

NBCOT Early Determination Review

Dear Students:

No doubt you are busy addressing all the things you need to address in order to begin the Entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program here at NSU Tampa in May. As a faculty, we are mindful that this process may seem overwhelming at times. However, there is one potential resource that we want you to be aware of.

The National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) is the body that guides and monitors the certification and recertification of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. Upon successful completion of our program you will be eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by NBCOT in order to obtain initial certification as an occupational therapist. All states that regulate occupational therapists require this certification, i.e., the passage of this exam as a requirement to obtain a license to practice occupational therapy in that state.

Successful completion of an accredited academic program is just one the criteria for eligibility to sit for the certification exam; “good moral character” is one other. NBCOT offers an “Early Determination Review” (EDR) service for current or entering students that feel, because of various reasons, that their moral character as defined by NBCOT, may prevent them from sitting for the certification exam.

Please refer to the summary of the EDR process from NBCOT, located on the next page. More information on this topic can be found at the following web link:

<http://www.nbcot.org/early-determination>

Please note that neither our program nor university is involved in making this nor any other eligibility determination based on personal or professional character or background.

Sincerely,



Dennis P McCarthy, PhD, OTR/L
Associate Professor
Director of Student Affairs & Marketing



Early Determination Review

An individual who is considering entering an occupational therapy educational program or who has already entered an educational program can have his or her background reviewed prior to actually applying for the exam by requesting an Early Determination Review. The fee for this review is \$225.00

In this early determination review process, the NBCOT may give early or prior approval to take the certification exam, as it pertains to good moral character, provided that the information reviewed is not found to be a violation of any of the principles of the Code of Conduct.

Each early review case is reviewed on an individual basis. After NBCOT has completed its review, the individual is notified in writing regarding whether he or she would be eligible for NBCOT certification.

PLEASE NOTE: NBCOT staff is only able to advise any individual regarding eligibility after all official documentation has been received and reviewed. This means that individuals who contact NBCOT requesting a “Yes” or “No” response as to whether his or her background would be cause for disqualification must submit the required documentation and will receive written notification after the review is complete.

At the time an individual who has received a favorable early determination review applies to take the certification examination, he or she will still be required to respond to the character question(s) posed on the certification examination application. Provided that no additional incident(s) relating to good moral character have been incurred since the favorable review, the individual will simply need to submit a statement that refers to the favorable early determination and affirms that no additional incident(s) have occurred since the review. He or she would not be required to resubmit the information reviewed in the early determination process.

Occupational Therapist (OTD) Program

Health Professions Division * College of Health Care Sciences * Department of Occupational Therapy
3632 Queen Palm Drive, Tampa, FL 33169-1378 * Phone: 813-574-5340 * FAX: 813-574-5330 * www.nova.edu/cah/ot/otd