

AGENDA ITEM 2

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Please note: The Board may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this public comment section, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting [Government Code Sections 11125 and 11125.7(a)]

The following are attached for review:

- Email requesting the Board consider providing a mechanism for licensees with past discipline a mechanism to petition for dismissal/clearance.
- Email from NBCOT requesting that the Board consider accepting NBCOT certification renewal as an option to meet the state's continuing competency requirement.

cbot, CBOT@DCA

From: Hanson, Jeff@DCA on behalf of cbot, CBOT@DCA
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 5:58 PM
To: Shay Yohanan
Subject: RE: public agenda

Ms. Yohanan - Thank you for this email. We'll share your email with the Board members at an upcoming meeting.

Thank you,

CBOT Staff

From: Shay Yohanan [mailto:shay_yohanan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 2:19 PM
To: cbot, CBOT@DCA
Subject: public agenda

I am requesting that in one of your near future agendas the board consider a policy for allowing licensees to petition the board for removal of disciplinary action against their licenses as in PC1203.4. In the Justice system a criminal record may be cleared by petition. May the OT board please institute such a policy.

Martin, Heather@DCA

From: Shaun Conway <shaun.conway@nbcot.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 08, 2016 11:15 AM
To: Martin, Heather@DCA; cbot, CBOT@DCA
Cc: Shaun Conway
Subject: NBCOT - Request for Consideration
Attachments: Navigator Descriptions and Objectives_1-20-2016.pdf; Regulator Newsletter - Summer 2015.pdf; Sample.State.Language.Recognizing.NBCOT.Renewal.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, June 13, 2016 12:30 PM
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Heather –

I am writing to provide you with information about two NBCOT related issues for possible review and consideration as related to occupational therapy regulation in California: 1) the NBCOT Navigator – online continuing competency assessment tools and 2) recognition of NBCOT certification renewal as an option for meeting/fulfilling the state's continuing competency requirement.

NBCOT Navigator™ online continuing competency assessment tools

- We would appreciate your consideration of whether these new tools could be accepted for purposes of helping to meet the state's continuing competency requirement for occupational therapy. The NBCOT Navigator™ officially launched in June 2015 through the organization's web site (www.nbcot.org) portal. All currently certified OTR® and COTA® certificants are now able to access these new tools, at no additional cost, and as a value added benefit of their national certification. Competency assessment units are awarded upon completion and an online certificate is issued to the user per tool completion. Further, it is important to highlight that all of the online tools in the Navigator Suite are referenced to current evidence based literature.

The link below provides access to a video demonstration

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo40a0Vu7ULZ3A0R1b7wjmQ>

The following link provides access to additional information

<http://www.nbcot.org/navigator>

In addition, please find attached course descriptions and objectives for each of the different types of tools in the NBCOT Navigator toolkit.

As of June 6, 2016 twenty-three (23) occupational therapy state regulatory boards have confirmed acceptance of the NBCOT Navigator Tools.

Recognition of NBCOT certification renewal as an option for meeting/fulfilling the state's continuing competency requirements

- We would also appreciate your consideration of whether current NBCOT certification, based on ongoing continuing competency and professional development, could be considered as an option for meeting/fulfilling

the state's continuing competency requirements for occupational therapy licensees. It is worth noting that two more states (Colorado and Oregon) have made this decision and several more states are now giving this consideration. Articles about each of these decisions is included in the NBCOT's E-newsletter for occupational therapy state regulators. Attached is a copy of the newsletter for your reference.

Please find attached references to regulatory language from the states of Maryland, Oregon and New Hampshire which highlight how these three state boards approached recognizing NBCOT certification renewal *as an option* for meeting/fulfilling the state's continuing competency requirement.

At your convenience, please let me know your thoughts and whether you think these issues could be considered by the California Board of Occupational Therapy.

If you would please confirm receipt of this message that would be great. I just want to be sure you have this information, including attachments, for your review.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.

Best regards,

Shaun Conway, OTR
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NBCOT

THE NBCOT
NAVIGATOR™

Tool Descriptions
and Assessment
Objectives

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INTRODUCTION

The National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc. (NBCOT®), the national certification body for occupational therapy professionals in the United States, has created a virtual platform for its certificants to engage in continuing competency assessment. NBCOT, like other healthcare professions, recognizes certificants face ongoing pressures of accountability and advances in practice, which in turn necessitates the ongoing need for skill development and demonstrated continuing competence throughout a certificant's career.

