

ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING

MASTER OF ARTS

ASPIRE

EXPERIENTIAL MAJOR MAP

PROGRAM VALUE

This fully online Master of Arts in Art Therapy and Counseling program prepares students to pursue careers in community, educational, and healthcare settings while supporting personal and professional growth and lifelong learning. Students develop proficiency in both visual language and talk therapy and apply these concepts and principles in therapeutic practice. This program is designed for working professionals to enter the high-demand field of mental health and behavioral health through rigorous academic study and real-world experiences.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Creative and clinical skills
- Skills for multiple career pathways
- Ethical decision making
- Evidence-based practices
- Personal & professional development

CAREER READINESS

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

CAREER PATHWAYS

- Day programs
- Residential care
- School-based programs
- Outpatient services
- Hospital settings
- Psychiatric facilities
- Criminal justice system
- Rehabilitation facilities

DEPARTMENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"Choosing to pursue the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at West Liberty University was a turning point in my life. The program delivered the necessary clinical skills, but more importantly, it challenged me to grow profoundly as both a person and a future therapist. I'm profoundly thankful for the guidance I received; this program didn't just prepare me for a career—it helped me align with my purpose and passion."

Angela Modzelewski, MA in Art Therapy and Counseling

HILLTOP ADVANTAGE

One of the most affordable art therapy programs available. Fully online delivery with fall, spring, and summer start dates. Can be completed in 2 ½ years (full-time) if all requirements are met. No GMAT or GRE required.

VERSATILE DEGREE

- Multiple career pathways
- Art Therapy Theory & Practice
- Personal growth & professional development
- Synchronous and online classes
- Preparation to pursue ATR credentialing & counseling licensure

Department of Art Therapy and Counseling - MA in Art Therapy & Counseling

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	LAST SEMESTER	
A ACADEMIC MASTERY	- Meet with your advisor to chart your path through the <u>MA in Art Therapy and Counseling</u> - Attend the Virtual Fall Residency orientation and weekend workshops - Begin foundational coursework requirements	- Attend the Virtual Fall Residency weekend workshops - Present your art portfolio in the Graduate Art Exhibition - Continue required coursework - Meet with the Coordinator of practicum/internships to review paperwork required to secure your site - Review counseling licensure requirements for your state	- Complete graduate program requirements - Complete a capstone project and present it during the Virtual Graduation Ceremony to the program community (Optional) - Consider submitting your capstone for presentation at professional conferences, such as those offered by AATA or ACA - Consider adapting your capstone for submission to a peer-reviewed journal	GRADUATE WEBSITES <u>MA in Art Therapy and Counseling</u> <u>MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling</u> BUILD SUCCESS - Meet with your academic advisor - Create a peer-support network - Develop community resources - Create a resume and LinkedIn profile - Attend professional networking sessions - Engage with professional organizations 
S SELF-DISCOVERY & STRENGTHS	- Participate in professional opportunities such as professional conferences - Participate in career exploration workshops	- Meet with the Coordinator of practicum/internships to explore experiential opportunities - Explore job opportunities and attend a <u>writing center workshop</u> - Initiate job search	- Engage in personal art making - Complete professionally focused experiential learning and internship experiences - Complete a resume and <u>LinkedIn</u> profile	
PI PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION INTEGRATIVE & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING	- Create initial resume and <u>LinkedIn</u> profile - Attend career/employer networking events - Explore internships and career pathways	- Engage in networking events, career fairs, or conferences - Explore professional opportunities through the <u>American Art Therapy Association</u> - Build relationships with employers, <u>alumni</u>, or industry mentors - Complete the 100-hour supervised practicum	- Complete two supervised internships (total 700 hours) - Present a capstone project with real-world application - Apply for full-time jobs with your population of interest	
RE RELATIONSHIPS & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & WELL-BEING	- Learn about <u>support resources</u> for current students - Schedule a <u>telehealth counseling appointment with Bettermynd</u>	- Participate in professional networking or mentorship programs - Balance academic, work, and extracurricular responsibilities. - Utilize <u>wellness resources</u> to maintain mental and physical health	- Expand professional networks through <u>alumni</u> and industry connections. - Develop a personal plan for work-life balance and well-being post-graduation - Develop a plan for postgraduate supervision required for art therapy credentials and counseling licensure	