

ACOTE Program Status Definitions

The following categories are used by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE®) based on where the program is in the initial accreditation process and/or evaluation of the extent to which an educational program complies with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards.

APPLICANT

Applicant programs are new educational programs that have submitted a Letter of Intent to seek ACOTE accreditation. Until Candidacy Status has been granted by ACOTE, these programs cannot admit students into the OT or OTA program.

CANDIDACY STATUS

Candidacy Status indicates that the program meets the requirements for Candidacy Status and the plans and resource allocations for the proposed program appear to demonstrate the ability to comply with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards. The proposed program may admit its first class of students according to an approved timeline. The program must have a preaccreditation review, complete an initial on-site evaluation, and be granted Accreditation Status before its graduates will be eligible to sit for National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) certification exam.

PREACCREDITATION STATUS

Preaccreditation Status indicates that the proposed program would appear to meet the ACOTE Accreditation 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.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

The accreditation review process confirms that the program is in substantial compliance with the ACOTE Accreditation Standards.

PROBATIONARY ACCREDITATION STATUS

Probationary Accreditation is an accreditation category. Students graduating from a program with Probationary Accreditation status are considered graduates of an accredited program.

A program's status may be changed to Probationary Accreditation for any of the following reasons:

- The areas of noncompliance are so serious that the capability of the program to provide acceptable educational experiences for the students is threatened.
- The program has failed to document significant progress toward compliance with one or more cited areas of noncompliance.
- The program is in jeopardy of having its accreditation status withdrawn due to the mandated time limit for carrying areas of noncompliance.
- The program fails to comply with administrative requirements.

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;
- Because the program has documented significant progress toward compliance with the cited areas of noncompliance within the allowed time period; or
- Because the program has complied with administrative requirements.

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

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.