Degree Available at SIUE
- Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling

Program Format
The program coursework is offered as traditional daytime courses.

Art Therapy Counseling at SIUE
The master’s in art therapy counseling program, 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. The SIUE art therapy counseling program 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, 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. Students also gain an understanding of diverse theoretical viewpoints and methods of practice through spring conferences that invite nationally known speakers to campus.

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, as well as help those who seek personal insight and change.

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, forensic institutions, community outreach programs, wellness centers, schools, nursing homes, open studios and 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 $40,000-$50,000.

Admission Requirements
- Graduate School application and $40 fee
- Submission of all postsecondary academic transcripts
Admission Requirements, cont.

- Successful completion of a bachelor’s degree prior to enrollment in one of the following:
  - Art Studio
  - Psychology
  - Art Education
  - A related field
- Minimum GPA of 2.50
- Scores from Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- International Applicants: Proof of English Proficiency, minimum scores from Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- 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.

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 Jan. 15.

Required Credit Hours/Tuition and Fees

- 60
- Visit 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 (42 hours)

- ART 550 Counseling Techniques in Art Therapy
- ART 552 Assessment of Individuals and Families
- ART 553 Advanced Art Therapy Counseling: Diagnosis and Techniques with Children and Adolescents
- ART 554 Advanced Art Therapy Counseling: Diagnosis and Techniques with Adults
- 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
- SOCW 564 Substance Use Services

Required Options (Six hours)

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

Required Fieldwork (Three hours minimum)

- ART 564

Required Practicum (Seven hours minimum)

- ART 559

Electives

- Two or more hours in studio art, psychology, social work, or a related field

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 years of full-time study

Elective Examples:

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

In order to meet Missouri Counselor License requirements, no online, asynchronous coursework will be approved. Any online course must be at least 50% synchronous.

For more information about licensure in Illinois and Missouri, please visit siue.edu/consumer-disclosures/professional-licensure.

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.

Student Outcomes 2019-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Outcomes</th>
<th>2019-2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Retention</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Rate</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Satisfaction</td>
<td>80% Rated Very Good or Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer Satisfaction</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Placement</td>
<td>The past five-year trend is 90% or greater within six months of graduation</td>
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</tbody>
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Contact Information

Art Therapy Counseling
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Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
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This information is concurrent with the 2021-2022 Academic Catalog. Courses are subject to change at any time.