Conversations with ACOTE
May 26, 2022
Your ACOTE Resources

- The ACOTE Website (www.acoteonline.org) is a valuable resource for information. You can find information on program numbers, past ACOTE actions, past newsletters, frequently asked questions, forms, templates and much more.

- And, always read the PD Update posted after ACOTE meetings.

- Please submit all questions to accred@aota.org to ensure your questions are answered promptly.
Thank you for your feedback!

First meeting in April 2022. Next meeting in August 2022
   – All comments were reviewed and considered by the ESRC during this meeting.

General feedback is welcome and can be provided at any time.
https://forms.aota.org/forms/standards_comment_form
Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE)

- Seeking new members for the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators (RAE).
- RAE members evaluate the compliance of OT and OTA educational programs with ACOTE Accreditation Standards through on-site evaluations and online reviews.
- ACOTE is placing a strategic emphasis on expanding the diversity of the practice and education settings, and the education levels represented on the RAE.
- Occupational therapy practitioners and occupational therapy assistant practitioners and educators) are especially needed and are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Go to: RAE Application for Membership (located on the ACOTE website) for more information and the application process.
Self-Study Workshop

• For program directors and faculty preparing for upcoming self-study review and new program directors wanting to understand more about the accreditation process.

• Topics covered include:
  – How to get started on a report of self-study
  – What to consider when writing the report
  – What are the key elements in the self-study
  – How much detail is needed
  – What the reviewers are looking for in the self-study
  – How to prepare for the on-site visit
  – What programs need to show the on-site reviewers
  – Review of the e-Accreditation System.

• Dates and registration information on the ACOTE website.
Annual Fees

- Due each year from accredited programs, 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 the current Fee Schedule (ACOTE Policy V.A. Fees).
- Invoices are e-mailed by July 1, 2022 and due no later than October 15, 2022. Notify the Accreditation Department for help facilitating the processing of a purchase order.
Gentle Reminders

• Update the program director and faculty licenses in the “FACULTY” tab in the eAccreditation portal.

• Program director responsible to remain current with the most recent Standards Interpretive Guide and ACOTE® policies located on www.acoteonline.org.

• Updates to these documents are reported on the ACOTE® website after each ACOTE® meeting.
Interpretive Guide:

A.5.3 PROGRAM LENGTH
Programs should:

- Analyze current program length to the interpretive guide according to the degree level of your program.
- If the program length is not compliant, review list of considerations, at a minimum, to assess the reason for the current length.
- Consider needed action:
  - Plan for modification, timeline for change.
  - Rationale for length remaining the same.
Guidance for all program levels:

• Program length must be reflective of this ACOTE defined commonly accepted academic standards for degree levels in occupational therapy.

• The program should additionally consider the following factors:
  – Institutional accrediting and state agencies
  – Institutional policy
  – Program’s curriculum design (entry point, UG vs G, fieldwork)
  – Relevant definitions:
    • Full Time Enrollment, Academic Year, Credit Hour
  – Relevant Policies:
    • Degree awarded, Dual or Concurrent Degrees credits, Method for awarding credit for experiential hours
Timeline

- Compliance with this program length requirement will be assessed with reports submitted after 8/1/2022.

- The current procedure for correcting an area of noncompliance applies.
  - Programs have up to 2 years to fix an AON, depending upon program length, and will submit a plan of correction/progress reports during that timeframe.
  - An extension “for cause” for increased time to address an AON may be approved if the program shows evidence of progress toward meeting the standard.
Questions? Discussion?