

National Standards for Occupational Therapy

Ensuring Safe, Competent Care for All

Why Certification Matters



Supports a Consistently Qualified National OT Workforce

Ensures OT professionals meet established national standards, regardless of their educational path, thereby enhancing access to competent practitioners for all.



Protects the Public

Verifies that practitioners meet rigorous safety and competency standards.



Backed by Research

Studies show certification enhances care quality and patient outcomes.

Public Protection is Critical



Licensure alone is not enough

Requirements and scope of practice vary from state to state, which can lead to inconsistencies in standards of care.



Without Certification, Client Safety is at Risk

In the absence of a uniform, national standard, quality of care could be jeopardized.



Certification Validates Competency

NBCOT's initial certification and renewal processes are designed to uphold safety and effectiveness in OT practice.



Upholding Ethical Standards & Accountability

Certified OT professionals are held to NBCOT's Code of Conduct and as such are subject to a disciplinary action process to protect the public and safeguard the integrity of the profession.

Independence & Objectivity



Fair, Transparent Standards

NBCOT operates independently to set clear, unbiased standards for practice.



Objective Decision-Making

Free from external influences that could affect safety or professional integrity.



Public Trust

Strengthens confidence in the OT profession through impartial oversight.



Meeting the Highest Industry Standards

NBCOT is accredited by the NCCA, a third-party organization that confirms we meet rigorous standards for fairness, reliability, and excellence in all certification practices.

What People Say About Certification

89% NBCOT's Code of Conduct & ethical standards benefit the profession

85% agree that NBCOT's certification programs are valuable to the occupational therapy profession

84% say certification supports professional growth & development



Would you want someone who is not nationally board certified treating your family member?

"I want the best care for my child."
-parent

"Employees who are certified are more credible, more up to date on area of expertise, more respected by co workers."
-employer

"Certification keeps me growing as a practitioner and ensures I stay current."
-practitioner



9 out of 10

certified OTPs agree that NBCOT's certification programs ensure a consistent national standard for OT practice!

Confirming Ongoing Professional Growth



Commitment to Best Practices

Certification reinforces high-quality, evidence-based care.



Lifelong Learning

Encourages continuous education and skill development.



Accountability & Trust

Demonstrates a practitioner's dedication to excellence and ethical practice.

"Certification tells me that an OT professional isn't just licensed but committed to upholding national standards of excellence and continuous learning."
-client

Certified. Competent. Committed.

Certification isn't just a credential—it's a promise to clients, employers, and the profession that occupational therapy professionals are qualified, ethical, and prepared to deliver the best care possible.