



MS in Counseling with a Concentration in Art Therapy

Empowerment Through Creativity and Compassion

In September of 2018, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, the largest accreditor of health science professions in the U.S., granted Edinboro's Master of Arts in Counseling with a concentration in Art Therapy the nation's first standard-compliant accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education. On 15 July 2022, the Transfer of Sponsorship for accreditation was granted to Pennsylvania Western University (PennWest).

The Art Therapy program is dedicated to achieving excellence in counseling, art therapy education, research, clinical and community service while fostering the highest ethical standards. The program integrates both counseling and visual arts practice, engaging the creative power of art for clinical assessment and treatment. In particular, we promote (1) scholarly research abilities and evidence based clinical practice, (2) cross-cultural competency, and (3) technologies of media art.

Overarching Mission Statement. The mission of the Counseling Department at PennWest University is to prepare professional counselors who embody ethical and culturally responsive behavior, advocacy and social justice, and a professional identity as a counselor. Students will use these attributes to enhance the well-being of families, groups, couples, and individuals and advocate on behalf of both the counseling profession and those who are served. The faculty at PennWest are a diverse community of counselor educators and art therapists who facilitate students' development, model appropriate professional behavior, and engage in dynamic teaching, service, leadership, and scholarship. Our students are expected to develop self-awareness, a strong knowledge base, effective counseling skills, and to practice ethically and professionally within a diverse society. Consistent with these expectations is the emphasis placed upon graduate student interpersonal effectiveness. This effectiveness includes growth in the dimensions of warmth, empathy, unconditional positive regard, and genuineness with others.

Vision Statement. Empowering the artists and clinician within the artist therapist through an accessible, shared learning experience designed to develop successful, contributing professional in our communities and world.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS and PROCEDURES

Visit the PennWest website and click the "Apply Now" link at the bottom of the page. Begin by creating an account on slate.

Individuals seeking admission as degree students in this program must comply with the general admission requirements for graduate students at PennWest and with the following specific admission requirements for this program:

1. Complete the online application and pay the application fee.
 - a. When applying for the MS in Counseling with a concentration in Art Therapy, you first have to select Counseling MS online. You will then have the opportunity to choose from a dropdown menu where you will find Art Therapy.
2. Provide an official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. Include all transcripts of courses taken outside of the



degree that contain prerequisite courses. International applicants should contact graduate admissions for additional guidance (GradAdmissions@pennwest.edu)

3. Provide the name, email address, and place of employment for two (2) references (electronic reference requests will be emailed to each).
4. Complete and Admissions Essay that is 750-1000 words, written in APA 7th edition format and contains at least two references that addresses:
 - a. Why do you want to study art therapy at PennWest?
 - b. In your research, what have you learned about the profession of art therapy?
 - c. What are the personal and professional experiences that have you led you to choose a career in art therapy?
 - d. How do you envision your future role as a professional art therapist?
5. A link to an online portfolio (ex. Flickr, Dropbox, Snapfish) of 20 images of applicant's art demonstrating a variety of 2- and 3-D pieces.
6. Prerequisites*:
 - a. Psychology Credits: (12) graduate or undergraduate credits, including Abnormal Psychology or Psychopathology and Developmental Psychology.
 - b. Studio Art Credits: (18) graduate or undergraduate credits in 2- and 3-D studio art areas. Up to six credits can be done as portfolio approval.
7. An interview is a requirement of the admission process for the Counseling programs. Once your application is complete, it will be sent to the Program Coordinator for review. If selected for an interview, the Coordinator will be in contact with you. Interviews are schedule for 30 minutes and are conducted using Zoom.

*** Applicants with more than two outstanding prerequisites will not be considered for admission. Current enrollment in courses will be considered.**

For full consideration, a completed application for a Fall Semester start must be received by February 15th. Spring semester applications must be received by September 15th. Applications will be screened after the deadline and applicants selected for an interview will be notified.

