

Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) Centennial: Celebrating 100 Years of Excellence

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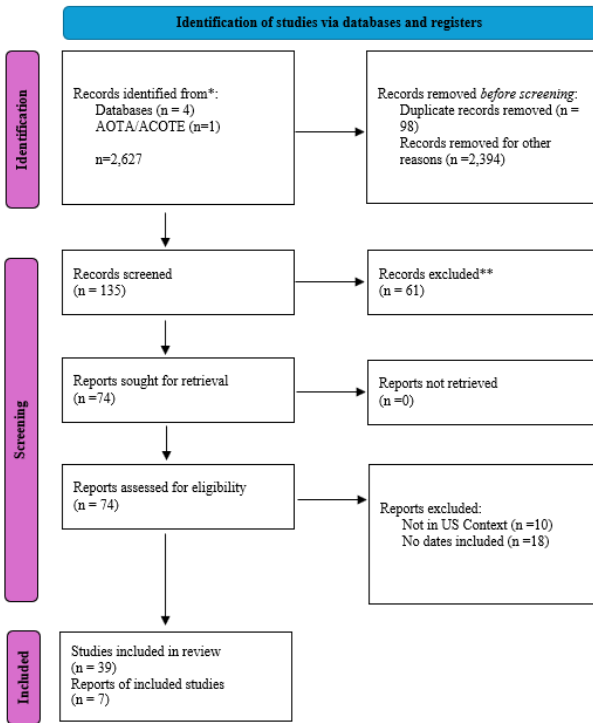
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Purpose

Present the results of a narrative historical review of the literature and highlight five distinct time periods that were characterized by distinct shifts in educational Standards, professional identity, and the larger social context that contributed to the changing Standards of OT education in the US.

Methods

- A narrative historical review methodology was used to comprehensively map and synthesize the existing body of literature.
- A comprehensive review of the literature, informal reports, and investigating citations yielded 2,627 documents reviewed. Of these 2,627 documents, 135 abstracts, and 74 full-text papers were, examined, resulting in 39 articles and 7 reports included in the final review.
- The 39 articles and 7 reports were disseminated between 1923 and 2024.



Themes:

1917 - 1938 Foundation and Formalization//Building the Educational Foundation

1939 - 1958 From Technician to Therapist

1959 – 1982 Growing Together: OT and OTA//Parallel

Pathways: OT and OTA//Professional Partners: OT and OTA

1983 – 2000 Independence and Identity//Professional

Independence and Academic Advancement

2001 – 2023 Educational Expansion and Dual Pathways

5 Distinct Evolutionary Phases

1917 - 1938 Foundation and Formalization

- 1918 1st school of OT: Boston School of Occupational Therapy
- 1923 AOTA established 1st standards for training

1939 - 1958 From Technician to Therapist

- 1943 Advancement in the required subjects
- 36 weeks of Fieldwork
- 1949-25 accredited programs

1959 – 1982 Growing Together: OT and OTA//Parallel Pathways:

- 1965 Minimum standards increased to baccalaureate
- 1983 Introduction of Evidence Based Practice

1983 – 2000 Independence and Identity

- 1983 OTA became a certification
- 1988 AOTA received renewed recognition from USDE
- 1998 Master's mandate

2001 – 2023 Educational Expansion

- 2007 New standards with dedicated fieldwork standards
- 2010 Introduction of IPE
- 2018 Capstone standards introduced

Conclusion

- Analysis reveals that the OT profession and its academic Standards have consistently demonstrated adaptability to societal needs and changing healthcare demands.
- OT education will continue to evolve to meet future societal challenges and professional requirements, maintaining its commitment to preparing competent practitioners for an ever-changing healthcare landscape.