* **Future of Education Ad Hoc Committee Report February 11, 2013 (to Dr. Florence Clark)**

Consisted of 30 volunteers and appointed Ad Hoc Committee members.

Recommendation 16: Adopt a mandate that entry-level degree for practice as an occupational therapist become a doctorate by 2017, with a requirement for all academic programs transition to the doctorate by 2020.

* **AOTA Board of Directors’ Position Statement on Entry-Level Degree for the Occupational Therapist April, 30, 2014.**
* Doctoral-level education will best prepare graduates who can demonstrate professional autonomy.
* Reaffirmed the findings from the Future of Education Ad Hoc Committee report that a “single doctoral entry level degree will best position the profession to meet the growing needs of society and fulfill potential in the 21st century.” (<http://www.aota.org/AboutAOTA/Get-Involved/BOD/OTD-statement.aspx>)
* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Summer 2014:**

This newsletter reviewed the BOD’s Position Statement on Entry-Level Degree released earlier. It also highlighted how the BOD does not have the regulatory authority to mandate the entry-level degree. ACOTE is the only agency that has the authority to mandate the entry-level degree. As required, through USDE without hearing from meaningful input and provided meaningful ways PD’s can facilitate dialogue with the BOD (p. 5).

* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Fall 2014:**

ACOTE established a task force to work alongside stakeholders to collect information and identify the “optimal entry level(s) of education for ethical, accountable, and efficient practice to meet society’s occupational needs” (p. 2).

* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Spring 2015:**

ACOTE task force continues their work collecting data including surveys from program directors, clinicians and employers across the country.

* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Winter 2016:**

ACOTE determined a duel entry for occupational therapists.

* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Summer/Fall 2017:**

ACOTE acknowledged the charge from President Stoffel to consider entry-level doctorate. Also cited was AOTA’s Board of Director’s examination of multiple issues.

* **AOTA Board of Directors (BOD) November 7-8, 2014 Report:**
* Multiple reportable activities were completed by the President regarding meeting with stakeholders (SIS, COP, ASD, RALC) regarding the OTD statement
* Within the Vice President’s report additional activities were reported including,

“Fred, Ginny, and Amy have been actively working with staff on the OTD motional and rationale release and in developing communication strategy to facilitate the desired profession wide dialogue in the upcoming months” (p. 11).

* Program directors shared concern regarding the inclusion of their voices from the Academic Leadership Council.
* Chair of the Board’s Ad Hoc Committee regarding moving to a single point of entry for the profession from the Secretary’s report, “Involved in multiple class with leadership bodies of the Board and theRepresentative Assembly” (p. 38).
* Based on the RA Speaker’s report, the recommendation for a single point of entry to OTA education at the associate degree level, and recommendation to the Association develop and implement a 2 year plan to ensure the profession is prepared, if Bachelor’s requirement becomes the requirement for the OTA.
* ACOTE appointed an Entry-Level Practice Steering Committee regarding entry level doctoral education to “collect and evaluate evidence to identify the optimal entry level(s) of education for ethical, accountable, and efficient practice to meet society’s occupational needs” (p. 79).
* Under the OTD Dialogue- Status Report (pp.88-90)

The objective included, “...will inform a potential future decision by the Representative Assembly on the Association’s policy regarding entry-level requirements, with any policy change to be shared with Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education” (p.88). Reportable actions included a Board position statement, AOTA forums, article on AOTA website, OT Practice, and AOTA Alerts of which were sent through the ALC Listserv, Representative Assembly, Commissions (COE, COE, CCCPD, Ethics,), and to the members through OT Practice directing them to the website. Additional discussions were indicated to have occurred through a series of conference calls to: RA Leadership Council and RA Coordinating Council,Assembly of State Affiliated Presidents, ACOTE, COE, etc. Additional evidence was provided regarding the notification to the General Membership through ongoing forums hosted by the President and Board of Directors and through five other state association meetings.

* **AOTA Board of Directors October 24, 2015 Minutes:**

BOD discussed the impact of ACOTE’s decision to maintain two points of entry for the occupational therapist.

* **AOTA Board of Directors November 4, 2015 Minutes:**

Motion adopted to rescind ACOTE SOP and attachments citing: ACOTE is an “associated body” of the Board and operates its educational standard setting and enforcement functions autonomously consistent with the MOU between AOTA and ACOTE.

The Senate HELP Committee has expressed interest in the issue of “separate and autonomous” function of accreditors housed in parent Associations.

The Bylaws Article V, Section 8 will suffice in defining the role of ACOTE to the Association.

* **AOTA Board of Directors February 12-13, Minutes 2016:**

ACOTE provided data: five-year growth rate 43% entry-level doctoral students; 34% entry-level masters students and 70% occupational therapy assistants.

* **AOTA Board of Directors Annual Meeting November, 4-5, 2016 Minutes:**

No mention of the single point of entry was found within ACOTE’s report.

Also no mention of any discussion found related to RA’s Speaker request for further discussion/action mentioned in October’s Annual meeting minutes from 2017.

* **ACOTE PD Newsletter Summer/Fall 2017:**

Review of ACOTE’s actions including motion for the mandate at the August 2017 meeting. The discussion began in 2014 with the Visioning Taskforce. The Visioning Taskforce provided ACOTE with their report in July 2017 with their findings.

* **AOTA Board of Directors Annual Meeting October 19-21, 2017 Report:**

ACOTE indicated the 5-year process that included gathering of data, input from members as well as other stakeholders. Motion was presented to United States Department of Education (USDE) and the Council for Higher Education Administration (CHEA). An ACOTE representative and President Lamb would be present for answer questions at Ed. Summit October 2017.

AOTA Board of Directors (BoD) October Minutes 2017:

From the Representative Assembly’s Speaker’s report from Items for Discussion/Action (p. 37):

*I move that the Speaker request that the Board of Directors reconsider the support of a mandatory entry-level doctoral degree for Occupational Therapists and Bachelor degrees for OT assistants.*

ACOTE’s statement shared with AOTA BoD:

* + With AOTA, “...develop and implement a plan for this transition sot the concerns and needs of all affected stakeholders are addressed to facilitate the smoothest transition possible. This will include policy changes, a modified self-study process, webinars, and other offered trainings to assist all program sin this transition” (p.91).
  + **AOTA Board of Directors October 19-21, 2017 Minutes:**

BOD voted unanimously to reaffirm support for the April 2013 statement that AOTA Board of Directors should take action to transition toward a doctoral-level single point of entry for occupational therapists (p.10).

* **AOTA Board of Directors November 27, 2017 Minutes:**

BOD asked ACOTE questions regarding the data used in the decision making process on the entry level degree mandates.

* **ACOTE Action Notification August 2018:**

Single-point entry remain at the doctorate level for occupational therapists.

* **Joint Statement from ACOTE and AOTA Sent October 9, 2018:**

ACOTE’s acceptance to BOD abeyance of the single-point entry at the doctorate level for occupational therapists.

Note: July BOD Minutes have not been posted for me to confirm the above claim.