



Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
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ACOTE® Resources to Support OTM to OTD Transition

In support of educational programs as they transition from the master's to the doctoral degree level, the following resources are available. ACOTE hopes you will take advantage of all of these and offer feedback if other assistance is needed.

ACOTE staff are available to answer any questions. You can reach Barbara Ostrove at bostrove@aota.org or 301-652-6611 ext. 1929. In addition, the [ACOTE webpage](#) contains valuable templates, policies, and information to assist in the accreditation process.

1. A new [FAQ for transitioning programs](#) explains many of the common questions programs have, beginning with how to start the process through and including the NBCOT® policy addressing the change in degree level.
2. [Policy IV.B.4](#) has been revised with specific content for transitioning to the doctoral level. Highlights include:
 - a. Programs may submit a letter of intent prior to receiving doctoral-degree-granting authority.
 - b. Abbreviated review of OTM programs once a letter of intent to transition to the OTD is received.
 - i. Review of A.5. Standards only for interim reports and self-study
 - ii. One day on-site for OTM program
 1. ½ day review of OTM
 2. ½ day consultation regarding development of OTD
3. Webinars will be available beginning fall 2018. Planned topics include:
 - a. Moving from the Master's to Doctoral Level
 - b. Curriculum Design
 - c. Strategic Planning
 - d. The OTD Capstone
4. Ongoing information in the Program Directors' Newsletter.
5. Periodic surveying of programs to understand and support, if able, any institution, state, or region level issues that impact the transition process.

Please note that at its August 2018 meeting, ACOTE voted to adopt the draft Standards as amended for the educational program for the: Occupational Therapist—Doctoral-Degree-Level and Master's-Degree-Level and Occupational Therapy Assistant—Baccalaureate-Degree-Level and Associate-Degree-Level. The 2018 ACOTE Standards will be finalized, sent for copyediting, and disseminated to all communities of interest in the coming weeks.

- Specific to transitioning OTM to OTD programs, ACOTE voted to allow early implementation of two doctoral-level Standards, as programs would like to develop their curricula to reflect the new Standards to better address the needs of their faculty and students and for strategic planning purposes. Those two are:

- Allow programs to waive the requirement in 2011 Standard A.3.2 for program applicants to hold a baccalaureate degree or higher prior to admission to the program.
- Allow OTD programs to have a 14-week Capstone Experience (2018 Standard D.1.3) versus a 16-week Capstone Experience (2011 Standard C.2.3).