



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Academic Credentialing Council Annual Report : 2022

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.

2022 Highlights

- The accreditation program completed one virtual accreditation visit, and one in-person accreditation visit.
- 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. OT programs were requested to provide summary of pandemic impacts as part of self-study submission in order to help orient the review teams.
- 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.
- A virtual on-site visit guide was developed with information gathered from AAAC members. This guide was implemented for one virtual visit with feedback provided. The intent of ACC is to encourage all on-site accreditation visits to be in-person.
- A plan for implementation of the new Competencies for OTs in Canada, including Standards revision were approved by ACC and the CAOT Board in Nov. 2022. The timeline and revised Standards were posted in English and French in Jan. 2023.
- The ACC completed a full policy review and recommended policy updates to the CAOT Board.
- The accreditation program is currently going through a governance review with the help of the Accreditation Steering Committee that is guided by an external consultant to discuss the purpose and role of accreditation with a plan to provide recommendations to the CAOT Board for committee and governance structure. This Accreditation Steering Committee was formed as a result of the previous year's strategic planning objective, including a virtual meeting with members of ACOTUP and ACOTRO on June 8, 2022.
- The ACC welcomed a new Chair Rose Martini, new member Nathalie Veillette, Cori Schmitz, ACOTUP representative Shaniff Esmail and external member Maureen Kershaw. The ACC thanks departing members Katie Lee-Bunting (4 years), Emmanuelle Jasmin (1 year), and Suzanne Daneault (6 years) for their service.

ACC Roster (as of December 31, 2022):

Rose Martini- Chair
Catherine Vallée- Past-Chair
Susan Rappolt
Alicia Carey
Nathalie Veillette
Cori Schmitz

Maureen Kershaw - Public Member
Jackie Bosch - ACOTUP Representative
Shaniff Esmail ACOTUP Representative
Heather Cutcliffe- ACOTRO Representative

Natalie MacKenzie- ACOTRO Representative
Alison Douglas- Director of Standards
Ryan McGovern - Accreditation Officer

