MOT Program Accreditation
Frequently Asked Questions

Official Statement:

The entry-level occupational therapy master’s degree program has applied for accreditation and has been granted Candidacy Status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), located at 4720 Montgomery Lane, Suite 200, Bethesda, MD 20814-3449. ACOTE’s telephone number c/o AOTA is (301) 652-AOTA and its Web address is www.acoteonline.org. Once accreditation of the program has been obtained, its graduates will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). In addition, most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination. Note that a felony conviction may affect a graduate’s ability to sit for the NBCOT certification examination or attain state licensure.

Students must complete all graduation and fieldwork requirements in a timely manner. All Level II fieldwork must be completed within 24 months of completion of the didactic portion of the program.

1. What steps have been completed?
   a. NMC has completed their Letter of Intent (2013) and Application (2015). The Application for Candidacy Status was approved in August of 2015, and the program was then given permission to start advertising and admitting for its first cohort, to start August 2016.

2. What steps are next?
   a. The faculty and leadership of NMC are to complete a Self-study report by December 1, 2016. This report is a lengthy extension of the application reviewed by accreditors in 2015. We will also be asked to produce evidence of our outcomes related to the required accreditation content.
   b. This document will be reviewed by the accrediting team, and if approved, Pre-accreditation status will be granted, and an on-site visit will be scheduled.
   c. The granting of this status indicates that, based on our Self-study report, ACOTE has determined that the program is likely to meet the accreditation standards for a MOT program if implemented as outlined. The purpose is to provide indication that the program is proceeding in a direction that will lead toward ACOTE accreditation (ACOTE, 2011).
   d. Then, another report will be compiled, as outlined by the Report of Pre-Accreditation Review, in which any new material, outcomes, changes, etc. are outlined.

3. When will the accreditors come visit NMC?
   a. Assuming Pre-Accreditation Status is granted, the anticipated timeline for the onsite visit is between August and November of 2017. Following this onsite visit is when the official Accreditation decision would be made.
4. What happens if the program doesn’t get accredited?
   a. Although we hate to consider this as a possibility, we believe in transparency throughout the accreditation process. Students will be notified in writing of all accreditation actions through all the steps in the process. We are confident in the support and leadership of the institution, our relationships in the community to support outreach and fieldwork experiences, and the expertise of the Program Director and all hired faculty. We strongly believe we have the people, resources, and support to proceed effectively through the accreditation process!

5. What is MY role as a student?
   a. That is a great question! The first cohort of students has a special responsibility to be “co-creators” of the curriculum. While the curriculum design has been completed, faculty will be relying on feedback from the first students to take each course in regards to the strengths of the course, course delivery methods, related fieldwork opportunities, outreach opportunities, and any feedback on how to further strengthen the material. We envision a group of students who is truly engaged in the educational process; who is interested in the vision for the future of occupational therapy, and who is committed to being involved in the continued development of the program. Any students who are on campus at the time of the ACOTE visit may be asked to provide ACOTE with feedback on the program as well. This is truly a unique opportunity!

Contact Information:

Dr. Melissa Kimmerling
MOT Program Director
Melissa.kimmerling@methodistcollege.edu

Megan Maryott
Director of Enrollment Services
megan.maryott@methodistcollege.edu