



Quick Reference for Students

Accreditation and the critical role it plays in your education and career

What is accreditation?

Accreditation is the public recognition awarded to education programs that meet established standards of quality in teaching, student achievement, curricula, academic support and other criteria. Accredited programs commit to following a continuous process of evaluation and quality improvement.

Why is accreditation important?

1 Quality Education

Accreditation offers a measure of quality by ensuring programs meet professional standards.

2 Your Career

Employers often seek to hire graduates from accredited programs



To see a full list of education programs affiliated with the OTA & PTA EAP, please visit our website: www.otapta.ca

What does it mean when a program has Candidacy Status?

Candidacy is the first step toward accreditation. Candidacy status indicates a formal affiliation with our accreditation program, with the intent to complete an accreditation review within 6 years. A program has to meet several key requirements including guidelines around curriculum, fieldwork hours, and staff qualifications in order to obtain Candidacy status.

Why aren't all OTA & PTA education programs in Canada accredited?

Currently, accreditation of OTA & PTA education programs in Canada is voluntary, meaning it is not mandated for programs to seek accreditation. Programs who choose to pursue accreditation do so as a means to ensure quality education and the best possible employment outcomes for their graduates.

Questions to Ask When Considering an Education Program:

- 1 “Is the program accredited by the OTA & PTA EAP?” (you can also check this on our website—see box above)
- 2 For programs holding Candidacy Status: “When does the program expect to complete the accreditation process and receive notification of accreditation award? Will this be before or after my graduation?”
- 3 “Are employers in the area in which I wish to work specifically seeking graduates of accredited programs?”