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Judith Pachter Schulder
State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA. 17105-2649

Ms. Pachter Schulder:

As an Occupational Therapy Student who will be graduating in June of this year and who is planning on being licensed to practice in Pennsylvania, I support the proposed OT Guidelines for Continuing Competency Requirements to maintain licensure. My only concern is regarding the requirement for six contact hours outside of continuing education. I feel that this will create a hardship for me and many of my future colleagues since our practice arena may be limited and not a typical setting conducive to students, or there aren't always students who live or go to school in the areas where we may work. This includes those of who work in a casual or part time status or in a management position since these usually limit their options to serve as a clinical instructor or mentor. Most of us are also not in a position to serve in any form of publishing/presentations. New graduates are not immediately eligible to take students which will severely limit our options.

While I think that these other areas are fine to include as options for our requirements, I am strongly opposed to them being required. I would prefer to see POTA follow the current setup that NBCOT follows by giving us a broader list of options so that we can further our education/skills as we see fit to best support our current job and practice areas. I do not feel that the other areas in question will insure "continued competency".

Continuing education is a must and I fully agree, as we already have with the requirements for the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. A choice of avenues, not a mandate would be better accepted.

Sincerely,  OTS
Laura Mariotti, OTS

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