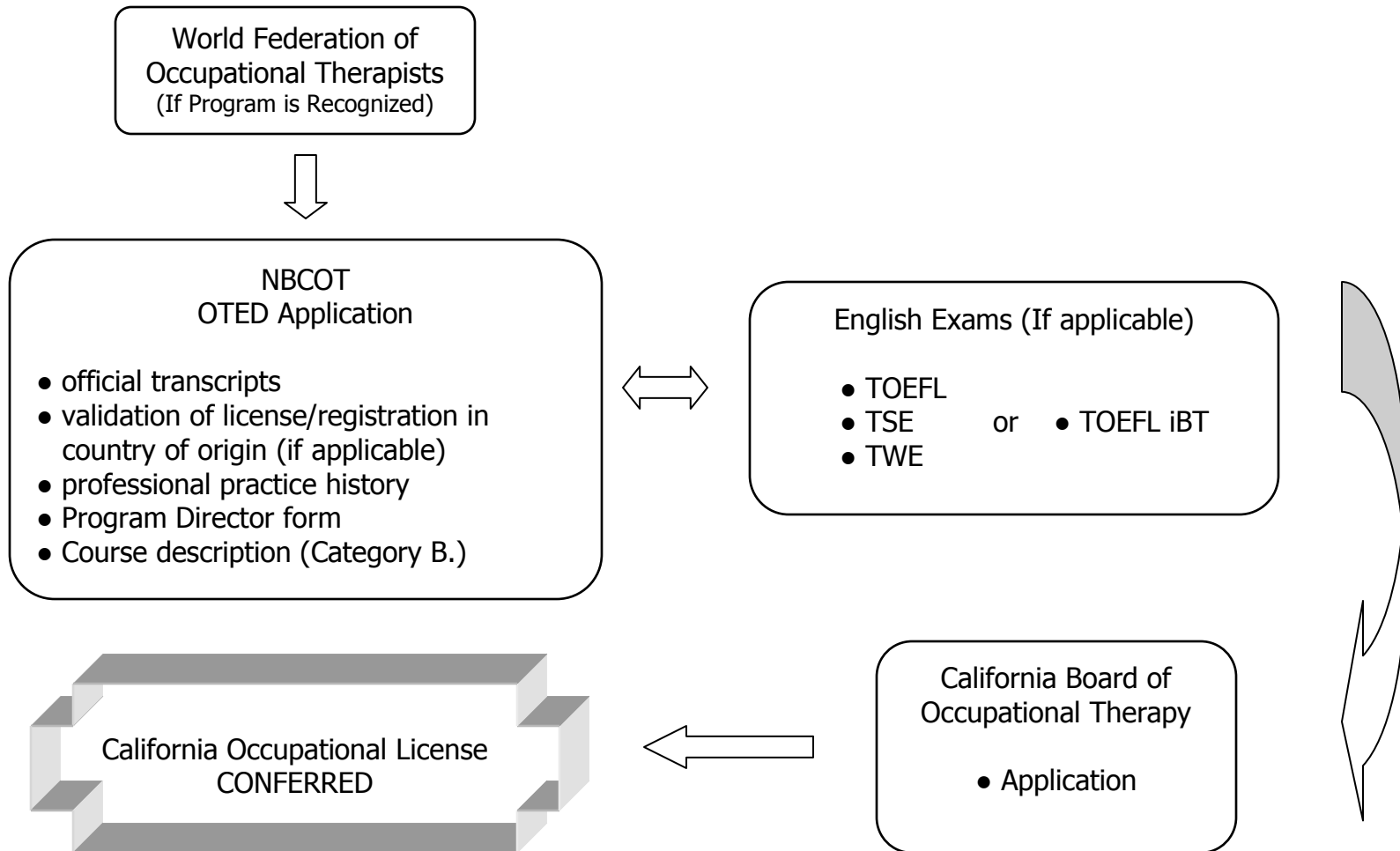




# U.S. Licensing Process for Foreign Occupational Therapists

## Overview



**Disclaimer:** This information is provided only as an overview. All programs, processes, and/or fees are subject to change. Please verify above information with appropriate agency or governing body.

1. **National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT)** - NBCOT is the national certifying agency that determines the Academic, fieldwork and examination requirements that occupational therapists (both US and internationally trained) must meet if they wish to become certified as an Occupational Therapist Registered OTR®. The first step in the process is submitting an Occupational Therapist Eligibility Determination (OTED) application to NBCOT. Eligibility requirements include:
  - a. **Education**- Graduation from a WFOT approved occupational therapy program with or without combined education, comparable to a US entry-level post-baccalaureate degree in OT
  - b. **Supervised Experience**- At least 1,000 hours of fieldwork.
  - c. **English Proficiency**- You must pass the English language examinations. You can submit the OTED application prior to passing the required English examinations. TOEFL scores are valid for up to two years from the test date.

As part of the OTED process, you will be required to submit official transcripts, verification of license/registration from your country of origin and your professional practice history. If NBCOT receives documents in a language other than English, an accompanying official translation is required. The OTED Application fee is \$500 in 2010. For more information go to <http://www.nbcot.org> or contact [OTED@nbcot.org](mailto:OTED@nbcot.org)

2. **English Exams** – Only the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination are accepted by the NBCOT. The TOEFL iBT™ is computerized and administered in most countries. If not available in your location, NBCOT accepts the TOEFL, TWE and TSE exams. The TWE a written essay part included in the TOEFL. The TSE (Test of Spoken English) is a separate exam. The TOEFL iBT is offered at multiple locations in California. For more information on these tests and their costs, contact Educational Testing Services, TOEFL/TSE Services at [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) or by phone at (609) 777-7100.
3. **Occupational Therapist Registered Examination**- After you have received OTED approval from NBCOT, you must submit an exam application to the Certification Examination for the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST REGISTERED OTR®. The examination is computerized and consists of 3 simulation test items and 170 multiple choice test items. If you fail the exam, you must submit a new application and fees. The exam fees in 2010 are \$480 to apply online, \$520 for the paper application and \$45 to report the score to the CA board of OT. NBCOT will send you an “Authorization to Test” letter once the application has been processed. This letter is good for 90 days and can be reactivated for a fee of \$75 for another 90 days, up to one year of submitting an exam application. Once you have your ATT letter, you can contact Prometric Test Centers to schedule an examination date. A list of test sites can be found at [www.prometric.com](http://www.prometric.com). Once you pass the exam, you will receive an official NBCOT certificate verifying your certification as an Occupational Therapist Registered.
4. **CA Board of Occupational Therapy**- After obtaining your NBCOT certification, you meet the requirements to apply for a license to practice as an Occupational Therapist in California. You must submit an official transcript from the OT program you graduated from and there is an endorsement form that must be filled out by the appropriate agency in your country. There is also a fee that must be submitted with your application. For more information go to [www.bot.ca.gov](http://www.bot.ca.gov) or contact the board at (916) 322-6167.