



OTA & PTA Education Accreditation Program Standards Revision Project 2020-2021

October 2020 Update

Facts About Revising Our Accreditation Standards



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Occupational therapist assistants (OTAs) and physiotherapist assistants (PTAs) are important healthcare team members who contribute to the health and wellness of people living in Canada, in partnership with occupational therapists (OTs) and physiotherapists (PTs). Strong education programs are needed to ensure OTA and PTA graduates hold the necessary knowledge and skills to work under the supervision of OTs and PTs and meet the demand for cost-effective services.

Purpose of Accreditation Standards

Accreditation Standards provide the criteria for the initial and ongoing development and evaluation of these education programs. They also provide a frame of reference to ensure that relevant issues are addressed. Accreditation of OTA and PTA education programs provides assurance to students, employers and the public that graduates are competent to provide safe, ethical, and effective care. Education programs who hold accreditation status demonstrate their commitment to quality education and continuous improvement.



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Rapidly changing healthcare practices require transformative and impactful education programs, and our Accreditation Standards must reflect current education and professional practice environments. The current [Standards of the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program](#) were published in 2012. It's time to revise. Twenty-four education programs have been accredited using these standards or the pilot version, with 10 of these programs completing a second review to begin their next 6-year cycle. Much has been learned that can inform the revisions.

Aim of the Standards Revision

The aim is to review and streamline Standards 1-5 to reflect current education and professional practice environments. Standard 6 is dependent on the practice/competency profiles for OTAs and PTAs, and therefore will be revised in the future, when these profiles are updated.

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Project Team



ECO Canada has been contracted to lead the project. They are responsible for the accreditation of programs at post-secondary institutions (at both college and universities) across Canada and believe strongly in the value and importance of voluntary accreditation. This experience will be key in guiding a successful process that is impartial and objective and conducted with expertise. The project team brings diverse and relevant experience, qualifications and backgrounds in Indigenous Relations, standards revisions and project management.

Project team members include:

- Dr. Yogendra Chaudhry, Vice President, Professional Services
- Emily Peden, Associate Registrar
- Brad Spence, Indigenous and Community Relations Specialist
- Kyle Sims, Manager Professional Services

Standards Revision Sub-Committee

The Joint Accreditation Committee reviewed the interest profiles submitted and is pleased to announce the members of the sub-committee. The pan-Canadian composition has representation from the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), the Canadian Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant Educators Council (COPEC), Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC), as well as educators, regulators, accreditors, peer reviewers, and practising OTs, PTs, OTAs and PTAs. Sub-Committee members include:

Teresa Avvampato	Carmen Kimoto	Ven Rajendran
Dawn Burnett	Janis Leonard	Jeff Williams
Heather Cutcliffe	Kelly Martindale	Mary Clark (ex-officio)
Donna Drynan	Louise Middleton	
Angelena Gartner	Susan Paul	

They bring their collective wisdom to work with the project team on the revisions and report back to the Joint Accreditation Committee who steers the project. The revised Accreditation Standards will be approved by both the CAOT and PEAC Boards.

Timeline: 2020-2021

October – November	December – February	April – May	June – July	October	November
Document Review	Drafting Standards	Stakeholder Validation	Revisions	Final Standards ready for approval	Approved Standards
Survey & Focus Groups					

Questions? Please [email OTA & PTA EAP Program Manager Mary Clark](#)