

CREATIVE ARTS THERAPY

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

RETURN ON INVESTMENT FOR MAJOR

The Bachelor of Arts in Creative Arts Therapy prepares students for entry positions in the high demand field of mental health and behavioral health. Students learn how various creative processes (visual arts, music, dance/movement, drama/theater, poetry/writing, etc.) are used as a therapeutic tool for both personal and professional growth. Preparing students for a career in a variety of community, education, and healthcare settings through rigorous academic study, experiential learning, and real-world experiences.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Critical Thinking
- Ethical decision making
- Evidence-based practices
- Creative problem-solving
- Leadership skills
- Career readiness

CAREER READINESS

- Creative exploration
- Effective communication skills
- Analytical and problem-solving skills
- Leadership and teamwork
- Real-world experiences

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Community services
- Youth Services
- Day programs
- Residential care
- Crisis centers
- School-based programs
- Criminal justice system
- Rehabilitation facilities

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"West Liberty University's Creative Arts Therapy undergraduate degree provided excellent education both academically and with real world experiences. It is a profession which is applied to all ages, abilities, disabilities, and populations; where creativity is a means to extend beyond the self and convey thoughts, emotions, and behaviors to further find ways to change, cope, and heal."

Juju Haug, B.S. Creative Arts Therapy, MA in Art Therapy and Counseling

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

The Hilltop Advantage is a structured, student-centered approach that ensures every student graduates with not only a degree, but also meaningful experiences, career-ready skills, and a clear post-graduation plan.

VERSATILE DEGREE

- Multiple career pathways
- Scholarship opportunities
- CAT Club student leadership
- Personal growth & professional development
- Classes offered on-campus, hybrid, or virtual

Department of Art Therapy and Counseling - Creative Arts Therapy Major

	FIRST YEAR	MIDDLE YEARS	LAST YEAR	FURTHER EDUCATION
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Meet with your advisor to chart your path through the <u>Creative Arts Therapy Major</u> - Begin Major coursework and <u>General Education</u> requirements - Attend a <u>Creative Arts Therapy (CAT) Club</u> meeting for peer-support, mentorship, and engage in fun activities	- Continue Major coursework - Participate in CAT Club student-led opportunities on/off campus (Optional) - Consider further education including the <u>ATC Bridge program</u>, undergraduate to graduate studies	- Complete Major Coursework - Complete a Capstone project and present it to CAT community (Optional) - Present your Capstone to <u>RECAP undergraduate research</u>	<u>Certificate in Creative Arts Therapy Studio</u> <u>ATC Bridge program</u> <u>MA in Art Therapy and Counseling</u> <u>MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling</u>
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Participate in <u>CAT Club activities</u> on/off campus - Explore different studio arts including CAT, ART, THE, MUS, Dance, and Creative writing. - Participate in Major and career exploration workshops	- Meet with your advisor to explore internship opportunities - Explore job opportunities and attend a <u>writing center workshop</u> - Attend graduate fairs and explore <u>Graduate Education</u> opportunities including <u>Art Therapy</u> and <u>Mental Health Counseling</u>.	- Engage in <u>Creative Arts Therapy studio</u> activities - Professionally focused experiential learning and internship - Complete a Resume and <u>Linkedin</u> account - Initiate job search	BUILD SUCCESS - Meet with your academic advisor - Join the CAT Club for mentorship & on/off campus activities - Create a peer-support network - Develop community resources - Create a resume and LinkedIn profile - Attend professional network sessions
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Create initial resume and <u>Linkedin</u> profile - Attend career/employer networking events - Explore internships and career pathways through campus events - Explore <u>study abroad</u> or experiential learning info sessions	- Participate in service-learning or community engagement project offered in the CAT major - Engage in networking events, career fairs, or conferences - Build relationships with employers, <u>alumni</u>, or industry mentors - Explore student membership with professional organizations in the field and attend summits or regional/national conferences	- Complete 100 hour CAT internship - Present a capstone project with real-world application - Apply for full-time jobs or <u>graduate program</u> - Participate in on-campus recruiting and employer interviews	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Join the <u>CAT Club</u> and help develop activities and community events - Check out other <u>student organization, clubs, or campus initiative</u> - Attend campus events to build peer and faculty connections - Participate in <u>Topper Fest</u> or first-year leadership programs - Learn about <u>wellness, counseling, and support resources</u>	- Hold a leadership role in the <u>CAT Club</u> or a <u>student organization</u>. - Serve as a peer mentor, tutor, or orientation leader. - Participate in alumni networking or mentorship programs. - Balance academic, work, and extracurricular responsibilities. - Utilize <u>wellness resources</u> to maintain mental and physical health.	- Mentor younger students within the major or <u>CAT Club</u> - Expand professional networks through <u>alumni</u> and industry connections. - Serve on student advisory boards or institutional committees. - Participate in financial literacy and life transition workshops. - Develop a personal plan for work-life balance and well-being post-graduation	