During 2012, in response to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports, *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality, 2003* and *Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions, 2010*, NBCOT completed a practice analysis study. The study identified six key areas for focus: providing client-centered care, working in interprofessional teams, employing evidence-based practice, applying quality improvement, utilizing informatics, and promoting professional responsibility. The findings supported the creation of a competency assessment platform, the goals of which were to create an innovative and dynamic delivery platform designed to: offer accessible, engaging, and dynamic assessment tools; support a certificant's practice throughout his or her professional career; provide feedback on current practice skills; and introduce certificants to evidence-based resources.

With neither an existing platform nor content to meet its needs, NBCOT embarked on a groundbreaking journey to design, develop, and deliver the virtual platform and all of its supporting content from initial concept through deployment. The system initially beta-tested during the last quarter of 2014, went live in June 2015, and includes a web-based assessment delivery engine, certificant dashboard, and interfaces that support a variety of tools, including self-reflective assessments, mini practice quizzes, case simulations, and mini games.

The tools are available, at no charge, to individuals currently certified as an Occupational Therapist Registered OTR® or Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant COTA® and can be accessed through the MyNBCOT portal. Competency Assessment Units (CAU) are awarded for successful completion of tools. A certificant is able to accrue up to a maximum of 14 Competency Assessment Units (CAU) per renewal period by completing tools in the NBCOT Navigator™.

The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of general descriptions and assessment objectives for the competency assessment tools contained in the NBCOT Navigator. For more tool-specific information, please go to www.nbcot.org/navigator-tools.

GENERAL TOOL DESCRIPTIONS AND ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

PICO

Tool Description

This tool contains a series of simulated games introducing the certificant to the process of evaluating appropriate, evidence-based research in order to make informed decisions about OT practice.

Competency Assessment Objectives

By completing a PICO game, certificants will assess their skills to:

1. Formulate an effective search question.
2. Complete an evidence-based literature search.
3. Identify best evidence to answer a practice-related question.

Criteria for Earning CAU Credit

Certificants can earn 0.5 NBCOT Competency Assessment Unit (CAU) by successfully completing one PICO game. A maximum of 2 CAU can be earned by successfully completing all four PICO games within one renewal cycle. There is no limit to the number of times a certificant can play a PICO game.

MINI PRACTICE QUIZZES

Tool Description

These short multiple-choice quizzes are designed to assess knowledge of contemporary OT practice grounded by evidence-based literature. Topic quizzes cover the major practice areas identified in the NBCOT Certification Renewal Practice Analysis Study and include: pediatrics, school system, administration/management, acute care, rehabilitation, education/research, work/industry, wellness, and home health.

Competency Assessment Objectives

By completing a MINI PRACTICE QUIZ, certificants will assess their skills to:

1. Examine topics relating to contemporary OT practice.
2. Identify practice areas for continued professional development.
3. Access evidence-based resources for ongoing continuing competence.

Criteria for Earning CAU Credit

Certificants can earn 0.5 NBCOT Competency Assessment Unit (CAU) by successfully completing one mini practice quiz. A maximum of 6 CAU can be earned within one renewal cycle with one attempt allowed per each mini practice quiz.

Case Simulations

Tool Description

Case simulations bring OT practice to life with a focus on clinical reasoning. Each case simulation starts with an opening scene providing background information about the scenario. This is followed by a series of modules that engage the certificant in providing OT services with a virtual client. Modules may include: client interviews and chart reviews; selection of appropriate screening and assessment tools; completion of evaluations; interpretation of assessment results; interprofessional team discussions; intervention planning; provision of intervention services; and discharge planning.

Competency Assessment Objectives

By completing a CASE SIMULATION, certificants will assess their skills to:

1. Demonstrate the use of clinical reasoning to provide evidence-based OT services.
2. Identify practice areas for continued professional development.
3. Access evidence-based resources for ongoing continuing competence.

Criteria for Earning CAU Credit

Certificants can earn 1 NBCOT Competency Assessment Unit (CAU) by successfully completing one Case Simulation. A maximum of six case simulations, or 6 CAU, can be earned within one renewal cycle.

