PRATT INSTITUTE

ART THERAPY

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM

Pratt's Creative Arts Therapy Department houses some of the oldest graduate programs in the country. We offer unique process-oriented degrees that train students to work in depth with clients. Creativity and the artistic process are fundamental to our philosophy.

Art Therapy is where psychology and creativity meet to help us help others. Through experiential, embodied learning and immersive clinical training, you'll discover the curative nature of the creative process and the healing potential of art.

Program Overview

The MPS in Art Therapy is a 60-credit program for students who want a diverse skill set, balanced with a strong theoretical framework. Interdisciplinary, socially engaged, and justice-driven, our Creative Arts Therapy community is connected by a shared mission for transformative change.

Creative, aesthetic, and psychotherapeutic theory come together in everything we do. Artwork is done in every course and is used to learn a range of therapeutic skills. Experiential processes translate the theoretical framework into personal and practical application. You'll acquire skills to work with participants of diverse, intersecting identities over the course of two years of clinical training.

What will I earn?

- Master of Professional Studies

How long will it take?

- 4 Semesters: 60 credits

What does a typical week consist of?

- Small cohort-based classes are held 2 days per week in studio spaces at Pratt's Brooklyn campus.
- Experiential exercises and verbal discussions are a part of every class.
- Select courses are held with students from the CAT department's dance/ movement therapy program for integrated teaching and learning.
- Students engage in clinical training on 2 of the remaining weekdays in each semester.

What does clinical training consist of?

- Internships are a vital part of Pratt's hallmark experiential learning process.
- Students complete 2 years of internship from September through May, resulting in 960 total internship hours.
- Students intern at 2 different settings in each of the 2 years, receiving clinical supervision from at least 4 professional ATs.

What about research?

- Students register for Research / Thesis and Thesis in Progress.
- Working individually with an AT faculty thesis advisor, the student pursues a particular topic of their choosing.
- The culminating thesis is a synthesis of knowledge and contribution to the field.

What part time programs do you offer in Art Therapy?

- We also offer a low residency part-time program, also 60 credits but completed over 8 semesters.
- The low residency option is best-suited for students who are working, cannot relocate for graduate studies, or would like to complete their degree part-time.

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CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY DEPARTMENT

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Who is eligible?

- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in fine arts or psychology.
- Prerequisites are 12 credits in psychology (to include coursework in development and abnormal psychology, plus two other courses), and 18 credits in studio art (to include coursework in drawing, painting, and three-dimensional media).
- All prerequisite courses may be taken on an undergraduate level, but must be taken from an accredited institution for academic credit.
- Applicants for the art therapy program can be accepted with a minimum of 6 psychology credits and a minimum of 12 credits in art, but you must complete all prerequisites before the start of the second year.
- Applicants must submit a portfolio of 12-15 images that will be uploaded into Slideroom.
- A personal interview will be required.

What can I do to prepare for graduate school?

- Engage in your own creative practices as a means of self-exploration and expression.
- Show you have a desire to work with people by volunteering or working with a human service, medical, educational or similar agency.
- Participate in your own personal therapy to develop self-awareness.
- Foster curiosity and openness to learning.

Helpful Resources

- Visit our Art Therapy website page here
- Visit our Art Therapy MPS Plan of Study
- Learn How to Apply
- Contact the department at adt@pratt.edu

What about credentials?

- A master's degree is the required entry level for the Art Therapy vocation.
- Pratt's MPS in AT is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (www.caahep.org) upon the recommendation of The Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education, and approved by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).
- Pratt graduates are eligible to obtain registry as an Art Therapist (ATR) by the Art Therapy Credentialing Board, which also oversees the pathway to become board certified (ATR-BC), showing that one is highly trained and competent.
- Pratt graduates are eligible to obtain licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT) by the New York State Office of the Professions.
- While Pratt's programs include classes required by many states, we can not guarantee that every state will accept a Pratt education for licensing.
- In fact, every state sets its own regulations for what classes need to be taken to obtain licensure.

How do I know what AT program is right for me?

- While one should remain open to what the future can hold, consider where you might want to settle once working and investigate the state's regulations.
- Review the course of study, note faculty, and consider clinical training opportunities.
- Choose the program that you are drawn to and that will help you to grow.
- For more information: https://arttherapy.org/becoming-art-therapist/

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