ACOTE®
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

ACOTE UPDATE
Academic Leadership Council: March 2024

Dr. Lynn Kilburg, ACOTE Chairperson
Dr. Sarah Nielsen, ACOTE Vice Chairperson
Dr. Teresa Brininger, Director of Accreditation

Outline

- 100 Years of Accreditation
- New Standards Adopted
- Specific Data
- Policy Updates
- Upcoming Workshops
- Resources

100 Years of Accreditation

ACOTE

Associated Advisory Council of the AOTA Board of Directors

PURPOSE: to assure the quality of the programs and to assist in the improvement of the programs they accredit.

Accreditation provides to the public and students an assurance of external evaluation and the quality of the program.

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MISSION: Ensures quality occupational therapy education by developing accreditation standards and verifying implementation to support the preparation of competent occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.

VISION: Committed to the establishment, promotion, and evaluation of standards of quality in occupational therapy education. To this end, ACOTE® will lead in the development of effective collaborative partnerships with the communities of interest, both internal and external to the profession of occupational therapy, which are affected by its activities.

Reference: www.acoteonline.org – Mission, Vision, & Core Values

ACOTE

RECOGNIZED BY: US Department of Education (USDE)

Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

COORDINATE WITH: AOTA Board of Directors

Representative Assembly (RA)

AOTA Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

INPUT FROM / REPORT TO: Communities of Interest

Reference: www.acoteonline.org – Mission, Vision, & Core Values

Role of ACOTE vs. RA

ACOTE

- Establishes **Entry-Level Educational** Standards (ESRC)
- **DOES NOT:**
  - establish degree levels
  - dictate how Standards are met
  - accredit post-professional programs

YES to 2023 ACOTE Standards!

RA

- Establishes **Professional** Standards
- Establishes degree-levels of entry-level OT and OTA education (doctoral, master's, bachelor's, associate's)

OTA-A and OTA-B!

OTM and OTD!

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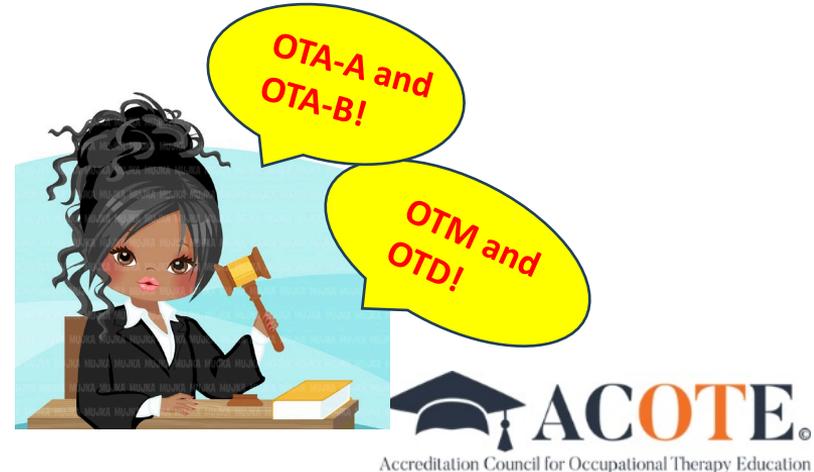
Numbers of Programs in the Accreditation Process:

Program Status	OTD	OTM	OTA-B	OTA-A	Total
Accredited	102	165	4	221	492*
Candidate or Preaccreditation	65	13	10	3	91
Applicant	53	20	7	10	90
Total	220	198	21	234	673

*Of the total Accredited programs, 15 OTM and 11 OTA programs have Accreditation-Inactive status.

