy Program
Baker College Center for Graduate Studies
Flint, MI

Ann Marie Feretti, MS, OTR/L, CHT

President/Owner (private practice)
ProActive Physical & Hand Therapy
Bronx, NY

Robert C. Ferguson, MHS, OTR/L

Stroke Rehabilitation Program Manager, Neurorehabilitation Clinical Specialist
University of Michigan Health System, University Hospital
Ann Arbor, MI

Catherine Gardner, MPA, OTR/L, FAOTA

Clinical Coordinator
Occupational Therapy Consultants, Inc.
BoundBrook, NJ

Sharon Gartland, OTD, OTR/L

Clinical Instructor in Occupational Therapy
University of Wisconsin-Madison Waisman Center
Madison, WI

Yolanda Griffiths, OTD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Program Director
College of Saint Mary
Omaha, NE

Julia M. Hawkins, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist
Shriners Outpatient Specialty Care Center
Erie, PA

Velvet L. Hewett, OT/L, MPA

Director Rehabilitation Services
Mills Peninsula Health Services
Burlingame, CA

Michelle Holloway, OTR/L

Home Health Provider, PRN OT
Your Therapy Source
Colleyville, TX

Heidi Horwitz, MA, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist
Palm Garden Gainesville
Gainesville, FL

Jessa Hulteng, OTR/L, MOT, CLT

Occupational Therapist
Altru Physical Medicine and Therapy Services
Grand Forks, ND

Michele K. Johnson, OTD, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist, Sec. 504 Coordinator, Assistive Technology Teacher
Duluth Edison Charter Schools
Duluth, MN

Judith Joseph, OTR, MA, CDRS

Occupational Therapist IV
Houston Methodist Hospital
Outpatient Neuro Rehabilitation
Houston, TX

Elizabeth Linos, OTD, MS, OTR/L

Director of Rehabilitation
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Phoenix, AZ

Leslie Milano-Luongo, MSOT, OTR/L

Occupational Therapist
Department of Defense
US Army MEDDAC
Fort Drum, NY

Tracey E. Recigno, OTR/L, OTD

Advanced Clinician II Occupational Therapist
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
111 S. 11th St.
Philadelphia, PA

Yves Roseus, OTD, OTR/L

Senior Occupational Therapist
Brookdale Hospital Medical Center
Brooklyn, NY

Anjali P. Sane, OTD, MA, OTR/L
Contract Occupational Therapist
Private Practice
Olympia Fields, IL

Jessica Semingson, OTA, BS
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Virginia Mason
Seattle, WA

Loretta Sherwood, MA, OTR
Transformational Deployment Leader
Indiana University Health Ball
Memorial Hospital
Muncie, IN

Kimberly T. Solondz, MS, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy Discipline
Director
Institute on Development & Disability
Portland, OR

**Lauren N. Sponseller, OTD,
MSOTR/L, MEd**
Assistant Professor and Academic
Fieldwork Coordinator
Salus University
Elkins Park, PA

Dee Stanfield, MHE, OTD, OTR/L
Early Intervention and School-Based
Occupational Therapist
Babies Can't Wait
Macon, GA

Alyson D. Stover, JD, OTR/L
Director of Clinical Services/Owner
Capable Kids
Hermitage, PA

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Liverpool
East Liverpool, OH

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Rehabilitation Manager and
Occupational Therapist
University Hospitals Geauga, Geneva
& Conneaut Medical Ctr.
Chardon, OH

Karen Cocklin Tushek, OTD, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist II
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Columbus, OH

Melanie Wheeler, OTD, MS, OTR/L
School-Based Occupational Therapist
Lincoln Intermediate
Unit 12
New Oxford, PA

December 2015 ACOTE Meeting

At the December 2015 ACOTE meeting, ACOTE took action on 211 program reports including the following:

Initial Accreditation: Six (6) programs were granted initial accreditation for 5 years; 3 programs were granted initial accreditation for 7 years.

Reaccreditation: Five (5) programs were reaccredited for 10 years; 7 programs were reaccredited for 7 years.

Candidacy Applications: Ten (10) programs were granted Candidacy Status.

Preaccreditation Status: Nine (9) programs were granted Preaccreditation Status; one program was denied Preaccreditation Status.

A full report on ACOTE actions is available online at [ACOTE Actions December 2015](#)

Number of Programs

As of January 13, 2016, there were a total of 493 program locations with accreditation or in the accreditation process.

Program Status	OT Doctoral	OT Master's	OTA	TOTAL
Accredited Programs *Note: 9 OTM programs are transitioning to the OTD.	7	154	203	364
Accredited Additional Locations	0	9	18	27
Candidate Programs	15	16	23	54
Developing Additional Locations	0	2	1	3
Applicant Programs	10	12	23	45
Applicant Additional Locations	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	32*	193	268	493

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.

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