



Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences
Expressive Therapies Department

M.A. Clinical Mental Health Counseling
with specializations in Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy,
Drama Therapy, Expressive Arts Therapy, and Music Therapy

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. **Student Location and Field Training Placements**
- III. **Expressive Therapies specialization**
 - Step 1 – **National Certification.**
 - Step 2 – **State Modality Licensure**, where applicable.

If you have any questions after reviewing the information below, please contact us at cert_off@lesley.edu.

I. State Professional Mental Health Counseling Licensure

Our Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling with specializations in Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy, Drama Therapy, Expressive Arts Therapy, and Music Therapy (the “Program”) meets the current educational requirements for Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) licensure in 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 Program does not completely align with the current educational requirements for licensure as a professional mental health counselor in other states. 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 the expressive therapies. In these states, graduates of our Program may only be eligible to seek a credential or license specific to their expressive therapies’ specialization, or as a creative arts therapist, which is described below in Section III.

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

- A. Our Program’s curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for licensure in clinical mental health counseling in the following state: Massachusetts.
- B. Our Program’s curriculum **does not meet** the current educational requirements to apply for licensure in clinical mental health counseling in the following states, but graduates may be eligible to apply with supplemental course work, field training, or other actions: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas* (Low Residency, refer to category C.), Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Guam, 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, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 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, field training, or other actions would be necessary to make them eligible to apply for professional mental health counseling licensure in that state.*** To research the requirements for professional mental health counseling licensure for the state in which you reside or plan to practice, visit the American Counseling Association (ACA) website at <https://www.counseling.org/knowledge-center/licensure-requirements> or the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) at <https://www.nc-sara.org/professional-licensure-directory> for contact information and website links. We advise you to become familiar with and understand the state requirements for professional mental health counseling licensure for the state in which you reside or plan to practice.



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- C. Our Program's curriculum **does not meet** the current educational requirements to apply for licensure in clinical mental health counseling in the following states and graduates of our Program are **ineligible for professional mental health counseling licensure** in the following states:
- *Low Residency format:* Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin.
 - *On Campus format:* Florida, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Wisconsin.

Accreditation and Program Approvals

Lesley University's Masters of Clinical Mental Health Counseling with specializations in Art Therapy, Dance/Movement Therapy, Drama Therapy, Expressive Arts Therapy, and Music Therapy is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). The Art Therapy specialization is approved by the American Art Therapy Association (AATA). The Dance/Movement Therapy specialization is approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). The Drama Therapy specialization is accredited by the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA). The Expressive Arts Therapy specialization meets the current educational requirements established by the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA). The Music Therapy specialization is approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). The 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.

II. Student Location During the Program 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 Program due to regulations that exist in those states: **Arkansas, Florida, 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 Program are required to complete their field training placements in Massachusetts.

Periodic Review of Licensure Regulations and Moving to a New State

It is important to understand the specific requirements of the state in which you intend to apply for licensure and to periodically review the requirements in order to be aware of any future changes to those requirements. If you move to a new state, you should be aware that the requirements for licensure may differ from the state in which you previously resided, and you are advised to become familiar with and understand the requirements of the new state. Students are expected to keep the University informed of any changes of location via the [Address Change Form](#) available on the Registrar's Office webpage.

III. National Certification and State Modality Licensure for your specialization

Click the link below or scroll to the page number indicated to find credentialing and licensure information related to each specialization.

- [Art Therapy specialization](#) (pg. 3)
- [Dance/Movement Therapy specialization](#) (pg. 4)
- [Drama Therapy specialization](#) (pg. 5)
- [Expressive Arts Therapy specialization](#) (pg. 6)
- [Music Therapy specialization](#) (pg. 7)



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Art Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Step 1 – National Certification: Registered Art Therapist (ATR).

Any person looking to obtain their national Registered Art Therapist (ATR) credential to practice art therapy is required to become certified by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB). Lesley University has determined that our Art Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the national Registered Art Therapist (ATR) credential. For more information, visit the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) website at <https://www.arttherapy.org> and the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB) website at <https://www.atcb.org/>.

Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.

After obtaining national certification, some states require an additional state license in order to practice art therapy in that state.

State-by-State Listing: Art Therapy State Licensure

The following information is based on the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) website, <https://arttherapy.org/state-advocacy/>.