Projected Number of Accredited Programs
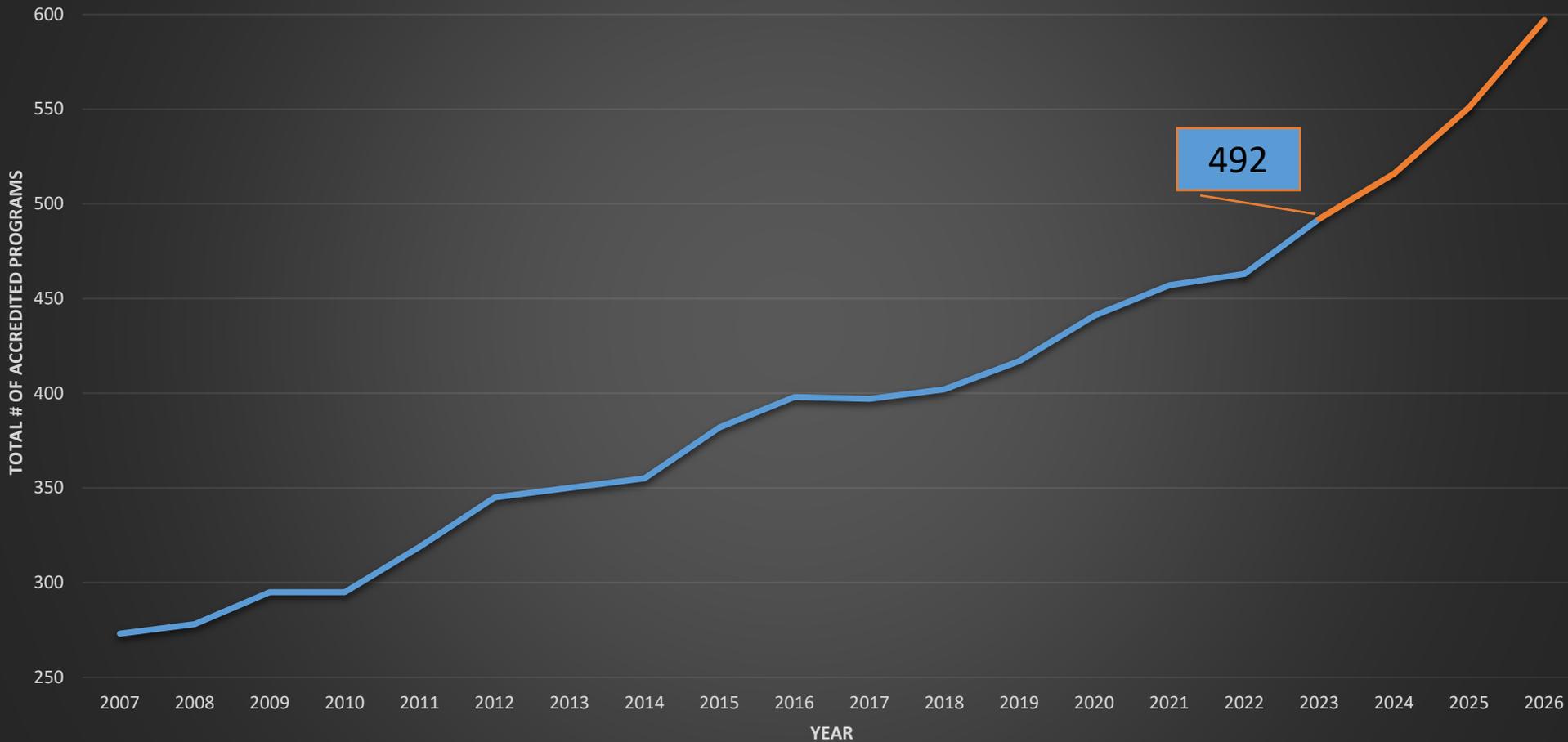
Standards

2023 Standards Adopted

- Effective July 31, 2025.
- For on-site visits scheduled after JULY 31, 2025, eAccreditation will reflect the 2023 ACOTE Standards.
- Questions? email accred@aota.org.

2023 Standards Adopted

- ACOTE website:
  - New Standards
  - Crosswalk to 2018 Standards
- Additional Resources:
  - Standards session: Friday at Grand Rosen Ballroom E
    - 1:00 – OTA-A and OTA-B Standards
    - 3:00 – OTM and OTD Standards
- April 2024 - Virtual information / Q&A Sessions

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Snapshot of Themes

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice focus has been woven throughout the Standards.

- Consideration of student health and wellbeing resources.

- Core faculty has been removed – replaced with "full-time" faculty.

- OT and OTA collaboration woven throughout the Standards.

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ACOTE DEIJ Sub-committee

- Programs will have institution and programmatic mission specific approaches to DEIJ standards.

- Committee will develop training and education for ACOTE and RAE reviewers to support consistency in reviews for compliance.

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Responding to B Standards

- **Compliance Statement** (Narrative)
  - Summarize how the program meets the expected outcome for each B Standard.

- **Supporting Material**
  - Upload the assessment(s) from up to 3 courses that demonstrates how the program assesses the student's ability to meet expect outcomes for each B Standard.

- All required outcomes of the Standard must be assessed.

