

Art Therapy Counseling

Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling

Art Therapy Counseling at SIUE

The master's in art therapy counseling program, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences at SIUE, combines classroom instruction, practicum experience and research. We are dedicated to providing a solid theoretical foundation in art therapy, coupled with practical experience in training students to be competent and ethical art therapists. Students gain an understanding of diverse theoretical viewpoints and methods of practice through spring conferences that invite nationally known speakers to campus.

Because the program is based in the Department of Art and Design, there is an emphasis on art-making. Classes are small and experiential learning is integral to the program. In order to ensure individualized instruction, only 10 students are accepted into the program each fall.

Advantages of study at SIUE include availability of graduate assistantships, which can include tuition waivers and stipends; a rich array of urban, suburban and rural practicum settings; and a vibrant community arts scene. Our student-to-faculty ratio is low, and students have the opportunity to learn from numerous visiting art therapists.

Why an MA in Art Therapy Counseling?

Art therapy counseling combines the therapeutic uses of art-making with the skills of a professional counselor. Art therapy counselors are able to help people work through trauma, mental health issues, illness and challenges in living, as well as help those who seek personal insight and change.

Art therapy counselors come into the field with a strong background in art and psychology, and study therapeutic uses of art and counseling skills at the master's level. Art therapy counselors work with people of all ages: children, adolescents, adults, couples, families, groups and communities. They provide services in settings that include mental health centers, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, wellness centers, schools, nursing homes and independent practices.

Career Opportunities

Art therapy counseling is an expanding field and employment continues to increase as it becomes recognized by professionals, work settings and clients. Graduates of art therapy counseling programs are successful at finding employment in both full- and part-time positions. The salary for art therapy counselors varies geographically and with experience. Entry level annual income is approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000.



Art Therapy Graduate Faculty

Graduate Program Director

Megan A. Robb, MA, ATR-BC

2002, The George Washington University

mrobb@siue.edu

Jayashree George, DA, ATR-BC, LMFT

2000, New York University

Shelly E.M. Goebel-Parker, MSW, ATR-BC

2004, Washington University in St. Louis

Studio Art Graduate Faculty

Jane A. Barrow, MFA

1990, Indiana University

Steven C. Brown, MFA

1994, University of Delaware-Newark

Ivy Cooper, PhD

1997, University of Pittsburgh

John R. DenHouter, MFA

University of Michigan

1994, Eastern Michigan University

Brigham A. Dimick, MFA

1991, Indiana University

Paul A. Dresang, MFA

1975, University of Minnesota

Thad A. Duhigg, MFA

1989, Syracuse University

Ryan Horvath, MFA

2012, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Aimee Howard-Clinger, MFA

2009, University of Kansas

Barbara JK Nwacha, MFA

1998, The University of Iowa

Joseph Page, MFA

2008, Alfred University

Sangsook Park, MFA, EdD

2004, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Katherine M. Poole-Jones, PhD

2007, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Laura Strand, MFA

1993, University of Kansas

Rodrick Whetstone, MFA

2012, The University of Iowa

Program Founder

Patricia (Gussie) Klorer, PhD, ATR-BC

1996, Union Institute and University

Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all post-secondary academic transcripts
- Successful completion of a bachelor's degree prior to enrollment in one of the following:
 - Art Studio
 - Art Education
 - Psychology
 - A related field.
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- Scores from Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- 12-15 digital images of personal artwork
- 500-word Statement of Purpose
- Three (3) letters of recommendation from professional or academic references (there is no set form)
- Resume
- Personal and group interviews with faculty are also required after application materials have been received

Program application materials may be uploaded during the application process, but official transcripts must be sent directly from the school attended and test scores must be verifiable with the appropriate testing service. Please contact the Graduate Admissions Office with questions regarding the application submission process at graduateadmissions@siue.edu.

Review the SIUE Admissions Policy for more information.

Prospective students must show evidence of having completed the following prior to admission to the program:

- 18 hours of art studio
- Minimum of 12 hours of psychology, including developmental and abnormal psychology, as well as psychological statistics. Statistics in a related social or health field may be considered

Applicants with deficiencies will be required to take prerequisite coursework before admission to the program

Application Deadline

The application deadline for the following fall admission is January 15.

Graduation Requirements

In addition to successful completion of the program of study, students are required to complete a final project, which can be a traditional research paper or a creative effort accompanied by a written paper in appropriate academic form. The topic and format must be acceptable to the research committee, which is composed of the director of the art therapy counseling program and two other graduate faculty members.

Students will complete 800 practicum hours.

After the final project is submitted and evaluated by the research committee, the candidate must successfully complete an oral examination conducted by the research committee.

Review the graduation policy for more information.

Program of Study

The Master of Arts degree in art therapy counseling requires a minimum of 60 semester hours.

Required Courses (42 hours):

- ART 550** Counseling Techniques in Art Therapy
- ART 552** Assessment of Individuals and Families
- ART 555** Art Therapy with Groups
- ART 556** Family Art Therapy
- ART 557** Developmental Theory and Art Therapy
- ART 561** Multicultural Issues in Art Therapy
- ART 566** Research Methodology in Art Therapy
- ART 573** Counseling Theory and Art Therapy
- ART 574** Career Counseling
- ART 575** Professional Ethics and Legal Issues
- ART 595** Research Projects
- ART 553** Art Therapy with Children and Adolescents
- ART 554** Art Therapy Counseling with Adults
- SOCW 564** Substance Use Services

Required Options (6 hours):

- (3) Studio Art
- (3) Psychopathology (PSYC 431, 531, or 553; or SOCW 537)

Required Fieldwork (3 hours minimum):

- ART 564

Required Practicum (7 hours minimum):

- ART 559

Electives (2 or more hours in studio art, psychology, social work, or a related field)

- Elective Examples:
- ART 572 Medical Art Therapy
 - ART 549 Special Topics in Art Therapy - Recent topics include arts-based community development

This program of study, approved by the American Art Therapy Association in 1992, is designed to meet the requirements for students to become:

- Licensed as clinical professional counselors in the State of Illinois
- Registered art therapists with the American Art Therapy Association
- The program can be completed in three (3) years of full-time study.

During their first year in the program, all students begin fieldwork in Head Start facilities. This introductory practicum is completed in concert with coursework in developmental theory, assessment and child art therapy.

During their second and third years in the program, each student's experience becomes more individualized, with the student choosing from over 100 practicum sites with a wide range of client populations. Prior to beginning ART 559 (Practicum in Art Therapy), students must undergo a mid-course review to determine readiness to work with a client population in a counseling setting. The review is comprised of a self-critique, evaluations from all instructors, and a meeting with the program director and faculty. The faculty will evaluate a student's ability to continue in the program based upon an examination of the student's performance in fieldwork, academic learning, professionalism, ability to participate in and process class experiential learning, and psychological readiness to take on a more intensive practicum.

Contact Information

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