

AUTHORITY: By-Law 7 **POLICY:** 8208
SECTION: Standards **DATE:** July 2007
CATEGORY: Academic Credentialing **Approved:** B.07.07.7.5
SUBJECT: Accreditation of New or Lapsed Occupational Therapy Programs **Revised:** B.08.11.7.6

POLICY

1. The accreditation of new or lapsed programs shall comply with the philosophy, guiding principles and purpose of academic accreditation as outlined in Policy 8203 «Academic Accreditation».
2. In order to attain an “Eligible for Accreditation” status, the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists invites new or lapsed occupational therapy programs seeking accreditation to apply to the Academic Credentialing Council to determine if the educational program meets established minimum requirements as outlined in accreditation documents for new programs. All minimum requirements must be met for a new or lapsed educational program to attain an “Eligible for Accreditation” status.
3. Once deemed “Eligible for Accreditation” a new or lapsed educational program may enter the accreditation process.
4. For new programs, in order to retain an “Eligible for Accreditation” status and to ensure established minimum requirements are met as outlined in accreditation documents for new programs, an on-site review will occur before the first student intake completes the first half of the program. A full accreditation review with an off- and on-site review will take place before graduation of this first student intake.
5. For lapsed programs, a full on-site and off-site review, as outlined in accreditation documents, will take place in the first year of receiving “Eligible for Accreditation” status.
6. Accreditation decisions will be awarded as per Policy 8205 «Accreditation Awards». Accordingly, no award will be granted to those educational programs that do not meet criteria for a five-year award.
7. Students will be regarded as graduating from an accredited program if the education program was granted a five-year or seven-year accreditation award at any point during the students’ course of study in this program.

PROCEDURES

1. A lapsed program will refer to an occupational therapy program with an expired accreditation award that is not in the process of re-accreditation. The term will also apply to an occupational therapy educational program with a withdrawn accreditation award, in accordance with the program's service agreement with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (service agreement item 4).