

Course Requirements

Admission to most graduate/masters programs requires a baccalaureate degree along with an art portfolio. Either a fine art or a psychology degree is recommended, but not required. The following courses, as prescribed by the American Art Therapy Association, are recommended for all Pre Art Therapy students (58 hours). Students are usually required to take at least 30 hours of studio art courses. Consult with an academic advisor regarding the sequence of courses.

ARTF 110	Introduction to Art Therapy	2
ARTF 121+122	Drawing Fundamentals I,II	2+2
ARTD 124+125	Design & Composition I,II	3+3
ARTD 285	Color	3
ARTF 211	Three-Dimensional Design	2
ARTF 212	Ceramics I	2
ARTF 220	Painting: Oil & Acrylic	2
ARTF 221	Life Drawing	2
ARTF 226	Materials & Mixed Media	2
ARTF 310	Painting: Watercolor & Encaustic	2
ARTF 218	Sculpture I	2
ARTF 490	Professional Practices I	1
PSYC 121	General Psychology	4
PSYC 235	Child Development	3
PSYC 335	Adolescent Development	3
PSYC 344	Psychology of Personality	4
PSYC 358	Abnormal Psychology	4
PSYC 368	Principles of Counseling	4
SOCI 355	Cultural Diversity	3
At least 4 hours of the following options:		4
ARTF 320	Sculpture II (2)	
ARTF 330	Printmaking: Relief & Intaglio (2)	
ARTF 340	Ceramics II (2)	
ARTF 422	Advanced Figure Study (2)	
ARTP 250	Photography: Digital Fundamentals	
PSYC 260	Death and Dying (4)	
PSYC 390	Gender Issues (3)	

Occupational Information

What can I do with this profession?

Art therapy is a mental health profession that uses the creative process of making art to improve and enhance the physical, mental and emotional well-being of individuals of all ages. It is based on the belief that the creative process involved in artistic self-expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness, and achieve insight.

Job Outlook

Art therapists work in a wide variety of settings, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Hospitals and clinics, both medical and psychiatric
- Outpatient mental health agencies and day treatment facilities
- Residential treatment centers
- Domestic violence and homeless shelters
- Community agencies and non-profit settings
- Schools, colleges, and universities
- Elder care facilities
- Art studios
- Private practice

An art therapist may work as part of a team that includes physicians, psychologists, nurses, mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, rehabilitation counselors, social workers, and teachers. Together, they determine and implement a client's therapeutic goals and objectives. Other art therapists work independently and maintain private practices with children, adolescents, adults, groups, and/or families.

Earnings

Earning for art therapists vary geographically depending on the type of practice and job responsibilities. Entry level income is approximately \$39,000, median income of \$82,000, and top earning potential for salaried administrators ranges between \$80,000 and \$149,000. Art therapists with doctoral degrees, state licensure, or who qualify in their state to conduct private practice, have an earning potential of \$75 to \$150 per hour in private practice. State requirements for private practice vary across the country, so please check with the licensing board in the state in which you plan to practice for rules and regulations.

How to Construct Your Own Program

1. Counsel with your advisor.
2. Consider your aptitudes, interests, and available courses.
3. Schedule major courses and cognates first.
4. Fill the rest of your schedule with G.E. requirements.
5. For the freshman year include English, Religion, and PE courses. Also include Basic Algebra I+II unless waived by previous work.

For More Information

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Sample Four-Year Program

This sample curriculum is designed to show you how a program may be constructed and to help you select a proper sequence of courses. It is not likely that these courses can always be taken in the order given. Your advisor will help you design a personalized program of studies.

First Year	F	W	S
Design & Composition I,II	3	3	-
Drawing Fundamentals I,II	2	2	-
Three-Dimensional Design	2	-	-
Color	-	-	3
General Psychology	-	-	3
Intro to Art Therapy	-	-	2
Major Courses/General Education/Electives	9	11	8
	16	16	16

Second Year	F	W	S
Child Development	3	-	-
Ceramics I	2	-	-
Painting: Oil & Acrylic	2	-	-
Materials & Mixed Media	-	2	-
Life Drawing	-	-	2
Major Courses/General Education/Electives	9	14	14
	16	16	16

Third Year	F	W	S
Adolescent Development	-	3	-
Psychology of Personality	4	-	-
Abnormal Psychology	-	-	4
Painting: Watercolor & Encaustic	-	2	-
Sculpture I	-	2	-
Major Courses/General Education/Electives	12	9	12
	16	16	16

Fourth Year	F	W	S
Principles of Counseling	-	4	-
Cultural Diversity	-	-	3
Professional Practices I	2	-	-
Major Courses/General Education/Electives	14	12	13
	16	16	16