



Creative Arts Therapists

Creative arts therapists train in both psychotherapy and creative arts, including dance, drama, music, poetry, and art therapies. These professionals assess and guide patients, helping them to use art to cope with the symptoms of stress, illness, and trauma; improve self-esteem and awareness; and develop more effective communication skills.

Education

Complete a master’s or doctoral degree in a [Department-registered](#) Creative Arts Therapy licensure program, or the equivalent, as determined by the Department

Experience

Complete at least 1,500 hours of post-degree supervised experience in the practice of Creative Arts Therapy, including direct work with clients in an acceptable setting

Examination

Board Certification examination administered by the Art Therapy Credential Board or Certification Board for Music Therapist; or New York State Case Narrative Examination.

► Visit the [Office of the Professions](#) for a listing of all options and requirements.

Video: music therapy



Salary and Projected Growth

- Median salary: \$47,860 in the US, \$54,910 in NY
- Projected growth: faster than average

Where Could I Work?

- Private or group practice
- Hospitals and nursing homes
- Schools and community centers
- Group homes, half-way houses
- Behavioral health agencies and programs

Your Interests and Abilities

- Psychology - including developmental and abnormal
- Therapy and counseling
- Diversity and cultural competency
- Discipline-specific theory and skills

Professional Skills

- Concern for others
- Dependability
- Innovation
- Creativity

What Interests You?

Match your interests and personality to career options!

Explore a free career tool at mynextmove.org/explore/ip

Tip: try searching for mentoring programs—talk to a creative arts therapist about what they do and how they got started!