MINI GAMES

Tool Description

Mini games involve assessment of specific practice knowledge. Each game is uniquely designed for its specific topic. The Balloon Match Game, for example, is a stylized matching tool covering a broad range of occupational therapy knowledge. Coming soon: Management Challenge, Physical Agent Modalities, and Orthotic Builder

Competency Assessment Objectives

(Note - Each mini game will have distinct objectives. Those listed here are general and for illustrative purposes.)

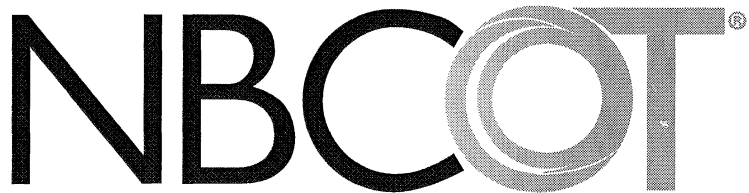
By completing a mini game, certificants will assess their skills to:

1. Apply appropriate practice-based OT knowledge.
2. Identify practice-based knowledge areas for further learning.
3. Access evidence-based resources for ongoing continuing competence.

Criteria for Earning CAU Credit

View respective mini games in the Navigator for details of CAU awarded.

For the Balloon Match Game, certificants can earn 0.25 NBCOT Competency Assessment Unit (CAU) for each game successfully completed. A maximum of 2 CAU can be earned within one renewal period.



National Board for
Certification in
Occupational Therapy

NBCOT Combines Innovative Gaming Technology with Continuing Competency Tool Suite, Launches NBCOT Navigator™

Free Online Resources for OTR® and COTA® Certificants to Help Them Stay On Top of Their Game in Evidence-Based OT Practice

The NBCOT Navigator™ is a new suite of online competency development tools that augment and support professional development efforts

and competency goals of OTR® and COTA® certificants. The suite of tools operates on a virtual learning platform that allows currently certified OTR and COTA certificants to assess their competency and use real-life case simulations, knowledge match games and mini practice quizzes to sharpen their skills. NBCOT Navigator also enables OTR and COTA certificants to earn up to 18 professional development units toward their next certification renewal.



OTR and COTA certificants using the NBCOT Navigator have free access to different knowledge building games, learning tools, and other resources that address all areas of occupational therapy, including orthopedics, mental health, school based, home health, rehab inpatient, rehab outpatient, skilled nursing, education and research, health and wellness, work and industry, pediatrics and administration management. As an online resource, NBCOT Navigator also offers greater flexibility with when and where OTR and COTA certificants participate in professional development, reducing the need to step away from clients, work or home. [Learn more](#) or check out the [FAQs](#).

“Since the Maryland Board now recognizes current certification with NBCOT as meeting the Maryland continuing competency requirements (CCR), 85% of our licensees qualify for an exemption from the Board-conducted audit of CCRs. The Board is able to electronically verify certification status directly with NBCOT. I was surprised and pleased with the time saved by eliminating Board conducted audits of documentation for 85% of Maryland licensees.

The NBCOT Navigator offers new online continuing competency tools which will enhance the licensees experience to further customize their professional development, in this case, with interactive options. The Maryland Board believes that, ultimately, consumers of occupational therapy benefit when practitioners participate in meaningful professional development throughout their career.”

Donna Ashman
Executive Director, Maryland Board of Occupational Therapy

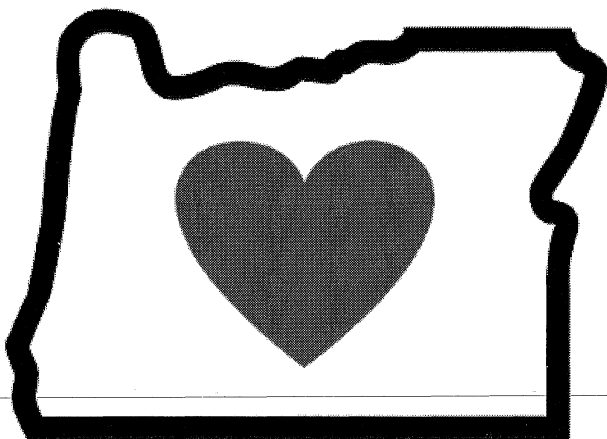
WV Votes to Include NBCOT Navigator in Continuing Competency Activities List for License Renewal

After viewing a demonstration of NBCOT's new online competency tools at a recent continuing education conference, the WV Board of Occupational Therapy voted to include these tools in the list of continuing competency activities that will meet the state's requirements for license renewal. The Board encourages licensees to accumulate hours from a broad scope and variety of activities and this provides another option to do that.

