

Art Therapy, B.A.

Degree Offered

- Bachelor of Arts

Nature of the Program

The undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Therapy provides students with foundational skills and preparation for graduate work in the high-demand field of art therapy. Students are reminded that the minimum educational requirement to become a licensed art therapist is a Master's degree in art therapy. This BA program allows students to explore a variety of psychology, counseling, and therapeutic artmaking coursework necessary for continued education in the field of art therapy. Students are required to complete a minor in Human Services which affords them the opportunity to learn valuable interpersonal skills and engage in community-based art practice. They must also maintain a GPA of 2.75 or higher to continue in the program and pass all required ART, ARHS, COUN, and PSYC courses with a grade of C- or higher.

Admissions for 2025-2026

Students must meet the requirements for University admission. There are no additional entrance requirements (e.g., portfolio review) for the Bachelor of Arts programs in Art History and Museum Professions, Art Therapy, or Game Design and Interactive Media.

A portfolio review is recommended for applicants seeking scholarship consideration into the Art Therapy program.

For further information, please consult the College's website or call the College's Recruitment Office at (304) 293-4339. Applicants can also visit the School of Art and Design's website or phone the School office at (304) 293-2552.

Major Code: 3702

General Education Foundations

Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (<http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef>)

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

Code	Title	Hours
General Education Foundations		
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric		3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or ENGL 103	Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Accelerated Academic Writing	
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology		4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning		3-4
F4 - Society & Connections		3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past		3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity		3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity		3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree)		9
Total Hours		31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75.		
Students must pass all ART, ARHS, COUN, and PSYC classes with a grade of "C-" or higher.		
GEF Requirements (1, 2, 3 and 5)		18
ART 191	First-Year Seminar	2
Required Art Studio Coursework		

ART 111S	Drawing 1	3
ART 121S	Visual Foundations 1	3
ART 122S	Visual Foundations 2	3
ART 213S	Painting 1	3
ART 240S	Ceramics	3
Additional 200-level Studio Art Course		3
Select one of the following:		
ART 112S	Drawing 2	
ART 211S	Figure Drawing	
ART 212S	Visual Foundations 3	
ART 223S	Introduction to Graphic Design	
ART 226S	Introduction to Sculpture	
ART 230S	Printmaking - Intaglio and Relief	
ART 232S	Photography 1	
ART 241S	Ceramics	
ARHS 120	Survey of Art History 1 (GEF 6)	3
ARHS 160	Survey of Art History 2	3
ARHS 240	Research, Writing, & Methods in Art History	3
ART 410	Introduction to Visual Arts Therapy	3
ART 411	Theory of Art Education & Art Therapy	3
ART 412	Art Methods/Materials for Special Populations	3
ART 420	Advanced Problems in Art-Making	3
ART 422	Art Therapy Media & Materials	3
Required Psychology Coursework		
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (GEF 4)	3
PSYC 241	Introduction to Human Development	3
PSYC 281	Introduction to Psychological Disorders (GEF 7)	3
One Additional 200- or 300-level PSYC Course		3
Human Services Minor		15
Capstone Coursework		
ART 445	Senior Capstone	3
General Electives		28
Total Hours		120

Suggested Plan of Study

First Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
PSYC 101 (GEF 4)		3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)	3
ENGL 101 (GEF 1)		3 ART 122S	3
ART 121S		3 ARHS 120 (GEF 6)	3
ART 191		2 GEF 5	3
General Elective		3 PSYC 281 (GEF 7)	3
		14	15

Second Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
GEF 3		3 COUN 400	3
COUN 303		3 ARHS 160	3
GEF 2		3 PSYC 241	3
ART 111S		3 GEF 2	3
General Elective		4 General Elective	3
		16	15

Third Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ARHS 240		3 ART 411	3
ART 240S		3 COUN 301	3
ART 410		3 PSYC 300+ Elective	3
ART 213S		3 General Elective	3
Additional Studio Art Course		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
ART 412		3 ART 420	3
COUN 405		3 COUN 415	3
ART 445		3 ART 422	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
		15	15

Total credit hours: 120

Major Learning Outcomes

ART THERAPY

At the end of this program, students will be able to:

- Construct a personal art making philosophy that analyzes individual strengths and skills.
- Develop strong communication and interpersonal skills through engagement in studio art, art therapy, psychology, and human service coursework
- Describe and define primary principles of visual art therapy modalities and the roles of visual art therapists in human service professions.
- Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of studio art methods, materials, and practices necessary for careers in art therapy, community arts programs, and human services professions.
- Cultivate social and emotional learning (SEL) instructional methods into artmaking practices in order to address physical, social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of students, clients, and local communities.
- Complete prerequisite coursework (as defined by the American Art Therapy Association) for admission to graduate school art therapy programs.