

# GUIDELINES AND POLICY STATEMENTS

## VI. G. REGARD FOR DECISIONS OF STATES AND OTHER ACCREDITING AGENCIES

### STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION ACTION ON ANY PROGRAM PENDING DECISIONS BY STATES OR OTHER ACCREDITING AGENCIES

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) will consider the accreditation status of sponsoring institutions prior to making programmatic accreditation decisions to grant initial or continued accreditation or preaccreditation (Candidacy Status) to an occupational therapy (OT) or occupational therapy assistant (OTA) program during a period in which the sponsoring institution is the subject of:

- (1) a pending or final action brought by a state agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the state;
- (2) a decision by a recognized agency to deny accreditation or preaccreditation;
- (3) a pending or final action brought by a recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or preaccreditation; or
- (4) probation or an equivalent status imposed by a recognized agency.

Should initial or continued accreditation or preaccreditation (Candidacy Status) be granted, ACOTE will provide the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, within 30 days of its action, a thorough and reasonable explanation consistent with its accreditation standards, for why the action of the other body does not preclude ACOTE's action.

### STATEMENT OF ACOTE PROCEDURE

If ACOTE learns that the sponsoring institution of an occupational therapy or occupational therapy assistant program that it accredits or preaccredits is the subject of an adverse action by another recognized accrediting agency or has been placed on probation or an equivalent status by another recognized agency, it will promptly review its accreditation or preaccreditation status of the program to determine if it should also take adverse action or place the program on probation.

- Specifically, review will be conducted to determine compliance with the following Standard as applicable to the program:

OT Doctoral-Degree-Level Standard A.1.1.:

*The sponsoring institution(s) and affiliates, if any, must be accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). For programs in countries other than the United States, ACOTE will determine an alternative and equivalent external review process.*

OT Master's-Degree-Level Standard A.1.1.:

*The sponsoring institution(s) and affiliates, if any, must be accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). For programs in countries other than the United States, ACOTE will determine an alternative and equivalent external review process.*

OTA Baccalaureate-Degree-Level Standard A.1.1.:

*The sponsoring institution(s) and affiliates, if any, must be accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).*

OTA Associate-Degree-Level Standard A.1.1.:

*The sponsoring institution(s) and affiliates, if any, must be accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).*

ACOTE will promptly review the accreditation status of an OT or OTA program if a state agency has suspended, revoked, or terminated the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education.

- Specifically, review will be conducted to determine compliance with the following OT or OTA Standard:

OT Doctoral-Degree-Level Standard A.1.2.:

*Sponsoring institution(s) must be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a program of postsecondary education and have appropriate doctoral degree-granting authority.*

OT Master's-Degree-Level Standard A.1.2.:

*Sponsoring institution(s) must be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a program of postsecondary education and have appropriate degree-granting authority.*

OTA Baccalaureate-Degree-Level Standard A.1.2.:

*Sponsoring institution(s) must be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a program of postsecondary education and have appropriate degree-granting authority, or the institution must be a program offered within the military services.*

OTA Associate-Degree-Level Standard A.1.2.:

*Sponsoring institution(s) must be authorized under applicable law or other acceptable authority to provide a program of postsecondary education and have appropriate degree-granting authority, or the institution must be a program offered within the military services.*