According to Kathy Quesenberry, WVBOT President, "We are excited that practitioners have the opportunity to participate in educational modules specifically designed for Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants. Having the ability to learn new information and refresh information previously learned, using an interactive online environment at their convenience, will assist in keeping practitioners current and knowledgeable. This resource will be invaluable in helping all OT professionals access material which can be utilized in our daily practices."



Provided by: Vonda Malnikoff, Executive Secretary - West Virginia Board of Occupational Therapy



Oregon OT Licensing Board Recognizes NBCOT® Certification as Fulfilling State CE Requirements

The Oregon OT Licensing Board was looking at ways to encourage Oregon OT professionals to pursue continuing education while maintaining their NBCOT certification. They decided to recognize current NBCOT certification as complying with Oregon Continuing Education (CE) requirements.

In March of 2015, a final rule was filed, changing the Oregon CE requirements to state that therapists who have current NBCOT certification are automatically compliant with Oregon licensure CE requirements. [READ MORE.](#)

- *Why is NBCOT certification important to maintain?*

Maintaining national certification is important for therapists who worked so hard to obtain their original "OTR" or "COTA" and want to continue to maintain that professionalism. Having certification is a good way to continue to be the best therapists they can be and maintain practice standards. NBCOT tracks ongoing education and they can do self evaluation of their professional development, especially with the new simulation gaming platform.

- *Regarding the decision, what value do you feel it will bring to certificants?*

Oregon therapists will now be able to follow just one process to maintain their continuing education requirements, rather than a second CE system in Oregon with different requirements and timelines. As long as therapists maintain current NBCOT certification, their CE in Oregon will now be current too.

Previously the Oregon CE requirement was 30 points of CE every two years and now it is 24 points for two years with NBCOT (36 for 3 years renewal). This saving can pay the cost for their NBCOT recertification.

- *How does this benefit the state of OR?*

The Oregon OT Board will have less to track on continuing education when licensees renew every two years. Last renewal period we found that over 75% of licensees had current NBCOT certification and we hope this change will encourage even more therapists to maintain their national certification.

The Oregon OT Licensing Board recognizes that aligning state standards with national standards eliminates the confusion of two continuing education compliance systems and encourages Oregon therapists to maintain their national certification.

Provided by: Felicia Holgate, Executive Director - Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board

North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

NBCOT hosted a free webinar on March 31, 2015, on the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case of the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

During the webinar, a team of experts provided an overview of the ruling and the potential implications for state regulatory boards. [READ MORE.](#)

North Carolina General Assembly Program Evaluation Division (PED) Files Report on Board Consolidation Findings Following Two-Year Evaluation

In 2013, the North Carolina General Assembly directed its Program Evaluation Division (PED) to evaluate the structure, organization, and operation of independent occupational licensing agencies (OLA) in the State.

In January 2015, the PED filed its report and made the following findings: (1) regulatory authority and administrative functions should not be transferred from OLAs to a central State agency; (2) current statutory reporting requirements do not provide adequate oversight of OLA performance; (3) there is inadequate oversight to ensure that OLA enforcement processes are effective; (4) establishment of an occupational licensing commission can strengthen oversight and help OLAs improve performance; (5) twelve OLAs did not provide sufficient information to justify continued licensing authority; and (6) consolidation of ten OLAs can help ensure that necessary resources are available to effectively regulate licensed occupations. Based on its six findings, the PED made six recommendations. [READ MORE.](#)

Provided by: Charles Wilkins, Legal Counsel - North Carolina Board of Occupational Therapy

Colorado Approves NBCOT for Deemed Status

The NBCOT has been approved for Deemed Status with the Colorado Continuing Professional Competency Program for occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. In order to renew a license in Colorado, a licensee must demonstrate compliance with continuing competency requirements pursuant to section 12-43.7-107(2), C.R.S. Deemed Status is one way to meet these requirements. In order to claim Deemed Status, at renewal a licensee will attest to his/her Deemed Status. It is incumbent on the licensee claiming Deemed Status to ensure that the continuing professional competency program in which he/she participates is substantially equivalent to the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program administered by the Director. It must contain the following elements during each renewal period:

- A self-assessment of knowledge and skills
- Completion of at least 24 contact hours of learning activities
- Documentation of completion of continuing competency activities

If claiming Deemed Status, the licensee must be in compliance with DORA CC requirements before renewing a license. Active certification with NBCOT is a three-year period while the renewal period at DORA is 2 years. A certification with NBCOT will qualify a licensee for Deemed Status with DORA but the licensee must ensure DORA requirements, including at least 24 hours of learning activities, are completed within DORA's two (2) year renewal period.

