

**The Hahnemann Creative Arts in Therapy Program
College of Nursing and Health Professions
Drexel University**

**Technical Standards/Essential Functions
For Admission, Academic Progression and Graduation**

The goal of the Hahnemann Creative Arts in Therapy (HCAT) Program is to develop graduates who are competent, caring creative arts therapists possessing the skills of life-long learning needed to incorporate new knowledge and methods into their practices and to adapt to changing healthcare and educational systems. The faculty has determined that certain essential technical standards are requisite for admission to, progression through and graduation from the HCAT Program.

An individual must be able to independently, with or without reasonable accommodation, meet the following technical standards of general abilities and those specifically of observation, communication, motoric, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; as well as essential behavioral and social attributes. Individuals unable to meet these standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, are counseled to pursue alternate careers.

A. Essential Functions for all Creative Arts Therapy Students at Drexel University

1. General Abilities: The student is expected to possess functional use of the senses of vision, touch, hearing, taste, and smell so that data received by the senses may be integrated, analyzed, and synthesized in a consistent and accurate manner. These are important to the student's ability to gather significant information needed to effectively evaluate and interact with patients and clients.

2. Observational Abilities: The student must have sufficient capacity to make accurate visual and aural observations and interpret them in the context of patient/client care activities.

3. Communication Abilities:

- a. The student must communicate effectively verbally and non-verbally to elicit information; describe changes in mood, activity, posture; and perceive non-verbal communications from patients and others.
- b. Each student must have the ability to read and write, comprehend and speak the English language to facilitate communication with patients/clients, their family members, and other professional in the clinical and educational settings where written records, verbal presentations, and patient counseling and instruction are integral to effective practice in the field of creative arts therapy.
- c. The student must be able to communicate effectively verbally and in writing with instructors and other students in classroom settings and online learning contexts as well.

4. Motor Ability:

- a. The student must be able to perform gross and fine motor movement with sufficient coordination needed to perform or assist with the treatment activities in CAT sessions and mental health/special education care milieus, management and use of the equipment and supplies needed for those activities required of a creative arts therapist.
- b. The student must be able to maintain consciousness and equilibrium' have sufficient levels of postural control, neuromuscular control, and eye-to-hand coordination, and to possess the physical and mental stamina to meet the demands associated with extended periods of sitting,

standing, moving and physical exertion required for satisfactory and safe performance in the clinical and classroom settings.

5. Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, Creative, and Quantitative Abilities:

- a. The student must be able to develop and refine problem-finding and problem-solving skills that are crucial to practice as a creative arts therapist.
- b. Ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and abstract concepts; to reason, analyze, synthesize, objective and subjective data and to make decisions that reflect consistent and thoughtful deliberation and sound clinical judgment.
- c. Must demonstrate curiosity about one's own motivations and perspectives, and the capacity for insight, or self-understanding.
- d. Each student must demonstrate mastery of these skills and the ability to incorporate new information from peers, teachers, and the mental health and creative arts therapy literature to formulate sound judgment in patient assessment, therapeutic planning, and the provision of therapy.

6. Interpersonal, Behavioral and Social Attributes:

- a. Flexibility, compassion, integrity, empathy, motivation, effective interpersonal skills, and concern for others are personal attributes required of those in creative arts therapy practice.
- b. Demonstrate strong communication and interpersonal skills such as active listening, and verbal and nonverbal reciprocity.
- c. Must understand and accept role and responsibilities of student therapist in clinical training settings.
- d. Possesses the capacity for self-reflection and self-evaluation gained through the experience of engaging in arts processes.
- e. The student must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of the student's intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities in the classroom setting, as well as those in the clinical setting for practicum and internship; and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, clients, and other members of the treatment team.
- f. The capacity to establish rapport, and maintain effective relationships with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds is necessary for practice as a creative arts therapist.
- g. The student must be able to function effectively under stress, manage personal anxiety, adapt to changing environments; display flexibility, accept and integrate constructive criticism given in the classroom and clinical settings; effectively interact in the clinical setting with other members of the treatment team; and learn to function cooperatively and efficiently in the face of uncertainties, ambiguities, and contradictions inherent in clinical mental health practice.

B. Additional Essential Functions Requirements specific to the Creative Arts Therapy specialties at Drexel University:

In addition to the general technical standards set forth above, applicants and students to the specific programs listed below must also be able to meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, the following additional technical standards:

1. For Dance/Movement Therapy:

- a. Ability to engage in movement experiences and activities both in classes with faculty and other students, and in clinical settings. These activities are occasionally vigorous and require physical stamina on the part of the student.
- b. Must be able to locomote independently, with dance and/or creative movement skills of at least an intermediate level.

2. For Music Therapy:

- a. Must demonstrate ability to perform at a moderate level of difficulty on at least two musical instruments (e.g., voice, piano, guitar, etc.).
- b. Ability to play music effectively in a group context.
- c. Adequate hearing and motor functioning to successfully participate in musical interactions.

3. For Art Therapy

- a. Must demonstrate ability to skillfully manipulate two and three dimensional art media (including, but not limited to: drawing, oil and acrylic painting, ceramic and non-ceramic clays) beyond beginner level.
- b. Must possess the visual, auditory, and tactile acuity necessary to make artistic judgments and decisions regarding art therapy interventions that relate to media and methods.

C. Summary:

In accordance with the law and Drexel University policy, no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of that disability, be excluded from participation in Drexel University programs or activities. Drexel University will provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual with a disability. To obtain accommodations, individual must request them from the Office of Student Disability Services that can be contacted at the following address:

Approved by University Counsel John Gyllenhamer, 7-25-07
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Entered into Student and Faculty Supervisors Manual as of Fall 07