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## Reminder— Suicide Assessment CE

Beginning January 1, 2014, as part of their continued competency, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants are required to obtain at least three hours of training every six years in suicide assessment as specified in WAC [246-847-066](#). The licensee must keep documentation for six years.

- (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must complete the first training required by this section during the first full continued competency reporting period after January 1, 2014, or the first full continued competency reporting period after initial licensure, whichever occurs later.
- (b) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant applying for initial licensure on or after January 1, 2014, may delay completion of the first training required by this section for six years after initial licensure if:

Continued on page 2

### License Statistics (then and now)

#### Occupational Therapists

May. 2021	4023
January 2022	4095

#### Occupational Therapy Assistants

May. 2021	1191
January 2022	1214

### Board Members

**Walter Gruenwald, OT Chair**  
**Mary Spores, OT, Vice-Chair**  
**Sunny Anderson, OTA**  
**Ning Barfield, OT**  
**Di Irons, Public Member**

## Legislation—Interstate Compact

State legislation was introduced during this legislative session for the occupational therapy profession. Senate Bill 5518 ([SB 5518](#)) in the Senate and companion House Bill 1610 in the House ([HB 1610](#)) are intended to facilitate the interstate practice of occupational therapy. The bills will allow OTs and OTAs licensed in a home state (licensee's primary state of residence) to obtain practice privileges in any states legally joined in the compact (member states). The compact allows OTs and OTAs to have a full and unrestricted license to practice in each state of the compact in which they practice, according to that state's laws and regulations. The compact will go into effect once the tenth member state enacts the statute into law.



## Reminder—Suicide Assessment CE (cont. from page 1.)

- (i) He or she can demonstrate successful completion of a three-hour training program in suicide assessment that was completed no more than six years prior to the application for initial licensure; and
- (ii) The training meets the qualifications listed in WAC [246-847-066](#)

### Suicide assessment training standards. (WAC 246– 847-066)

- (1) A qualifying training in suicide assessment must:
  - (a) Be an empirically supported training in suicide assessment that includes risk assessment, screening, and referral;
  - (b) Be provided by a single provider and must be at least three hours in length which may be provided in one or more sessions; and
  - (c)(i) Until July 1, 2017, meet any other requirements of RCW [43.70.442](#); and
  - (ii) Beginning July 1, 2017, be taken from a provider listed on the department's suicide prevention training model list.
- (2) The hours spent completing a training program in suicide assessment under this section count toward meeting any applicable continued competency requirements.
- (3) Nothing in this section is intended to expand or limit the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant scope of practice.



[Click here to apply to become a board member](#)

## We Need You!



The Washington State Department Occupational Therapy Practice Board is currently recruiting for board members. The mandate of the Occupational Therapy Practice Board is to protect the public's health and safety and to promote the welfare of the state by regulating the competency and quality of professional healthcare providers under its jurisdiction. We are recruiting for one professional member and one public member. [Click here to apply to become a board member](#)

The next Occupational Therapy Practice Board Meeting is scheduled to be held January 21, 2022. Updated meeting information can be found on the program's webpage at: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/OccupationalTherapist/BoardMeetings>

## Is a Doctor of Occupational Therapy Degree Needed by 2027?

The answer is no. In 2017, the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) mandated that by 2027, all master's programs would be required to move to a doctoral degree. After two years of discussions between AOTA and ACOTE, they decided to maintain dual entry-level degrees. This is called Dual Point of Entry because it means you can enter the field as an occupational therapist at either the master's or doctoral level. Students who graduate from a program accredited by the accreditation standards of ACOTE will be eligible to work as occupational therapists whether they have a doctoral degree or a master's degree. If AOTA decides to move to a single point of entry and mandates that the entry point be a doctoral degree, OTs with their master's degree will be grandfathered in and will not require any additional education.



### Reader Input

We want to hear from you. If you would like to read about something specific, [please let us know.](#)

## Fun Stuff



- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| ◇ Application | ◇ Occupational |
| ◇ Assessment  | ◇ Public       |
| ◇ Board       | ◇ Renewal      |
| ◇ Compact     | ◇ Safety       |
| ◇ COTA        | ◇ Suicide      |
| ◇ Health      | ◇ Telemedicine |
| ◇ Legislation | ◇ Therapy      |
| ◇ Licensure   | ◇ Washington   |

Find the above listed words. Words can go in any direction.

**HAVE FUN!**

## Meet Mary Spores, OT, Board Vice-Chair



My name is Mary Spores, and I am honored to serve on the Washington State Occupational Therapy Practice Board. I love the combination of science, creativity, and art that is essential in our practice as we strengthen the foundations of our profession, evolve, and are leaders in the innovation of health care. I began my career as a COTA prior to attaining my OT degree. Over the past 34 years, I have worked in a variety of settings, including acute care, school settings, and outpatient therapy clinics. I currently practice in an industrial rehabilitation and chronic pain management center, where I've been since moving to Washington 15 years ago! When not at work, I enjoy volunteering with the Special Olympics, reading, learning new crafts, and going for walks by the water in the Pacific Northwest.

Content provided by: Mary Spores, OT, Vice Chair