Licensure and Credentialing Information for Prospective Applicants

Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences
Expressive Therapies Division

M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy

Thank you for your interest in Lesley University’s Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program (the “Program”). Depending on your professional goals, where you reside or plan to practice, and the licensure structures that exist within that state, there are different pathways towards licensure and/or credentialing that may be relevant for you:

I. State Professional Mental Health Counseling Licensure.
II. Music Therapy
   - Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.

I. State Professional Mental Health Counseling Licensure

Our Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program meets the current educational requirements for Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) licensure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Professional mental health counseling licensure requirements vary from state to state, are a matter of individual state legislation, and are outside of the control of educational institutions. State licensing boards make determinations as to whether an applicant’s program of study meets the educational requirements for a license at the time of licensure application. Due to our unique focus on the expressive therapies modality specializations, and the variations of professional mental health counseling licensure standards from state to state, our Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program does not completely align with the current educational requirements for licensure as a professional mental health counselor in other states.

State-by-State Listing: Professional Mental Health Counseling License

A. Lesley University has determined that our Program’s curriculum meets the current educational requirements to apply for licensure in clinical mental health counseling in the following state: Massachusetts.

B. Lesley University has determined that our Program’s curriculum does not meet the current educational requirements to apply for licensure in clinical mental health counseling in the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas* (Low Residency, refer to category C.), Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas* (Low Residency, refer to category C.), Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri* (Low Residency, refer to category C.), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wyoming.
   - Individuals who intend to pursue professional mental health counseling licensure in one of the states listed in category B are strongly encouraged to request guidance from state licensing boards as to whether supplemental coursework or other actions would be necessary to make them eligible to apply for professional mental health counseling licensure in that state.

C. Lesley University has determined that graduates of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program are ineligible for professional mental health counseling licensure in the following states:
   - Low Residency format: Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin.
   - On Campus format: Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin.

Lesley University’s Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy program is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) and approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). The Music Therapy program is not accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling & Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and we cannot guarantee CACREP equivalency or a finding by a state licensing agency of CACREP equivalency. In some states, the definition of professional mental health counseling in state licensing regulations, and/or the state licensure board’s interpretation of mental health counseling regulations, specifically excludes educational programs and/or coursework that incorporates training and practice in music therapy. In these states, graduates of our Program may only be eligible to seek a credential or license specific to music therapy, or as a creative arts therapist, which is described below in Section II.

July 2019
II. Music Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Any person looking to obtain their national Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) credential to practice music therapy is required to become certified by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT). Lesley University has determined that our curriculum meets the current educational requirements to apply for the national Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC). For more information, visit the AMTA website at https://www.musictherapy.org/ and the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) website at https://www.cbmt.org/.

Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.
After obtaining national certification, some states require an additional state license in order to practice music therapy in that state.

State-by-State Listing: Music Therapy State Licensure
The following information was taken from the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) website, https://www.cbmt.org/examination/state-licensure/.

A. Lesley University has determined that our curriculum meets the current educational requirements to apply for state licensure in music therapy in the following states: Georgia, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah.

B. According to the CBMT website, art therapists in the following states are licensed under related licenses:
   1. Lesley University has determined that our curriculum meets the current educational requirements to apply for the music therapy related licenses in the following states: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License - LCAT), Wisconsin (Registered Music Therapist with License to Practice Psychotherapy).

C. According to the AMTA website, there currently is no state licensure process required to practice music therapy in the following states, though some states may have legislation in process that could require such licensure or registration in the future: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wyoming.

State of Residency, Student Location, and Field Training Placements

– Low Residency format: We are currently unable to admit students who reside in or who are located in the following states into the Low Residency format of the Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy Program due to regulations that exist in those states: Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin.
   – Students should also be aware that they cannot move to or complete field training placements in these states while enrolled in the Program.

– On Campus format: Students who enroll in the On Campus format of the Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling: Music Therapy Program are required to complete their field training placements in Massachusetts. If they wish to complete field training placements outside of Massachusetts, they must first obtain approval.

Lesley University has attempted to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided at the time this guide was created. Please be aware that state licensure is a matter of individual state legislation and is outside of the control of educational institutions; therefore, the information presented in this guide is subject to change.