

USING EDUCATION HOURS TOWARDS THE CURRENCY REQUIREMENT (Hours of Practice)

One of the requirements for registration with the College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba is 600 hours of occupational therapy practice within the three years immediately preceding your application. Applicants who have graduated from an entry level occupational therapy program or re-entry program within the past 12 months are not required to meet this requirement. In some situations, post-graduate education hours can be counted towards the 600 hour currency requirement.

I am doing post-graduate studies. Can I remain current without working?

If your course of study is directly related to occupational therapy, you will be able to get credit for some of the hours of study. COTM will determine if your course is directly related to the practice of occupational therapy and can be counted.

Education hours may be used to meet no more than 75% of the currency requirement.

You must maintain registration with COTM throughout the period that you wish to accrue occupational therapy education hours.

What types of education are typically approved?

Post-graduate education that leads to or results in a recognized degree or certification that is pertinent to occupational therapy practice may be approved. Examples are:

- Masters degree or Ph.D. degree;
- advanced certification in an area of practice such as:
Sensory Integration, Neurodevelopmental Treatment (N.D.T.), Gerontology, Hand Therapy, Counseling, etc.

The education must be from an accredited program or recognized institution.

Continuing education courses and workshops are not applicable.

How will COTM determine if my course of study is acceptable?

You will be asked to supply COTM with official documentation which clearly identifies the nature of the education including course content and contact hours. This may be the course title and number, credit hours, and course description, outline and objectives (as applicable).

How do I provide proof of having completed advanced education?

You will be asked to submit your transcript, advanced degree or advanced practice certification as proof that you have completed the course.

I have not practised OT in some time. Will I be able to register with COTM when I finish my next degree?

COTM recognizes that newly graduated occupational therapists need to integrate theory into practice within 12 months of completing their education and that practising OT's need to maintain a minimum level of practice to remain current. For these reasons, COTM limits the opportunity to use education hours towards the currency requirement to those applicants who can provide evidence of three years of continuous practice immediately before the period of education.

I am completing my advanced education outside of Manitoba and am not currently a member of COTM. I am considering moving to Manitoba when I graduate. Will I be able to get some credit for my education hours?

You should contact COTM to discuss your specific situation. These types of requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Is there a limit to the number of education hours I will be given credit for?

The formula for calculating hours for course work is 20 X the credit hours
e.g. one half course = 3 credit hours. 20 x 3 = 60 hours of practice.

Completion of a research-based graduate thesis which does not have credit hours designated to the thesis course number will be evaluated on an individual basis by the COTM. In principle, a Master's level thesis, or equivalent will be credited with 720 course work hours and a Doctoral thesis, or equivalent, with 1,440 course work hours. These are in addition to the hours accumulated in completing individual courses in fulfillment of degree requirements.

Education hours must constitute no more than 75% of the currency requirement.

For more information, please contact COTM at (204) 957-1214 or by email at OTinfo@cotm.ca

This publication is provided for general information. For more specific information see
The Essential Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada,
The COTM *Code of Ethics* for Occupational Therapists and
The Occupational Therapists Act and Regulation.
COTM publications are available on our website at www.cotm.ca