

ART THERAPY, MS

Contact

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Faculty

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Program Description

Art therapy uses visual and symbolic expression to circumvent the limitations of language, giving voice to experiences and providing opportunities to understand complex situations, illuminate new questions, and create alternative and innovative solutions to problems. Grounded in the healing potential of making, viewing, and engaging with art, The College of Visual and Performing Arts graduate art therapy program trains students to use art-based interventions with counseling when working with diverse populations in a range of clinical and community-based settings. Our 60-credit Master of Science in art therapy is a hybrid program that engages students in an integrated approach to learning that includes one required on-campus residency per academic year and participation in a dynamic on-line learning program. Experiential learning is employed throughout the curriculum to support students' engagement with academic material while providing opportunities to use the 'tools of the trade' to integrate theory with practice as students prepare for clinical art therapy practice. Our small cohort size promotes a supportive and collaborative learning experience among students and faculty.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the historical development of Art Therapy as a profession, Art Therapy theories and techniques, as a foundation for contemporary Art Therapy professional practice.
2. Distinguish among the therapeutic benefits of a variety of art processes and media, strategies and interventions, and their applicability to the treatment process for individuals, groups, and families.
3. Know federal and state laws and professional ethics as they apply to the practice of Art Therapy.
4. Develop culturally appropriate, collaborative, and productive therapeutic relationships with clients.
5. Recognize and respond appropriately to ethical and legal dilemmas using ethical decision-making models, supervision, and professional and legal consultation when necessary.
6. Recognize clients' use of imagery, creativity, symbolism, and metaphor as a valuable means for communicating challenges and strengths and support clients' use of art-making for promoting growth and well-being.
7. Apply principles of human development, artistic and creative development, human sexuality, gender identity development, family life cycle, and psychopathology, to the assessment and treatment of clients.
8. Continuously deepen self-understanding through personal growth experiences, reflective practice, and personal art-making to strengthen a personal connection to the creative process, assist in self-awareness, promote well-being, and guide professional practice.

9. Recognize the impact of oppression, prejudice, discrimination, and privilege on access to mental health care, and develop responsive practices that include collaboration, empowerment, advocacy, and social justice action.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
ATR 612	Theories and Practice of Group Art Therapy	3
ATR 613	Theories of Counseling and Art Therapy	3
ATR 614	Materials and Techniques of Art Therapy Practice	3
ATR 615	Social and Cultural Considerations in Art Therapy and Counseling	3
ATR 617	Professional Orientation, Ethical and Legal Issues in Art Therapy and Counseling	3
ATR 618	Helping Relationships and Applications in Art Therapy and Counseling	3
ATR 720	Assessment	3
ATR 721	Art Therapy Research and Evaluation	3
COU 628	Life-Span Human Development	3
COU 642	Career Development	3
MFT 724	Psychopathology	3
Internship		
<i>Required Field Placement Experience</i>		
ATR 616	Art Therapy Supervised Practicum/Internship I	3
ATR 718	Internship II	3
ATR 719	Internship III	3
Thesis or Culminating Project		
<i>Required Research or Project</i>		
ATR 822	Thesis or Culminating Project I	3
ATR 823	Thesis or Culminating Project II	3
Elective Courses		
12 Elective Credits Required. Students can select alternate electives with advisor and departmental approval.		12
ATR 600	Selected Topics (in Art Therapy)	
COU 651	Crisis Counseling	
COU 672	Counseling Children and Adolescents	
COU 675	Substance Abuse Counseling	
MFT 603	Introduction to Trauma Studies	
MFT 625	Family Systems and Therapy	
Total Credits		60