PRATT INSTITUTE

DANCE/MOVEMENT 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.

Dance/Movement 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 MS in Dance/Movement 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. Movement 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 Science

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 art 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 clinical training from September through May, resulting in 960 total hours.
- Students intern at 2 different settings in each of the 2 years, receiving clinical supervision from at least 4 professional DMTs.

What about research?

- Students register for Research / Thesis and Thesis in Progress.
- Working individually with a DMT 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 Dance/Movement 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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Who is eligible?

- Applicants must have a bachelor's degree, preferably in dance or psychology.
- Prerequisites include 6 credits in psychology to include Abnormal and Developmental Psychology, plus 1 credit in Anatomy/ Kinesiology.
- All prerequisite courses may be taken on an undergraduate level, but must be taken from an accredited institution for academic credit.
- Applicants may start classes with half of the psychology credits, but all other prerequisites must be completed before starting the program.
- Movement experience can be gained from formal college credit or studio experience.
- Applicants must also have extensive experience in at least two idioms of dance, one of which must be modern dance.
- Applicants must have experience in body/ mind modalities, such as meditation, yoga, and body therapy.
- A personal interview will be required, part of which will include movement.

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 Dance/Movement Therapy website page here
- Visit our Dance/Movement Therapy MS 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 Dance/Movement Therapy vocation.
- Pratt's MS in DMT is approved by the Committee on Approval by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) as well as by the New York State Education Department (NYSED).
- Pratt graduates are eligible to obtain registry as a Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT) by the ADTA.
- The pathway to become board certified (BC-DMT) is overseen by the Dance/Movement Credentials Board (DMTCB) and shows 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 DMT 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://www.adta.org/become-a-dance-movement-therapist

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