

ACOTE® March 2020 Accreditation Actions

The AOTA Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) met in March 2020 and took the following accreditation actions:

Final ACOTE decisions subsequent to an initial on-site evaluation:			
PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION	TERM	NEXT ON-SITE
Gwynedd Mercy University (OTM), Gwynedd Valley, PA	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Huntington University (OTA-B), Huntington, IN	Accreditation	5	2024/2025
Lakeland Community College (OTA), Kirtland, OH	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
North Central College (OTM), Naperville, IL	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Raritan Valley Community College (OTA), Branchburg, NJ	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
San Jacinto College-South Campus (OTA), Houston, TX	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences-Miami Campus (OTD), Coral Gables, FL	Accreditation	7	2026/2027

*Accreditation Granted following an initial on-site evaluation: The accreditation review process confirms that the program is in substantial compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for a Doctoral-Degree-Level or Master's-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist or a Baccalaureate-Degree-Level or Associate-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapy Assistant. A program in **substantial compliance** with the Standards may be in noncompliance with one or more specific Standards that are believed to be readily correctable. At the time of ACOTE action, ACOTE awards an accreditation period based on the following criteria:*

- 5-year review cycles are the standard number of years for initial accreditation; and
- 7-year review cycles are granted to those programs that have no areas of noncompliance and have demonstrated exceptional educational quality.

Final ACOTE decisions subsequent to a re-accreditation on-site evaluation:			
PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION	TERM	NEXT ON-SITE
American Career College-Orange County Campus (OTA), Anaheim, CA	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Augusta Technical College (OTA), Augusta, GA	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Belmont University (OTM), Nashville, TN	Accreditation	10	2029/2030
Kapiolani Community College/University of Hawaii (OTA), Honolulu, HI	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Keiser University-Fort Myers (OTA), Fort Myers, FL	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Louisiana State University Health Shreveport (OTM), Shreveport, LA	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Medical Education and Training Campus/Uniformed Services University (OTA), Fort Sam Houston, TX	Accreditation (Changed From Probationary Accreditation)	5	2024/2025
Neosho County Community College-Ottawa Campus (OTA), Ottawa, KS	Probationary Accreditation	5	2024/2025
Nova Southeastern University-Ft. Lauderdale (OTM), Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Accreditation	7	2026/2027
Quinsigamond Community College-Downtown Campus (OTA), Worcester, MA	Accreditation	10	2029/2030
Southwest Virginia Community College (OTA), Richlands, VA	Accreditation	5	2024/2025
University of the Sciences (OTD), Philadelphia, PA	Accreditation	10	2029/2030

Accreditation Granted following a re-accreditation on-site evaluation: The accreditation review process confirms that the program is in substantial compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for a Doctoral-Degree-Level or Master’s-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist or a Baccalaureate-Degree-Level or Associate-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapy Assistant. A program in **substantial compliance** with the Standards may be in noncompliance with one or more specific Standards that are believed to be readily correctable. At the time of ACOTE action, ACOTE awards an accreditation period based on the following criteria:

- 5-year review cycles are given to programs that are reaccredited, but raise significant concerns as determined by ACOTE;
- 7-year review cycles are the standard number of years for reaccreditation; and
- 10-year review cycles are granted to those programs that have no areas of noncompliance and have demonstrated exceptional educational quality.

Accreditation (changed from Probationary Accreditation): The accreditation review process confirms that the program has corrected the concerns leading to Probationary Accreditation status and is now in substantial compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards for a Doctoral-Degree-Level or Master’s-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist or a Baccalaureate-Degree-Level or Associate-Degree-Level Educational Program for the Occupational Therapy Assistant.

Probationary Accreditation: Probationary Accreditation is an accreditation category. During a period of Probationary Accreditation, programs are recognized and listed as being accredited. Probationary Accreditation is usually limited to 1 year. However, extensions may be granted by ACOTE for good cause. Programs receiving ACOTE’s notification of a change of status to Probationary Accreditation must notify currently enrolled students and those seeking admission that the program has been placed on probation. Probationary status may be removed when the program has demonstrated that it is in substantial compliance with the Standards:

- Because the areas of noncompliance are resolved, or
- Because the program has documented significant progress toward compliance with the cited areas of noncompliance within the allowed time period.

Failure to come into substantial compliance with the Standards within the allowed time period will result in a change of status to Accreditation Withdrawn.

Final ACOTE decision to continue Probationary Accreditation subsequent to a review of a Plan of Correction or Progress Report:

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Missouri Health Professions Consortium (OTA), Columbia, MO	Probationary Accreditation
Trinity Washington University (OTA), Washington, DC	Probationary Accreditation

Final ACOTE decision subsequent to a request from the program to be placed on inactive status:

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Pennsylvania College of Technology (OTA), Williamsport, PA	Accreditation-Inactive
South University-West Palm Beach (OTA), Royal Palm Beach, FL	Probationary Accreditation-Inactive

Inactive Status: Inactive status is a special status applied only to programs that are **not currently enrolling new students** and do not plan to enroll new students in the future. The status “inactive” does not replace any other current accreditation status. The designation follows the regular accreditation status (e.g., Accreditation—Inactive or Probationary Accreditation—Inactive). Students graduating from a program with Accreditation—Inactive or Probationary Accreditation—Inactive status are considered graduates of an accredited program.

