

Santa Ana College
Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
Professional Advisory Committee Meeting
June 13, 2014
Minutes

Present: Michelle Parolise, Debbie Hyman, Chris Murphy, Ruth Sun, Scott Dagenais, Radhika Hattiangadi, and Patti Shiokari

- I. Update on admission - Applications will be open from June 14 through September 15. Only complete applications with official transcripts will be accepted. There are 55 spaces open for the Spring and Fall 2015 school year. The plan is to randomized all completed applications and take 55 students with 10 alternates. The alternates will be accepted into the 2016 year if they do not make it into the 2015 year. The committee was asked if they think a wait list would be appropriate for the rest of the people who apply. After discussion it was decided that we should wait until the number of applications is known.
- II. Debbie and Michelle completed the AOTA annual report based on the new standards.
The pass rate dropped to 88% for the 2013 calendar year. Debbie and Michelle have been working to determine the cause of this. Based on our finding the proposed program changes to the committee:
 1. The online students have a slightly higher pass rate than the daytime students but have a lower retention rate. Plans to change the format so that both semesters would have certain classes online and certain classes on campus was discussed. The plan would be to have the spring start have classes in the morning and early afternoon and the fall start to have classes in the late afternoon and evening. This would require students who currently work full-time to cut back on some of their work hours so that there is more focus on the program. The committee had a positive response to these changes.
 2. Lower class size from 33 to 30. This will give students more interaction in the lab classes.

3. Debbie and Michelle proposed a mandatory NBCOT preparation class. There was discussion about how this would be formatted and when it would occur. No definite recommendations were made.

III. A new instructor is needed for the physical dysfunction lab class. The criteria for the position was discussed and the committee was asked to pass on any recommendations.

IV. Fieldwork update: Debbie reported that finding adequate fieldwork placements remains a continued problem - with the opening of new OT/OTA programs it is expected to get worse. The committee reported that it is increasingly difficult to take students in hospital settings based on census and productivity requirements.