

## NBCOT Early Determination Review

Dear Student:

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 Bay Regional Campus 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., passing this national examination is 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:

<https://www.nbcot.org/en/Students/Services>

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,

*Ricardo C. Carrasco*

Ricardo C. Carrasco, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA  
Director & Professor

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## Early Determination Review

If you plan on entering or have already entered an occupational therapy degree program, you can choose to undergo the character review prior to applying for the exam by requesting an Early Determination Review.

After NBCOT has completed its Early Determination Review, you will be notified in writing about whether you will be eligible to take the certification exam, provided that all eligibility requirements are met at the time you apply.

In order to find out if an issue resulting in a "Yes" answer to a character question would result in ineligibility for the exam, you will need to undergo the character review process either through Early Determination Review or when you apply for the exam after graduation.

To request an Early Determination Review, complete and submit the [Early Determination Review Payment Form](#).

