



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Academic Credentialing Council Annual Report: 2019

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) strives to enable excellence in occupational therapy. Accreditation supports the development of quality occupational therapy education as a foundation for the profession. Currently, entry-level professional occupational therapy programs in Canada are accredited using the CAOT Academic Accreditation Standards and Self-Study Guide (2017).

2019 Highlights

The Academic Credentialing Council (ACC) recommended accreditation status for the following programs: University of Manitoba, Queen's University, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, Université Laval, and the University of Toronto Mississauga satellite program. Progress reports were reviewed from University of Alberta and Dalhousie University.

Revisions to the ACC Terms of Reference formalized the contribution of the representative from the Association of Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO). The ACC may include up to two ACOTRO members (parity with ACOTUP), with specifications on credentials and expectations. At present, ACOTRO is sending one representative to ACC.

Policy revisions were approved for Policy P.01 (Academic Accreditation) and P.03 (Seven-year CQI Cycle) to better describe the process of progress reports. Also, the ACC undertook a review of the Joint Position Statement on Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities (2018) and made a recommendation for the position statement to be included in the accreditation standards. Revisions to the Self Study Guide also include a guideline for "critical reflections", the glossary definition of IPE was updated, and information was added to the on-site agenda template. The revised Self-Study Guide will be published in 2020.

The administrative schedule adjustment was approved by WFOT and individual programs received notifications. The revised schedule is posted on the CAOT's website. The ACC also implemented a procedure to add an extra night to the on-site visit for the accreditation team to work on the final report.

The ACC welcomed a new Chair-elect Catherine Vallée. Mary Forhan (ACOTUP rep) and Alicia Carey (clinical) joined the ACC in October 2019. Thank you to Nadine Larivière (Past-chair) and Lori Letts (ACOTUP rep) who completed maximum terms with the committee.

ACC Roster (as of December 31, 2019):

Sara Saunders - Chair
Katie Lee-Bunting
Catherine Vallée - Chair-Elect
Annie Carrier
Alicia Carey

Suzanne Daneault - Public Member
Rose Martini - ACOTUP Representative
Mary Forhan - ACOTUP Representative

Heather Cutcliffe - ACOTRO Representative
CAOT Staff:
Alison Douglas - Director of Standards
Ryan McGovern - Accreditation Officer

If you are interested in becoming an ACC member, please notify CAOT's Exam and Accreditation officer at accreditation@caot.ca. CAOT is looking for potential volunteers who are able to:

- Work in collaboration with the Chair and National Office Staff.
- Participate on off-site and on-site teams.
- Review the submissions of the educational programs according to the most current academic accreditation policies and procedures of the Association.
- Participate in accreditation decisions about the program under review.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Board on the mandate of the Academic Credentialing Council.
- Evaluate the work of the Council on an annual basis for continuous improvement.

