

# About Art Therapy Education and Credentials

## AATA 2007 Educational Standards

By 2007, all AATA Approved Educational Programs must meet the following standards. These standards were developed to meet counseling license requirements and include the competency areas commonly designated by state counseling licensure boards.

### General

A master's degree with a minimum of 48 graduate semester credits or 72 quarter-hour credits is required to meet standards for graduate level art therapy education. Most programs provide 60 graduate semester credits or 90 quarter-hour credits to meet licensure or clinical education standards and to prepare graduates for both licensure as counselors and registration, board certification, or licensure as art therapists.

### Required Content Areas

- History and theory**
- Techniques of practice**
- Application of approaches with people in different treatment settings**
- Group work**
- Assessment & Appraisal**
- Ethical and legal issues**
- Standards of practice**
- Cultural and Social Diversity**
- Thesis or Culminating Project**
- Psychopathology & Diagnosis**
- Human growth and development**
- Counseling and Psychological theories**
- Cultural and Social Diversity**
- Research**
- Career and Lifestyle Development**

### Practicum/Internship

A minimum of one hundred (100) hours of supervised practicum involving observation and practice in preparation for internship and a minimum of six hundred (600) hours of supervised art therapy internship over at least two academic terms is required. Three hundred (300) hours must be working directly with clients in individual, group, or family formats. A minimum of 350 total client contact hours must be accumulated in practicum and/or internship. It is recommended that programs preparing students for mental health counseling licensure require a minimum of nine hundred (900) hours of supervised internship during which at least 400 total client contact hours must be accumulated in practicum and/or internship. The balance of the supervised hours (indirect hours) must include, but is not limited to: case review, record keeping, preparation, treatment team meetings, in-service conferences, and related milieu activities, evaluation of outcome, and termination of treatment. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate clinical material and integrate theory and practice through case presentation.

## Supervision

Students must have both individual and group supervision. **Individual Supervision:** For every ten (10) hours of client contact, there must be one (1) hour of supervision by a registered art therapist (ATR), board certified art therapist (ATR-BC), or licensed professional in a related field (e.g. creative arts therapy, social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, psychiatry, or counseling). This may be one-to-one or triadic and is usually performed by the on-site supervisor. **Group Supervision:** There must be one and a half (1.5) hours of group supervision by a registered art therapist (ATR) or board-certified art therapist (ATR-BC) for every ten (10) hours of client contact. The ratio of eight (8) students to one (1) ATR or ATR-BC supervisor may not be exceeded. This is usually performed by a program faculty member.

## Art Therapy Credentials

Art therapists who have met specific educational standards and post-graduate experience may apply for either Registration or Board Certification.

**Registration** - The designation "ATR" (Art Therapist Registered) is granted by the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB) to art therapists who have successfully completed the required graduate educational training and post graduate professional experience, which includes supervision by a registered art therapist.

**Board Certification** - The designation "BC" (Board Certified) is granted by the ATCB to ATR art therapists who have successfully passed the independently administered, national certification examination. Recertification is provided every five years by documentation of continuing education, publication, presentation, exhibition, and other activities which demonstrate continuing professional competence. Specific continuing education in ethics is also required as part of the recertification process.

As mental health care professionals, art therapists are required to meet specific **licensing requirements** of the state in which they practice. These may differ from state to state, but all art therapists are required to meet expectable standards of care in place to protect the public from unsafe therapeutic practice.

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### Visit the following resource pages for more information:

**AATA Approved Graduate Degree Programs** at [www.arttherapy.org/staep.html](http://www.arttherapy.org/staep.html)

A list of graduate level education programs that have applied for, and have received Approval from AATA for a specific period of time, not exceeding seven (7) years.

Download a copy of current **AATA Educational Standards** at [www.arttherapy.org/stedreq.html](http://www.arttherapy.org/stedreq.html)

Visit the **Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB)** at [www.atcb.org](http://www.atcb.org).