

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT & PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT EDUCATION ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Update: November 2014

The Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP) operates in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) as the accrediting agency for occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs in Canada.

Here are the highlights of the work completed since the last update in July 2014:

Newly Accredited Program

One program was accredited in the fall of 2014. Please see the complete list of accredited programs on our website. [Congratulations to the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program at Niagara College!](#)

[English](#)

[French](#)

Programs with Candidacy Status

One program was awarded candidacy status in the fall of 2014. Please see the complete list of programs with candidacy on our website. [Congratulations to the Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Program at Durham College!](#)

[English](#)

[French](#)

Policy update

The following policies have been revised. All policies are available for review on the website under About Us/FAQ's (<http://www.otapta.ca/english/about-us/faqs.php>) (French: à propos/f.a.q)

Document Name and/or Number	New or Revised	Rationale
ACC-02 Conflict of Interest	Revised	It was recognized that the Conflict of Interest policy did not clearly describe the process required when a JAC member is either a member of the PRT for the program being reviewed, or a member of faculty in the program being reviewed. Revisions were made to clarify these situations.

Document Name and/or Number	New or Revised	Rationale
ACC-09 Disclosure	Revised	<p>A question was posed for discussion at the JAC meeting by education programs at the Edmonton education session. It is important that employers or professional associations know whether the education programs from which graduates come were accredited or had candidacy status at the time of their education/graduation. It was agreed to include the start/end dates of candidacy status awards, and start/expiry dates of accreditation awards on the OTA & PTA EAP website and in other public disclosures of status made by the OTA & PTA EAP.</p> <p>This change will be made on the website by January 1, 2015.</p>
<p>ACC-11 - Administrative Probation</p> <p>ACC-03 – Accreditation Decisions</p>	Revised	<p>In November 2013, as one part of a multifaceted response to a lack of ability to recruit PRT members (especially OTA/PTA educators) for accreditation reviews, the JAC recommended (and PEAC and CAOT approved) a policy that required each education program with candidacy status or accreditation status to nominate one educator meeting the PRT member eligibility criteria to join the pool of PRT members.</p> <p>The OTA & PTA EAP received very strong feedback from COPEC regarding this initiative. To demonstrate that the JAC is responsive to feedback received from key stakeholders, it has removed this requirement from the administrative probation (ACC-11) and accreditation decisions (ACC-03) policies and associated documents and different ways to encourage OTA/PTA educators to volunteer as PRT members will be pursued. Please see the update titled MEMO – November 2014 re. PRT members for more details. (http://www.otapta.ca/english/get-involved/become-a-peer-review-team-member.php)</p>
<p>GUIDE-01 Candidacy Status</p> <p>FORM-02 Candidacy Status preliminary report</p>	Revised	<p>There are several new OTA/PTA education programs recently developed (and which have applied for candidacy status) or known to be in development (and intending to apply for candidacy status). There are known challenges in securing fieldwork placements for OTA and PTA students.</p> <p>It was agreed at the JAC meeting that it is important for the OTA & PTA EAP to ask education programs applying for candidacy status to provide evidence that they not only include 500 hours of fieldwork in their curriculum (of which 150 hours are OTA hours and 150 hours are PTA hours) but that they have ensured that clinicians within the program's catchment area are able to provide the number of placements required for the program's students.</p>
GUIDE-08 – DRAFT Principles in the Accreditation of Programs Offering Distance Education	New	<p>Best practices to guide accreditation of programs offered in distributed models. With several programs affiliated with the OTA & PTA EAP reporting inclusion of either a component of distance education or full distance education program, it was felt that it was important to describe requirements/ guidelines pertinent to distance education models which should be considered by education programs when preparing the Self Study Report, by Peer Review Team members when reviewing</p>

Document Name and/or Number	New or Revised	Rationale
		<p>the program, and by the Joint Accreditation Committee when making an accreditation decision recommendation or reviewing a Substantive Change Request.</p> <p>GUIDE-08 is a guideline that is draft form. The intent is to pilot it with two programs which are upcoming for review, one of which has a distance learning component and the other of which is offered fully by distance. The two programs, the Peer Review Team members and the JAC will provide evaluative feedback regarding the use and content of the guideline. A final version of GUIDE-08 is expected to be available in the Fall of 2016.</p>
FORM-07 Report of Substantive Change	Revised	This form must be submitted if a program has undergone a change in leadership. It has been revised to request inclusion of both old and new information following a change, as well as a cue to include evidence that compliance with accreditation or candidacy status criteria continues to be demonstrated by the program.

Peer Review Team Members required:

The following describes upcoming reviews and the required Peer Review Team members. If you or your colleagues are eligible to join the pool of peer reviewers, and are interested in volunteering for any of these upcoming reviews, please contact Kathy Davidson as soon as possible to begin your training.

Location/Date	Volunteer required
Sudbury, October 2015 *URGENT	Francophone PT
Calgary, November 2015 *URGENT	PT
Newfoundland, Spring 2016	PT
Central/Northern Ontario, Spring 2016	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2016	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2016	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2016	OT and PT
Edmonton, Spring 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Spring 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Spring 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Spring 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2017	OT and PT
Southern Ontario, Fall 2017	OT and PT

Questions?

Please ask Kathy Davidson, Program Manager, if you have any questions about anything anytime!

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