CURRICULUM

60 semester hours of prescribed graduate credit is required as a partial requirement for the degree. **These required graduate credits should be earned as follows:**

Core Courses

24 Credit Hours

COUN 7010	Lifespan Development
COUN 7020	Career Development
COUN 7070	Multicultural Counseling
COUN 7080	Addictions Counseling
COUN 7090	Crisis and Trauma Counseling
COUN 7110	Assessment and Testing
COUN 7230	Psychopathology and Diagnostic Processes

Required Art Therapy Courses

21 Credit Hours

COUN 7500	History and Theory of Counseling and Consultation in Art Therapy
COUN 7510	Media and Materials in Art Therapy
COUN 7520	Clinical and Group Art Therapy



COUN 7530	Art Therapy Practice and Assessment
COUN 7540	Professional Functioning, Standards, and Ethics in Art Therapy
COUN 7550	Introduction to Art Therapy Research
COUN 7560	Advanced Research Project in Art Therapy

Art Therapy Electives (2 credits each – must take 6 credits)

COUN 7600	Current Trends in Art Therapy
COUN 7610	Cultural Practices in Art Therapy
COUN 7620	Trauma Informed Art Therapy
COUN 7630	Metaphor and Creativity in Art Therapy
COUN 7640	Clinical Approaches in Art Therapy
COUN 7650	Digital Media in Art Therapy
COUN 7660	Community Engagement in Art Therapy

Fieldwork (Total of 9 credits)

COUN 7580	Practicum
COUN 7590	Internship (6 credits over 2 semesters)

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Candidacy- Due to the nature of the role of the professional counselor, degree candidates of the programs must demonstrate such qualities as genuineness, warmth, empathy, ethics, professionalism, and interpersonal skills. Students will be evaluated on Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions necessary for professionals at various transition points through the program. Candidacy is the first point where these qualities will be formally evaluated. Both the individual student and the faculty will have input into this evaluation. Review of the student's Application for Admission to Candidacy is seen as very important and this review will include interpersonal skills as well as academic progress. The advisor presents the candidate to the program faculty. A degree student may not be admitted to candidacy until (1) at least 15 semester hours of degree credit have been completed, (2) an Application for Admission to Candidacy has been completed, and (3) the student has made satisfactory progress in her or his degree program (minimum of a 3.0 QPA). Specific requirements for candidacy are outlined in the Counseling Student Handbook.

Comprehensive Exams- The student must satisfactorily complete the Art Therapy Comprehensive Examination. Specific requirements for the comprehensive exams are outlined in the Counseling Student Handbook.

Culminating Project- A Master's Project of Thesis is required for graduation. Additional information concerning this requirement can be found in the Counseling Student Handbook.

Internship- All degree seeking students must complete an internship. All students must have completed all core required courses in the area of specialty unless otherwise approved by the advisor and instructor. Generally speaking, the internship hours must be completed within the time frame of two 15-week semesters. Thus, the interns would be onsite 20 hours per week (30 x 20 = 600). The student must make the necessary plans and arrangements in order to complete an internship. Additional information on internships can be found in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: Graduate assistantships are NOT available during the internship.



For More Information: If you have questions about the application process, please contact PennWest Graduate Studies at gradstudies@pennwest.edu. For questions specific to Post-Master's Certificate in Art Therapy, please contact Dr. Carolyn Brown Treadon at (814) 732-1104 (ctreadon@pennwest.edu)

Office for Accessibility Services: For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact the Office for Accessibility Services (OAS), at (724) 938-5781. For additional information, visit the OAS web page.

Financial Aid Considerations: For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 814-732-3500 or finaid@pennwest.edu.

Employer Reimbursement: PennWest University accepts employer benefit plans through arrangements with the Student Accounts Office.

Veterans' Education Benefits: Information and printable forms regarding Veterans' Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

Pennsylvania Western University is an equal opportunity education institution and employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and the ADA. For information regarding civil



rights or grievance procedures, contact the Office of Human Resources and Faculty Relations, (814) 732-2703 or the Office of Social Equity (814) 732-2167, Reeder Hall, 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA 16444.