Information about the accreditation process

1. What is the current accreditation status of Messiah College’s MOT program?

Messiah’s Master of Occupational Therapy program is currently under review for candidacy status by the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

2. What is the timeline for the accreditation process?

Messiah College’s MOT program could receive accreditation as soon as December 2018, less than a year and half after it launches its program, based on the below timeline and process established by ACOTE and Messiah College:

- Messiah College will submit its application for candidacy status to ACOTE on Sept. 15, 2016
- Messiah College will submit the initial accreditation report for its MOT program to ACOTE on Dec. 1, 2017
- ACOTE will conduct its on-site evaluation sometime between August and November 2018.
- ACOTE will take action in December 2018 based on the report of the on-site evaluation team. At that time, ACOTE can take the following actions:
  
  - Accreditation granted: 10-year review cycles are granted to those programs that have no areas of noncompliance and have demonstrated exceptional educational quality
  
  - Accreditation granted: 7-year review cycles, which are the standard number of years for reaccreditation.
  
  - If areas of non-compliance are identified as a result of the on-site visit, a Plan of Correction is submitted and subsequent progress reports are submitted to demonstrate that the program has fully resolved cited areas of noncompliance within 1 year of ACOTE’s accreditation action.

3. Is it certain that Messiah’s MOT Program will be fully accredited by ACOTE?

While it is not possible for any program to guarantee that it will be granted accreditation, it is highly unlikely that Messiah’s MOT program would not gain accreditation. Programs that do not get accredited have major issues of non-compliance, such as a lack of adequate educational
spaces to meet the educational objectives, or not having faculty or the finances to support the
program. However, Messiah College’s MOT program offers the following positive factors for
accreditation:

• In addition to her OT degree, MOT Program Director Darlene Perez-Brown has a Ph.D. in
  Education and has more than 15 years of academic experience in OT. She has undergone
  three successful OT accreditation processes in her role as an OT faculty member.

• The OT faculty has participated in an ACOTE accreditation workshop to prepare the MOT
  program and the program report and site visit to meet ACOTE’s standards.

• The OT curriculum is solid and is in alignment with Messiah College’s mission and ACOTE’s
  highest standards. The Community of Educators at Messiah College has approved the OT
  curriculum.

• Messiah College is fully supportive of the OT program and has invested in a state-of-the-art
  facility that exceeds ACOTE standards of accreditation.

• The MOT program is committed to hire faculty with the highest credentials, recognized by
  their dedication to academic excellence.

• Messiah College is located in a premier geographical area, granting access to outstanding
  medical facilities and healthcare organizations.

• The College has already established affiliation agreements with hospitals, private clinics,
  schools and community-based clinical sites.

4. **Whom may I contact with accreditation questions about Messiah’s MOT program?**

You may contact the director of the MOT program, Dr. Darlene Perez-Brown at
dperezbrown@messiah.edu.