



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists **Academic Credentialing Council** Annual Report : 2020

Accreditation supports the development of quality occupational therapy education as a foundation for the occupational therapy profession. Currently, entry-level professional occupational therapy programs in Canada are accredited using the CAOT Academic Accreditation Standards and Self-Study Guide (2019). Decisions about accreditation status are made by the Academic Credentialing Council (ACC) according to the ACC Terms of Reference. A recommendation is sent to the CAOT Board of Directors who approves based on adherence to policies and procedures.

2020 Highlights

- All meetings were held by video-conference in 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Accreditation status of "Exemplary" was granted for the University of British Columbia.
- On March 17th, a meeting was called to discuss implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on OT accreditation. An ACC letter was distributed to programs on March 19th.
- To follow up the letter, ACC met on April 2nd and on April 9th met with ACOTUP and ACOTRO to gather further information and understand context, especially regarding teaching and fieldwork.
- Following an additional ACC meeting on May 1st, and CAOT staff attendance at several meetings of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC), an additional letter was distributed to all programs on May 4th. The letter outlined contingency measures including deferrals of progress reports and accreditation visits during the period of the pandemic.
- The ACC held additional video meetings on June 1/2nd and September 22, 2020. The ACC discussed program improvements (instructions to reviewers, programs, program evaluation, AAAC best practices, complaints policy). Deferrals of progress reports were granted to two universities and a third was granted an accreditation on-site visit deferral with the subsequent 7-year accreditation date unchanged.
- A Strategic Plan project with examination of the current governance model project had been put on hold in March and was re-started. A Strategic Plan Subcommittee was formed to select the consultant and oversee the project. The consultant completed focus group interviews with stakeholders and an environmental scan of other accreditation programs by December 2020. The final report will be submitted and reviewed by ACC and the CAOT Board in 2021.
- The ACC discussed timing for the next version of the Self Study Guide and decided to defer until after the 2021 publication of the new CORECOM document.
- The ACC welcomed a new Chair Catherine Vallée. Susan Rappolt joined the ACC in Oct 2020. Thank you to departing member Annie Carrier who completed her term.

ACC Roster (as of December 31, 2020):

Sara Saunders Past-chair
Katie Lee-Bunting
Catherine Vallée- Chair
Susan Rappolt
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.

