

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST ASSISTANT & PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT EDUCATION ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Update: December 2015

Please note that our phone number has changed to 226-636-0632.

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. Consultation and collaboration with key stakeholders, including education programs who are recipients of the accreditation program, are embraced as two [operational principles](#) enacted by the program.

As of November 2015, the OTA & PTA EAP included 32 affiliated programs, 12 of which were accredited, and 20 with candidacy status. (BC=4, AB=4, ON=20, NS=3, NL=1). 21 were publicly funded and 11 were privately funded; 29 were English and 3 were French. Please see the complete list of affiliated programs on our website (in [English](#) and in [French](#)).

Here are the highlights of the work completed since the last update in June 2015:

Joint Accreditation Committee membership

The Joint Accreditation Committee held its most recent face-to-face meeting in Vancouver on October 21, 2015. At that time we were pleased to welcome Karen Koseck from Centennial College as the new OT member from COPEC, and Leta Stegne from triOS College as the new OTA/PTA educator member from privately funded programs. We were sad to bid farewell to Dianna Fong-Lee, the previous OT member from COPEC who had been part of the Joint Accreditation Committee since its inaugural meeting in February 2012. We will certainly miss her wisdom and insights during our meetings and wish her well in the future.

Policy update

There were no new policies or revisions to existing policies made during the most recent meeting. A list of current policies is available on our website under About Us/Policies and Procedures (French: à propos/politiques et procédures).

Peer Review Team Members required

We are always looking for Peer Review Team members. If you or your colleagues are eligible to join the pool of peer reviewers, and are interested in hearing about opportunities to volunteer for upcoming reviews, please contact Kathy Davidson as soon as possible to begin your training. Eligibility is described in GUIDE-05 found here in [English](#) and here in [French](#):

*****We urgently require OTA/PTA educators who are PTs to join the pool of peer reviewers*****

Coming soon

Watch your inboxes in mid-December for two emails:

1. The invoice for the 2016 annual accreditation fee, due February 28 each year.
2. The link to the online Annual Report survey. Each year OTA/PTA programs are required to complete a survey providing contact, demographic and program information.

Follow up on both these emails is a requirement to maintain accreditation or candidacy status.

Webinar Recording

On November 30, a number of participants logged into participate in a webinar offered by the OTA & PTA EAP on the topic of Standard 4 – Program Evaluation. The webinar was just under an hour long, and reviewed each criterion within Standard 4, describing how to provide required narrative and what evidence to submit in a Self Study Report. The webinar was recorded and the link to recording is available on the Resources/Education Sessions page of the website here:

<http://www.otapta.ca/english/resources/education-sessions-01.php>

T-Res pilot project

At its meeting, the JAC reviewed the first draft of the T-Res project summary report that included data analysis and recommendations. Some revisions were suggested and the committee members will be meeting on December 14th by teleconference to discuss the next draft of the report. The recommendations will then be vetted by key stakeholders, including representatives from education programs, before the recommendations are reviewed and approved by PEAC and CAOT. It is anticipated the final report and recommendations will be publicly available by the end of March 2016 at the latest.

The OTA & PTA EAP again thanks the five programs who volunteered to participate in this project for their time – Vancouver Community College, Mohawk College, Sault College, Centennial and Nova Scotia Community College – as well as the Working Group committee members (Siri Marken, Carmen Kimoto, Brooke Malstrom, Jodi Powell, Kate Spencer) for their work to complete the project.

Strategic Planning Session

In early September, the OTA & PTA EAP sought the views of our stakeholders on what should be our vision and goals for the next three to five years, what strengths we could rely on, what challenges we needed to address, and what opportunities and threats we might face. Thank you to all of you who participated in the survey. The views expressed were very helpful, often varied, and occasionally conflicting. We have listened to the valuable comments that you made and we used them to inform our deliberations as we embark upon the development of a 3-5 year strategic plan.

On October 22 and 23, 2015, representatives of key stakeholder groups met in Vancouver to participate in a facilitated strategic planning session. After two days of collaborative and collegial discussions, we are now beginning to see a strategic plan emerge for our organization. With a draft vision and purpose for the OTA & PTA EAP firmly in mind, we were able to better identify and define the activities that we believe are central to it. We have much work still to do as we finalize our strategic

plan. We recognize that we are one of many participants who will realize a vision for OTA and PTA in Canada, and we came to understand the part that we need to play. We appreciated your input and we continue to value your partnership.

The OTA & PTA is committed to sharing a final document in May 2016.

Transition

This will be my final OTA & PTA EAP update as I will be completing my contract as Program Manager on December 31, and leaving the accreditation program in the more-than-capable-hands of Amanda Walton, effective January 1, 2016. It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you so closely and see the program evolve to where it is today. I am confident it will continue to grow in the future and look forward to seeing where you and Amanda will take it!

Amanda can be reached at the following coordinates after January 1, 2016:

amanda.walton@otapta.ca
226-636-0632 ext 103

Until then:

Questions?

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

kathy.davidson@otapta.ca 226-636-0632 ext 101