VI. I. DOCTRINE OF INTEGRITY

INTEGRITY IS ELEMENTAL

In all relationships with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®), a program shall demonstrate honesty and integrity. In submitting materials for accreditation or reaccreditation, the program agrees to comply with ACOTE's requirements, policies, guidelines, decisions, and requests. During the process of accreditation, the program must evidence full and candid disclosure, and shall make readily available all relevant information. The program shall provide ACOTE with unrestricted access to all parts and facets of its operations, and with full and accurate information about the program's affairs, including reports of any other accrediting, licensing, or auditing agencies, as requested. Programs are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the data and information submitted. Presenting false information, either through intent or through failure to exercise care and diligence in verifying the information, is considered a breach of this policy.

POLICY ON BREACHES OF INTEGRITY

The program's failure to disclose information honestly and completely by presenting false information, by the intentional omission of relevant information, or by a distortion of information for the purpose of deliberate misrepresentation, will be considered to be a breach of integrity, in and of itself. Furthermore, because a program can only exist and operate through its representatives, it is crucial for each program to be aware that it will be held responsible for the actions of its representatives. Verification of any instances of breaches of integrity may adversely affect the program's accreditation status with ACOTE. Depending on the seriousness of the infraction, sanctions may result in a letter of censure and/or warning, probationary status, or withdrawal of accreditation.

INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL BREACHES OF INTEGRITY

If ACOTE has reason to believe that a program or a representative of the program may have violated the Doctrine of Integrity, an investigation may be instituted. ACOTE may conduct the investigation by scheduling a fact-finding visit to the program, by requesting that the program or institution submit a report to ACOTE that addresses the stated concerns, or in such other manner as ACOTE may deem reasonable and appropriate. Upon completion of that investigation, a report will be provided to the program and the program will be afforded an opportunity to respond to any alleged infractions prior to ACOTE action.

ACOTE ACTION

If, after notice and opportunity to respond, ACOTE concludes that the program is willfully practicing misrepresentation, has presented false information to ACOTE or to any other concerned parties, or fails to provide and disclose completely all relevant information and materials requested, ACOTE may issue a letter of censure and/or warning, place the program on probation, or withdraw accreditation, depending upon the seriousness of the infraction.

An institution may appeal an adverse decision by ACOTE to withdraw accreditation by submitting in writing its objections, together with supporting data and a request for reevaluation. An appeal filed in accord with the ACOTE Appeals Process (ACOTE Accreditation Manual Section IV.D.) automatically delays the decision to withdraw accreditation until its final disposition. ACOTE awards of Probationary Accreditation are final and not subject to appeal.