

A few basics

- The Art Therapy profession is in the process of transitioning from educational program approval to accreditation.
- Accreditation is a process of external quality review to assure quality education and improvement.
- Art therapy programs are accredited initially for five (5) years and reports are reviewed annually to ensure the program continues to meet educational standards.
- Programs must complete a vigorous process including conducting self studies, providing extensive documentation and partaking in site visits as part of the accreditation process.



Accreditation Council for Art
Therapy Education

www.caahep.org/ACATE

Questions?

Email: acatecouncil@gmail.com

Accreditation of Art Therapy Programs: What do students need to know?





What will I be asked to do before and after a site visit?

1. Complete survey and be open about your experiences with the program and how well you feel prepared to enter the Art Therapy profession.
2. Participate in on-site interviews and share your thoughts about your program directly with the site evaluators.
3. Encourage your fellow students to participate, too!

What's the difference between approved and accredited?

A five-year period of transition is currently under way in which the Educational Programs Approval Board (EPAB) approval process is transitioning to an accreditation process under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This process is managed by the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE). Both currently approved and soon to be accredited programs ensure the ability of the program to prepare their students for entry level skills and post-graduate certification as an art therapist with the Art Therapy Credentials Board. To find an approved or accredited program, please visit: www.arttherapy.org/art-therapy-masters-education/



CAAHEP accredits programs who are training entry level professionals, therefore, undergraduate and doctoral programs are not accredited.

What else should I know about approval and accreditation?

- As a graduate of an approved or accredited program, you will be able to apply for your ATR-P with the ATCB (Art Therapy Credentials Board).
- There are two different kinds of accreditation — *institutional and program*. Approved and accredited programs have *institutional* accreditation. Art Therapy programs can also have *program* level approval or the accreditation.
- Accreditation is intended to protect you, the student, and ensure that the program you are graduating from has sufficient resources to meet your learning needs and is providing you with the entry level skills needed to enter the profession.

