

GRADUATE

## Art Therapy Counseling

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Art and Design

SIUE



[siue.edu/grad/art-therapy](http://siue.edu/grad/art-therapy)

### Art Therapy Counseling at SIUE

The master's in art therapy counseling combines classroom instruction, practicum experience and research. Our mission is to provide experiential learning to foster socio-culturally attuned creative practices in the theory, reflection and application of art therapy counseling. Our vision is that art therapy counselors cultivate creative, just and healthy communities. Our goal is to prepare competent, entry-level art therapists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains as per ACATE Educational Standards.

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 studying at SIUE include:

- Availability of graduate assistantships
- Tuition waivers and stipends are available
- A rich array of urban, suburban and rural practicum settings
- A vibrant community arts scene
- Low student-to-faculty ratio
- The opportunity to learn from practicing art therapists
- Low tuition rates

### Degrees Available at SIUE

- Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling

### Program Format

Coursework is offered as traditional, in-person daytime courses.

### What can I do with a degree 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, and to help those who seek personal insight and change.

Art therapy counselors work with people of all ages:

- Children
- Adolescents
- Adults
- Couples
- Families
- Groups
- Communities

They provide services in settings that include:

- Mental health centers
- Hospitals
- Rehabilitation
- Forensic institutions
- Community outreach programs
- Wellness centers
- Schools
- Nursing homes
- Open studios
- Independent practices

Art therapy counseling is an expanding field and employment opportunities continue to increase as it becomes recognized by professionals, work settings and clients. The salary for art therapy counselors varies geographically and with experience. Entry-level annual income is approximately \$45,000-\$55,000.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**EDWARDSVILLE**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL



## Accreditation

The SIUE art therapy counseling graduate program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) upon the recommendation of the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE).



Commission on Accreditation  
of Allied Health Education Programs

## Admission Requirements

- Graduate School application and \$40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary 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
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum requirements are TOEFL (79), IELTS (6.5) or equivalent
- 12-15 digital images of personal artwork
- Statement of Intent (300-500 words) that answers the below prompts. Cite your sources using an APA referencing format.
  - What experiences led you to pursue a degree in art therapy counseling?
  - After reflecting on SIUE's art therapy counseling program's mission statement, discuss how you understand the term systemic oppression within mental health and wellness. Describe what you have learned about the interplay of your own values, biases, and prejudices. These might be personal obstacles you have had to overcome and/or personal advantages that have helped you get ahead. How will these values and experiences guide you in becoming an art therapist?
- Three 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](mailto:graduateadmissions@siue.edu).

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

- 8 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.

## Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 60
- Visit [siue.edu/graduate-tuition](http://siue.edu/graduate-tuition) for detailed tuition information

## Program of Study

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

## Required courses (52 hours)

- ART 490 Arts in Community Development
- 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 Social and Cultural Dimensions 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 576 Art Therapy Counseling for Trauma
- ART 595 Research Projects
- SOCW 564 Substance Use Services
- ART 564 Required Fieldwork (Three credit hours minimum)
- ART 559 Required Practicum (Seven credit hours minimum)

## Required Options

- Studio Art (any graduate level, three credits)
- Psychopathology (PSYC 431, 531, or 553; or SOCW 537)
- Electives

Fieldwork in the first year combined with the practicum in the second and third years provides hands-on skill building to become an art therapist.

This program of study, approved by the Accreditation Council of Art Therapy Education, 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 years of full-time study

## 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, community arts project, grant proposal, or a creative effort accompanied by a written paper in appropriate academic form. After the final project is completed and evaluated by the research project committee, the candidate must successfully complete an oral examination.

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## Contact Information

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