

How We Develop Fair and Defensible Occupational Therapy Certification Exams

A Continuous Commitment to Excellence

Beginning of Each Exam Cycle

Occuring every 5 years:

OT Practice Study

We conduct a study to determine the essential job tasks and knowledge required for safe and effective OT practice. These findings shape the content of the certification exam to make sure it assesses the competencies needed for quality client care.

Standard Setting

We work with OT professionals, under the direction of our psychometrician, to set the passing standard for the exam. This confirms the exam assesses the minimum level of knowledge that corresponds with safe and competent OT practice.

Tasks Throughout the Exam Cycle

These steps continuously support high-quality exam:

Question Development

We work with OT professionals to develop new questions for the exam that reflect current practice.



Exam Development

We ensure consistency by using a blueprint to build all exams to identical specifications.

Exam Validation

Before an exam is released, OT professionals review all questions and confirm they reflect current practice and are accessible and unbiased.



Exam Delivery

Once validated, the exam is prepared for test delivery through a network of secure and accessible testing centers.

Field Testing

We pilot test all newly developed questions to verify they meet statistical and fairness standards before they are included as scored questions on the exam.



Exam Analysis

We conduct statistical analyses on all aspects of our exams to affirm that they accurately and fairly assess the essential knowledge for OT practice.



Question Enhancement

We continually review and validate the exam questions to confirm the exams continue to stay relevant, clear, and up-to-date with current OT practice.



This rigorous process ensures that OT certification exams are fair, reliable, and relevant—providing confidence that OT professionals are thoroughly qualified to deliver safe, high-quality care and uphold the standards of the profession.