

GUIDELINES AND POLICY STATEMENTS

VII.L. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) is committed to promoting diversity, creating equity, and fostering a culture of inclusion, participation, and representation. We recognize that bringing diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives together drives innovation. We are committed to creating an inclusive environment and respecting the dignity and diversity of all people. Promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is the responsibility of all ACOTE staff and volunteers.

ACOTE adopts the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Vision Statement asserting the commitment "...to creating an environment where all people within our professional community are valued and able to give their best in the communities where they live and work. AOTA strives to recognize and uplift the diversity of our profession and is committed to creating opportunities to foster inclusivity, participation, and representation. We will act with intention and live our values to be inclusive, equitable, just, and accountable in this work."

This Vision Statement elevates the opportunity for and assigns responsibility to the occupational therapy profession, AOTA, and its associated councils, including ACOTE®, to authentically serve others with positive regard for diversity, inclusion, and equitable participation in everyday life. It is important that all ACOTE staff and volunteers embrace the AOTA Vision as they are expected to maintain this Vision at the forefront of creating initiatives and carrying out their accreditation responsibilities.

The accreditation staff and volunteers play an important role in fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion as they are the representatives of ACOTE®. Accreditation staff and volunteers are to communicate and perform in a way that appreciates differences (diversity), promotes justice (equity), and encourages engagement through support and respect for all (inclusion). This will help foster an accrediting body that effectively and intentionally serves the stakeholders whom it supports.