- A. Our Program's Art Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for state licensure in art therapy in the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Washington D.C., Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey*, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee*, Virginia*.
- B. According to the AATA website, art therapists in the following states are licensed under related licenses:
 - 1. Our Program's Art Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the art therapy related licenses in the following states: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License - LCAT), Wisconsin (Registered Art Therapist with License to Practice Psychotherapy).
 - 2. Our Program's Art Therapy curriculum **does not meet** the current educational requirements to apply for the art therapy related licenses in the following states: Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah.
 - ***The states listed in category 2 license art therapists through their professional mental health counseling boards. Individuals who intend to pursue art therapy licensure in one of the states listed in category 2 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 the art therapy licensure in that state.*** Our Program offers electives that may satisfy the common additional courses required.
- C. According to the AATA website, there currently is **no state licensure process required** to practice art therapy in the following states, though some states may have legislation in process that could require such licensure in the future: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming.

*Procedures for applying for licensure are currently being developed and will be posted on the respective government webpages when complete.



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Dance/Movement Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Step 1 – National Certification: Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT).

Any person looking to obtain their national Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT) credential to practice dance/movement therapy is required to become certified by the Dance/Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB). Lesley University has determined that our Dance Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the national Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT) credential. For more information, visit the ADTA website at <https://www.adta.org/>.

Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.

After obtaining national certification, some states require an additional state license in order to practice dance/movement therapy in that state.

State-by-State Listing: Dance/Movement Therapy State Licensure

The following information is based on the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) website, <https://adta.wildapricot.org/StateLicensingTools>.

- A. Our Program's Dance Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for state licensure in dance therapy in the following states: Wisconsin, New Jersey*.
- B. According to the ADTA website, dance/movement therapists in the following state are licensed under related licenses.
 - 1. Our Program's Dance Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the dance therapy related licenses in the following state: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License – LCAT).
- C. According to the ADTA website, there currently is **no state licensure process required** to practice dance/movement therapy in the following states, though some states may have legislation in process that could require such licensure in the future: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wyoming.

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Drama Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Step 1 – National Certification: Registered Drama Therapist (RDT).

Any person looking to obtain their national Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) credential to practice drama therapy is required to become certified by the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA). Lesley University has determined that our Drama Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the national Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) credential. For more information, visit the NADTA website at <https://www.nadta.org/>.

Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.

After obtaining national certification, some states require an additional state license in order to practice drama therapy in that state.

State-by-State Listing: Drama Therapy State Licensure

The following information is based on the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA) website, <https://www.nadta.org/advocacy/drama-therapy-licensure.html>.

- A.** Our Program's Drama Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for state licensure in dance therapy in the following state: New Jersey*.
- B.** According to the NADTA website, drama therapists in the following state are licensed under related licenses.
 - 1.** Our Program's Drama Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the drama therapy related license in the following state: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License - LCAT).
- C.** According to the NADTA website, there currently is **no state licensure process required** to practice drama therapy in the following states, though some states may have legislation in process that could require such licensure in the future: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

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Expressive Arts Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Step 1 – National Certification: Registered Expressive Arts Therapist (REAT).

Any person looking to obtain their national Registered Expressive Arts Therapist (REAT) credential to practice expressive arts therapy is required to become certified by the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA). Lesley University has determined that our Expressive Arts Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the national Registered Expressive Arts Therapist (REAT) credential. For more information, visit the IEATA website at <https://www.ieata.org/>.

Step 2 – State Modality Licensure, where applicable.

After obtaining national certification, some states require an additional state license in order to practice expressive arts therapy in that state.

State-by-State Listing: Expressive Arts Therapy State Licensure

The following information is based on the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA) website, <https://www.ieata.org/>.

- A.** According to the IEATA website, expressive arts therapists in the following state are licensed under related licenses:
 - 1.** Our Program's Expressive Arts Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the expressive arts therapy related license in the following state: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License - LCAT).
- B.** According to the IEATA website, there currently is **no state licensure process required** to practice expressive arts therapy in the following states, though some states may have legislation in process that could require such licensure in the future: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.



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Music Therapy: National Certification, State Modality Licensure

Step 1 – National Certification: Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC).

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 Music Therapy 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 is based on the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) website, <https://www.cbmt.org/state-requirements/>.

- A. Our Program's Music Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for state licensure in music therapy in the following states: Georgia, Maryland*, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia*, Wisconsin.
- B. According to the CBMT website, art therapists in the following state are licensed under related licenses:
 - 1. Our Program's Music Therapy curriculum **meets** the current educational requirements to apply for the music therapy related licenses in the following state: New York (Creative Arts Therapist License - LCAT).
- 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, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Washington, Washington D.C., West Virginia, Wyoming.

*Procedures for applying for licensure are currently being developed and will be posted on the respective government webpages when complete.

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.