

# ACOTE Action on Candidacy Status - GateWay Community College/East Valley Institute of Technology

OTA



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Wed,  
Aug 21,  
10:36  
AM

to marla.pomeranz, nancy.johnson, steven.gonzales, acoteonline, cfuchs, dfrega8, jamesmvea

Dear Dr. Pomeranz,

At its meeting on July 26-28, 2019, ACOTE considered the Candidacy Application from the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at GateWay Community College/East Valley Institute of Technology, Phoenix, Arizona, and voted to GRANT CANDIDACY STATUS.

As a result of this action, the institution may admit students into the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program according to the approved timeline (January 2020) and may proceed to the Preaccreditation Review step of the accreditation process. The Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at GateWay Community College/East Valley Institute of Technology, Phoenix, Arizona, will be included on AOTA's list of programs that are holding Candidacy Status and are eligible to admit students.

The program may now move to Step 2 of the Initial Accreditation Process (the Preaccreditation Review) and may begin work on the Self Study in the "SELF STUDY" tab of the ACOTE Online System (<https://acote.aota.org>) that is due on or before July 1, 2020. A check for the Preaccreditation Review fee must be submitted to the AOTA Accreditation Department in sufficient time to ensure receipt on or before July 1, 2020. (See Current [Fee Schedule](#)).

The following are the results of the Candidacy Application Review:

## **Strengths:**

The program identified the following strengths:

- The curriculum was vetted by the GateWay Community College curriculum committee and is governing board approved.
- 22 medical/health programs, with 9 being degreed and accredited through their respective agencies
- Financial aid to meet the needs of students
- Strong student support services

- Strong library services
- Learning center, counseling, disability resource services
- Community college well established 50 years
- 22 medical/health programs offered at GateWay with good reputation
- Strong community ties, Health United GateWay (HUG) program, community outreach, multiple community college locations
- K-12 connection with East Valley Institute of Technology
- Partnership with East Valley Institute of Technology
- Higher Learning Commission accredited Community College
- Only public OTA program in the state making it more affordable to students

### **Remaining Areas of Concern:**

Upon review of the Candidacy Application and the additional materials requested, the following areas of concern were identified:

1. A.2.1. Program Director: The program director has 1.5 years of experience in a full-time academic appointment with teaching responsibilities at the postsecondary level.
2. A.2.2. FTE Faculty Composition: The program director is currently the only full-time faculty, though the program has a plan to hire the second full-time equivalent, which will be the academic fieldwork coordinator, in fall of 2019.
3. A.2.4. Academic Fieldwork Coordinator: Currently there is no academic fieldwork coordinator. The position is being recruited for with an expected hire date in fall of 2019.
4. A.2.9: Sufficient Faculty: The program does not currently have faculty sufficient in number to ensure appropriate content delivery and program evaluation. The program plans to hire part-time adjunct faculty in Fall 2019.

The GateWay Community College/East Valley Institute of Technology OTA program is scheduled to submit a full Report of Self-Study on 7/1/2020, and is scheduled for an initial on-site in the March 2021 timeframe.

### **ACOTE Action:**

Grant Candidacy Status and proceed with the preaccreditation review of the program. The NBCOT school code assigned to the OTA program is 10310.

The OTA program is approved for one cohort of 25 students per year. Note that once Candidacy Status is granted, requests to expand or significantly change the program (e.g., admit an additional student cohort, increase the number of students to be accepted each year by 25% or more from the number indicated in the program's Candidacy Application, offer the program at an additional location by distance education, add a weekend, evening, or part-time track, etc.) require advance approval from ACOTE. The request for a significant change must include all information

designated under “Significant Program Changes or Additions” in [ACOTE Policy V.B.1. Additions or Changes](#).

*NOTE: Any institution or program that elects to make a public disclosure of an ACOTE report must accurately disclose complete information regarding ACOTE’s findings (i.e., strengths, areas of concern, and ACOTE’s final action). Strengths cited in the report may not be published without also publishing any cited areas of concern. Please refer to [ACOTE Policy VI.E. - Sample Statements Regarding Accreditation Status and Use of the ACOTE Logo](#) for suggested wording for publishing the status of the program.*

ACOTE extends best wishes for success in the development of the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program.

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**Links:**

[ACOTE Policy III.A.2. - Step Two: The Preaccreditation Review](#)  
[ACOTE Policy VI.E. - Sample Statements Regarding Accreditation Status and Use of the ACOTE Logo](#)