Licensees claiming Deemed Status are subject to an audit of compliance. Please see the [DORA website](#) for more information.

Provided by: Abi Gaskins, Division Wide Program Manager, Healthcare Professions Profile Program - Continuing Competency, Workforce Data and Professional Review Governing Boards

WITHDRAWN

Rhode Island Governor's Proposal to Deregulate Occupational Therapy Assistants is Withdrawn

As of June 12, 2015, the Rhode Island Department of Health Press Office confirmed that HB 5900 has been withdrawn. Licensure requirements for occupational therapy assistants who practice in Rhode Island will remain intact!

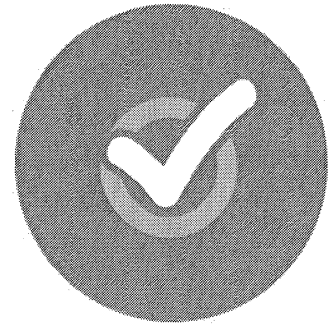
In an effort to create a more business-friendly environment through greater commerce and trade, the Rhode Island Governor had previously submitted a proposal which, if enacted, would have deregulated multiple professions including occupational therapy assistants who practice in the state.

In this proposal, state licensing requirements would have remained intact for occupational therapists who practice in Rhode Island. Click link to access House Bill 5900, Articles 19 and 20, which pertained to occupational therapy. [READ MORE.](#)

Enhancements to the NBCOT Online Verification of Certification Tool

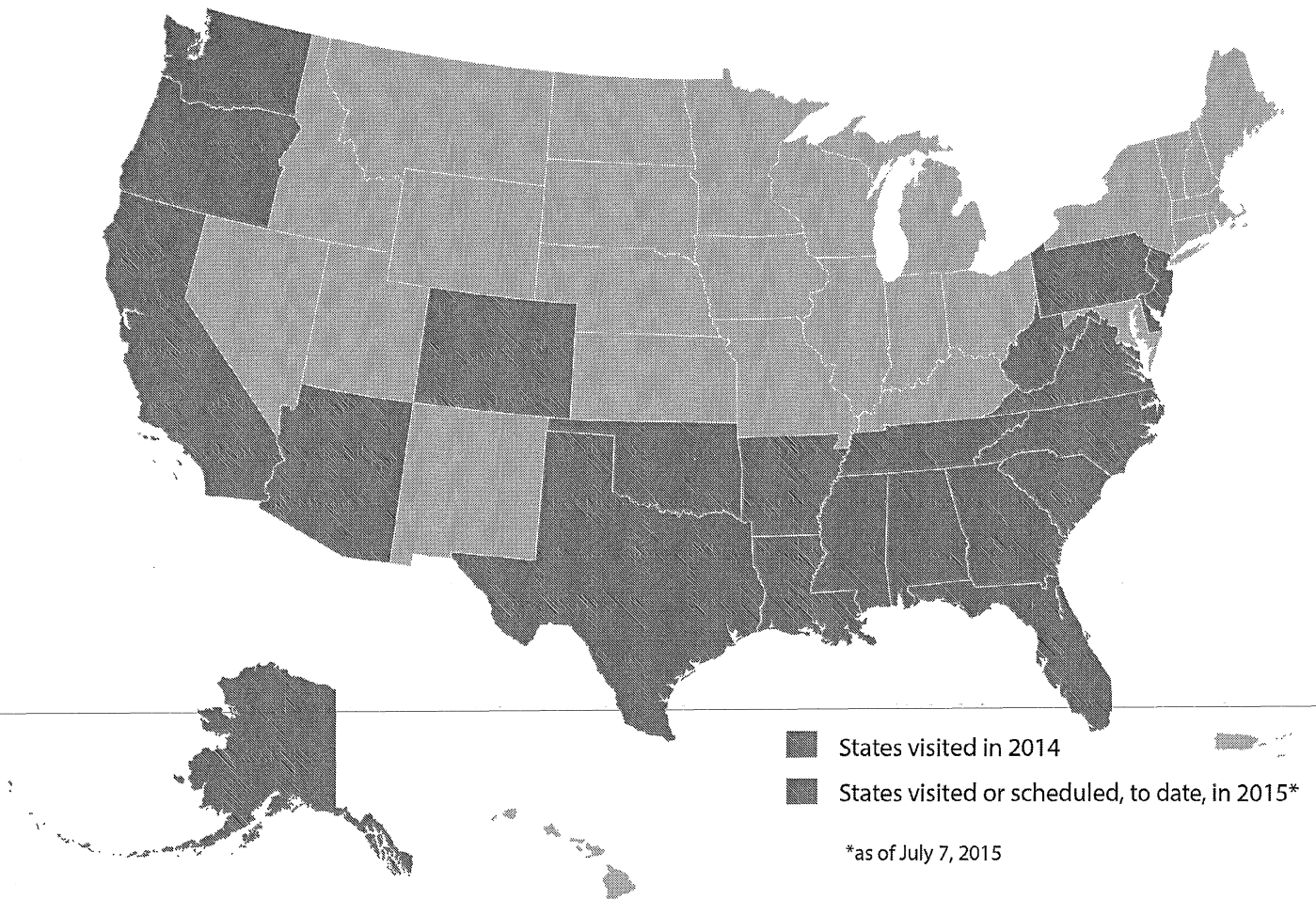
NBCOT recently launched several enhancements to our free and accessible verification tool. Anyone including clients, state regulators, employers and the public are able to utilize this resource to verify the certification status of OT professionals. Enhancements to the tool include:

