

Undergraduate Studies for Art Therapy Students

Note that Art Therapy graduate programs assume their applicants are capable, expressive artists. Grad programs are not expecting fully capable practicing studio artists, but people who have developed some breadth and modest depth of craft, and have successfully expressed themselves visually.

Graduate programs usually include very little hands-on art-making, and generally include no traditional studio art courses. Thus, *undergraduate programs are the presumed source of the student's experience in fine art, craft and expressive studio creative work.*

At Harding, a BA in Art with a Psychology minor allows this studio foundation, plus 6 hours of Psych beyond the typical Art Therapy graduate school admissions requirement (12 hrs). If the course plan is done correctly, the major and minor can be completed without any additional hours beyond the 128hr Bachelor's degree.

Among [the expectations of accredited graduate programs in art therapy](#) is...

Studio art: Maintain contact with the discipline of art making. Explore the impact of art processes and materials through ongoing participation in personal art making. Strengthen connection to the creative process, understanding of personal symbolic language, and arts based learning allowing for the opportunity to integrate intellectual, emotional, artistic, and interpersonal knowledge.

A sampling of partial admissions requirements for graduate programs in Art Therapy:

[Drexel University:](#)

Prerequisites: 18 credits in studio art courses demonstrating range of media; 12 credits in psychology, including mandatory courses in developmental psychology and abnormal psychology.

Art portfolio: Portfolio of 10–15 works of art by applicant that demonstrates facility with range of media and personal understanding of creative process.

[Eastern Virginia Medical School:](#)

- 12 semester credit hours in Psychology (**must** include developmental, abnormal & Theories of personality)
- 18 semester credit hours in Studio Art (**must** include painting, drawing, sculpture/3-D and clay/ceramics)

[School of the Visual Arts/NYC:](#)

The Department seeks dynamic, well-rounded applicants who demonstrate achievement in studio art, psychology, and community involvement.

Prerequisites

- 12 credits in Psychology (Abnormal Psychology and Developmental Psychology are REQUIRED, Introduction to Psychology and Theories of Personality are recommended)

- 18 credits in Studio Art (a range of coursework, including Drawing, Painting, Sculpture/3D, Design, Mixed Media, Photography, Animation, Computer Art, and Film is recommended)

EXHIBITION (during grad program)

Internship coursework includes participation in a client/student art exhibition held each spring at an SVA gallery in the Chelsea neighborhood of NYC.
