

Pathway to Safe and Competent Occupational Therapy Practitioners

NBCOT® Certification Matters

Education

1 Graduate from an accredited OT or OTA program to gain essential knowledge and skills for practice.

2



Experience

Complete hands-on fieldwork experience by working with real clients under the supervision of experienced OT professionals in a variety of practice settings.

Ethics

3 Abide by the NBCOT Code of Conduct, which holds certified OT professionals to high standards for personal and professional ethics and integrity.

4



Eligibility

Pass a background check, uphold ethical standards, and meet education and fieldwork requirements. NBCOT's rigorous process for determining certification eligibility ensures only qualified candidates pursue certification.

Board Certification

5 Pass a national board certification exam to provide objective evidence of meeting the standard for safe and competent client care. Education and fieldwork experiences vary – certification provides the common national standard.

6



Licensure

Licensed OT professionals can legally work within a state's scope of practice. State licensure boards and practitioners rely on NBCOT to provide objective verification of readiness to deliver safe, effective care.

Continued Certification

7 Maintaining certification shows a commitment to ongoing competency, evidence-based practice, and high-quality care. Certification offers a national standard above and beyond individual state licensure requirements.

Certification is more than passing an exam. National board certification provides independent, third-party validation that an OT professional has met rigorous national standards.

Clients, employers, and the public can be assured that certified OT professionals are committed to the highest level of client care and held accountable.