



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Academic Credentialing Council Annual Report : 2021

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.

2021 Highlights

- All meetings were held by video-conference in 2021 due to the pandemic.
- The final report of a year long Strategic Plan project examining the current governance model was received. The ACC held two meetings to discuss the report and formulate an analysis to for the CAOT Board of Directors. The CAOT Board approved that the report be shared with ACOTUP and ACOTRO in summer 2021, along with a request for responses. These responses were submitted in fall 2021 and discussed at two ACC meetings. Further plans to engage with ACOTUP and ACOTRO on this project will be drafted in 2022.
- The ACC analyzed a survey of the impact of COVID-19 on programs. The committee discussed best practice information from Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC) with regard to reviews during a pandemic. When completing accreditation reviews, the ACC will acknowledge pandemic issues, but requested that review teams not be diverted entirely to pandemic-related temporary program changes (focus on more permanent aspects of the program). Review teams were instructed to keep in mind that the policy/health authority/pandemic context of each program is different and things possible in one jurisdiction may not have been possible in another. Educational programs were requested to provide summary of pandemic impacts as part of self-study submission in order to help orient the review teams.
- The Director of Standards (A. Douglas) attended AAAC workshops on equity diversity and inclusion and provided information to ACC. ACC plans to consider this as part of the upcoming standards review in 2022.
- The ACC discussed a plan for implementation of the new Competencies for OTs in Canada, timelines for which will be discussed in 2022.
- The ACC welcomed a new Chair Elect Rose Martini and additional ACOTRO member Natalie MacKenzie in Oct 2021. The ACC thanks departing ACOTUP member Mary Forhan as well as Past Chair Sara Saunders for her years of service to the ACC.

ACC Roster (as of December 31, 2021):

Catherine Vallée- Chair
Rose Martini- Chair-Elect
Katie Lee-Bunting
Susan Rappolt
Alicia Carey
Nathalie Veillette

Suzanne Daneault - Public Member
Jackie Bosch - ACOTUP Representative
Emmanuelle Jasmin ACOTUP Representative

Heather Cutcliffe- ACOTRO Representative
Natalie MacKenzie- ACOTRO Representative
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.