- Added certification number
- Added certification expiration date
- Added reference for OT and OTA who are not currently certified



[Go to the online verification tool today!](#)

A kind word from Elaine Barberot from the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners



NBCOT State Regulatory Visits

We have traveled across the country meeting with state regulatory boards, exchanging ideas, and updating you on NBCOT's state regulatory programs, services and resources.

Have we visited your state?

If you would like an NBCOT representative to meet with your board, please contact Shaun Conway at shaun.conway@nbcot.org

**Subtitle 46 BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE
MARYLAND**

**Chapter 04 Continuing Competency Requirement
Authority: Health Occupations Article, §§10-205 and 10-311, Annotated Code of Maryland**

B. Requirements Regarding Contact Hours.

(1) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall certify a minimum of 12 contact hours of competency activities obtained within the 1-year period preceding the application for licensure, reactivation, or reinstatement.

(2) The 12 contact hours referred to in §B(1) of this regulation shall consist of:

(a) A minimum of 8 contact hours related to occupational therapy principles and procedures; and

(b) A maximum of 4 contact hours through occupational therapy role-related activities.

(3) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall provide the necessary documentation to the Board upon request.

C. Exceptions.

(1) Licensed Less Than 1 Year. An occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant who becomes licensed between July 1 and June 30, that is, has had a license less than 1 year before renewal, is exempt from continuing competency requirements for the first renewal period.

(2) Maintenance of Current Certification with the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

(a) The Board recognizes the maintenance of current NBCOT certification as fulfilling the requirements of §B(1) and (2) of this regulation.

(b) Documentation. The licensee shall provide a photocopy of the front and back of the certificate of maintenance of current NBCOT certification.

Oregon 339-020-0010 CE Requirements for Current Licensees

(1) All current licensees shall obtain a minimum of 30 points of CE from Board approved categories during the two years immediately preceding the date of the license renewal; or

(2) The Board recognizes the maintenances of continuous professional development hours as evidenced by current NBCOT Certification (National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy) as fulfilling the requirements for CE under (1).

(3) Exceptions:

(a) Current licensees who have their first NBCOT certification do not need CE for their first year.

(b) Current licensees who have their second year of NBCOT certification shall obtain a minimum of 15 points of CE from Board approved categories.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER Occ 100 ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

Occ 406.02 Maintenance of Continuing Competence

(d) Continuing competence shall be accumulated through on-site, distance-learning or other participation in the following activities related to occupational therapy:

(1) Maintenance of current NBCOT certification, as further described in Occ 406.03

Occ 406.03 Maintenance of NBCOT Certification.

(a) The board shall recognize as maintenance of continuing competence a licensee's maintenance of current NBCOT certification.

(b) Maintenance of NBCOT certification shall fulfill the requirements of Occ 406.02(a), (b) and (c) for the biennium.