

The Tufts University Boston School of Occupational Therapy (BSOT) Granted Full Reaccreditation

(May 2005)— The Tufts University Boston School of Occupational Therapy’s (BSOT) professional entry-level occupational therapy master’s degree program has been granted full accreditation for the next ten years by the American Occupational Therapy Association’s (AOTA) Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. The Tufts-BSOT, a program offered through the university’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, received high marks on all accreditation areas. Some of the areas the evaluation report covered included: academic resources, the curriculum, operational policies, and fieldwork education.

In the “Major Strengths of the Program” section of the report, BSOT was noted for, among other things, the leadership and commitment of its chair, Sharan Schwartzberg, the faculty’s ability to “articulate the mission of the program and integrate the curriculum design into their coursework through the use of creative and well-designed teaching methodologies,” the ties that the department has made with the community and how these relationships support the mission of the program, the commitment to fieldwork that all members of the department display, and the positive integration of clinical reasoning throughout the curriculum.

The report’s recommendations call for the department’s continued evaluation of the effectiveness of the curriculum—to ensure that the design drives decisions around curriculum, course sequencing, and content issues—and that more effective systems for the disbursement of reports to those involved in reviewing and revising the educational program be developed. The recommendations are in keeping with the department’s plan to launch more web-based communication with alumni, students, and the university community.

The Tufts-Boston School of Occupational Therapy is located in Medford, Massachusetts. It has consistently been ranked as one of the top five graduate programs of its kind in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*. The program offers entry level and post-professional master’s degree programs (MS/MA) and a post-professional occupational therapy doctoral degree program (OTD). The Tufts-BSOT also offers a Certificate of Advanced Professional Study (for OTRs) and a Hand and Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Certificate Program in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital. Fieldwork and practical application of theory is a crucial part of the educational experience of the graduate students in the program. Over the past year, students have been involved in a variety of learning experiences at local schools and community agencies, major teaching hospitals in the Boston area, and other leading health care and educational settings across the United States.

To learn more about the Tufts Department of Occupational Therapy call 617-627-5720 or go to <http://ase.tufts.edu/bsot/>.

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