

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, or who has already entered, an occupational therapy educational program can have his/her background reviewed prior to actually applying for the exam by requesting an Early Determination Review. NBCOT uses a third party vendor to provide background checks on current and prospective occupational therapy students who are concerned that an issue in their background may prevent them from being eligible to sit for the certification exam. A written explanation of any incidents in question is also required. If an individual has been on parole or probation at any point within the last seven (7) years, he/she must also include official documentation confirming his/her compliance with or completion of all terms and conditions imposed by the court. NBCOT may request additional information as needed on a case-by-case basis.