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Continuous Feedback on Standards

- Standing committee on ACOTE responsible for ongoing review and clarification on standards.
- You can always provide feedback to the Standards and your feedback will be considered by the committee.
- Feedback may result in:
  - Interpretative Guide to clarify the intent of the standard
  - Less Frequently: A change of the standard (with required period of comment)

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Specific Data

Most Commonly Cited Standards: December 2023

- A.6.3 Program Evaluation (7)

- A.2.1 Program Director (5)

- A.5.5 Curriculum Design (5)

- A.6.1 Strategic Plan (5)

- A.6.2 Professional Development Plans (4)

- A.2.2 FTE Faculty Composition (3)

- A.3.7 Advising by Faculty (3)

- A.4.1 Accurate Program Publication (3)

- A.4.2 Publication of Program Outcomes (3)

- A.5.7 Written Syllabi and Assessment Strategies (3)

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A.6.4 Certification Exam Pass Rate

Program Level	# Programs	% in compliance with standard
OTA-A	226	79%
OTA-B	4	100%
OTM	165	95%
OTD	87	100%

2023 NBCOT Data

A.5.3 Program Length

Program Level	# Programs	% in compliance with standard
OTA-A	226	100%
OTA-B	4	100%
OTM	165	84%
OTD	87	100%

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Policy Updates

Policy IV.B.1. Additions and Changes

- **MINOR PROGRAM CHANGES**
  - Programs will report all minor program changes annually, in the Annual Report to ACOTE.
  - Programs should track minor changes and be prepared to report on them in the next year's Annual Report.

Policy IV.B.1. Additions and Changes

- **SIGNIFICANT PROGRAM CHANGES**
  - Significant program changes must be reported in the eAccreditation system and require ACOTE approval prior to implementation.
  - Addition of a student cohort or track.
  - Headcount increase of 25% or more than what is approved by ACOTE.
  - Curriculum content or delivery model change for 25% or more of the didactic courses excluding Level II fieldwork and capstone.
  - Addition or change of colleges in an accredited consortium.
  - Facilities change to a different location off campus or campus.

Policy IV.B.1. Additions and Changes

- **SEPARATE POLICIES FOR CHANGES WITH**
  - Program director
  - Program officials
  - Changes to Institutional Name
  - Transfer of program sponsorship/ownership
  - New Program
  - Additional Location

Upcoming Workshops

Standard Review Webinars

- Webinar discussing the changes in the 2023 ACOTE Accreditation Standards

- Opportunity for Q&A

- Several session will be offered starting April 2024

REGISTER AT: www.acoteonline.org

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Self-Study Workshops

- **Self-Study Preparation Workshop**: 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. Dates and registration information can be found at www.acoteonline.org

- **New Program Workshop**: Thinking about starting an OT or OTA program? Or have you just started the process? The Accreditation Department hosts 1-day virtual workshop. This workshop will review all aspects of becoming accredited including what is needed and what will be asked of your program.

GO TO Events & Workshops

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Workshops

Accreditation Actions
Events & Workshops
News & Updates
Newsletters Archives

ABOUT   SCHOOLS   BECOME ACCREDITED   FOR PROGRAMS   NEWS

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Educators

Resources for educators and administrators to assist with the accreditation process.

Become Accredited

Resources for institutions that want to develop a program in occupational therapy.

Students

Resources for students to find a school and learn more about occupational therapy.

ACOTE Standards

Policies & Procedures

News & Updates

Accreditation Actions

Compliments & Complaints

Accreditation Visits

Resources

ACOTE Website

- Self-Study Guide and Interim Report Guide
- How to add a user to eAccreditation
- Policies and Procedures
- Accreditation Standards: Always refer to the Standards on website (Interpretative Guide may be updated after ACOTE meetings).
- Q&As

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Newsletters and Virtual Meetings

- **Director's Update**
  - Posted on the ACOTE website after every ACOTE meeting
  - Up to date information regarding Standards' Interpretations and policy changes
  - Previous publications of the PD Newsletters are posted under "News and Updates"
- "**Conversations with ACOTE**" – scheduled after each ACOTE meeting

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Accreditation Staff

For the most accurate information contact the accreditation staff at accred@aota.org

Reminders

- Action letters are sent 4-6 weeks after a meeting.

- Ensure your "FACULTY" tab in the eAccred portal is updated.

- **Standard A.1.5.** requires programs to inform ACOTE within 30 days of the resignation or an appointment of a new or interim program director.

- Program directors are responsible to remain current with the most recent Standards and Interpretive Guide and ACOTE policies located on www.acoteonline.org. Updates are reported on the website after each meeting.

Questions? Concerns?