Final ACOTE decision to extend the accreditation period subsequent to a review of a Plan of Correction or Progress Report:

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	TERM EXTENSION	NEXT ON-SITE
Salus University (OTM), Elkins Park, PA	7 to 10 years	2028/2029
University of Toledo (OTD), Toledo, OH	7 to 10 years	2028/2029

Accreditation terms for programs that were cited with no more than two areas of noncompliance may be extended if the areas are corrected within 1 year of ACOTE's action on the Report of On-Site Evaluation. For initial programs, terms may be extended from 5 to 7 years; for reaccredited programs, terms may be extended from 5 to 7 or from 7 to 10 years. This decision will be based on ACOTE's review of the Plan of Correction or Progress Report submitted by the program and a determination that the program has fully resolved the cited areas of noncompliance.

Final ACOTE decision subsequent to a request from the program to voluntarily withdraw from accreditation or the initial accreditation process:

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Rush University (OTM), Chicago, IL <i>(Transition to OTD level completed)</i>	Accreditation Withdrawn-Voluntary
San Joaquin Valley College-Fresno Campus (OTA), Fresno, CA	Candidacy Status Withdrawn-Voluntary

Final ACOTE decision subsequent to a review of a Significant Program Change:

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Boston University, College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (Sargent College) (OTD), Boston, MA	Approval of increased enrollment
CBD College (OTA), Los Angeles, CA	Approval to change to a hybrid delivery model for more than 1/3 of didactic core courses
Harcum College (OTA), Bryn Mawr, PA	Approval of a hybrid cohort in Phoenix, Arizona
University of South Alabama (OTM), Mobile, AL	Approval of increased enrollment

Final ACOTE decisions subsequent to a review of an initial Report of Self-Study (Step 2 of the Initial Accreditation Process):

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Lewis University-Romeoville (OTM), Romeoville, IL	Preaccreditation Status Granted
University of Texas at Tyler (OTM), Tyler, TX	Preaccreditation Status Granted

Preaccreditation Status Granted: The proposed program would appear to meet the Standards if fully implemented in accordance with the plans of the sponsoring institution. An initial on-site evaluation will be conducted before an accreditation decision is made.

Final ACOTE decision subsequent to a review of a Candidacy Application (Step 1 of the Initial Accreditation Process):

PROGRAM, LEVEL, CITY, STATE	DECISION
Alvernia University (OTD), Reading, PA	Candidacy Status Granted
Brenau University, North Atlanta-Norcross Campus (OTD), Norcross, GA	Candidacy Status Granted
Clovis Community College-Herndon Campus (OTA), Clovis, CA	Candidacy Status Granted
Eastern Kentucky University (OTD), Richmond, KY	Candidacy Status Granted
Felician University (OTA), Lodi, NJ	Candidacy Status Deferred
Marquette University (OTD), Milwaukee, WI	Candidacy Status Granted

Pfeiffer University-Misenheimer Campus (OTM), Misenheimer, NC	Candidacy Status Deferred
Sage Colleges (OTD), Troy, NY	Candidacy Status Deferred
University of Charleston-Charleston (OTA), Charleston, WV <i>(Additional location of the University of Charleston-Beckley, Beckley, WV)</i>	Candidacy Status Granted
University of Missouri (OTD), Columbia, MO	Candidacy Status Granted
University of Nevada-Las Vegas (OTD), Las Vegas, NV	Candidacy Status Granted
University of Puget Sound (OTD), Tacoma, WA	Candidacy Status Granted
University of Southern Maine at Lewiston-Auburn College (OTD), Lewiston, ME	Candidacy Status Granted
University of Wisconsin-Madison (OTD), Madison, WI	Candidacy Status Granted
Yeshiva University-Wilf Campus (OTD), New York, NY	Candidacy Status Granted
<i>Candidacy Status Granted: The proposed program may now admit its first class of students according to the approved timeline and proceed to step 2 of the initial accreditation process (the preaccreditation review), which will be followed by step 3 (the initial on-site evaluation). Candidacy Status indicates that the program meets the requirements for Candidacy Status and the plans and resource allocations for the proposed program, if fully implemented, appear to demonstrate the ability to comply with the 2018 ACOTE Accreditation Standards.</i>	
<i>Candidacy Status Deferred: Information received from the program is incomplete and/or insufficient for evaluation. Supplementary information is requested for consideration at a subsequent ACOTE meeting.</i>	

As of April 23, 2020, the number of programs in the accreditation process totaled 583*.

Program Status	OT Doctoral	OT Master's*	OTA Baccalaur.	OTA Associate	TOTAL
Accredited Programs	37	128	1	220	386
Accredited Programs Transitioning to Higher Degree Level*		45		2	47
Developing Programs	55	10	0	8	73
Applicant Programs	80	19	10	15	124
TOTAL	172	157	11	243	583

**NOTE: The total program count does not include the 45 OT programs that are retaining accreditation for the master's program while the transition to the doctoral level is finalized or the 2 OTA programs that are retaining accreditation for the associate degree program while the transition to the baccalaureate level is finalized.*

Additional information regarding occupational therapy accreditation may be obtained from the ACOTE Web page (www.acoteonline.org) or from accreditation staff at (301) 652-6611 x2042 or accred@aota.org.