

Eastern Virginia Medical School
Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program
Admissions Guide

July 2021

Table of Contents	
INTRODUCTION	5
ART THERAPY PROFESSION.....	5
PROGRAM OVERVIEW	6
APPROVAL STATUS	7
NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY	7
EDUCATION PROGRAM.....	7
EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	8
TUITION AND FEES.....	8
FINANCIAL AID	8
PROGRAM SEQUENCE	8
IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND EXTERNAL LINKS	9
EARLY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.....	9
NON-DEGREE SEEKING REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS	10
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS	11
APPLICATION PROCESS	11
STEP 1:	11
STEP 2:	11
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:	12
Autobiographical Statement:	12
Letters of Reference:	12
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.....	12
APPLICATION TIMELINE & IMPORTANT DATES	13
EARLY DECISION	13
OPEN ADMISSIONS.....	13
ADMISSIONS PROCESS TIMELINE	15

APPLICATION CHECKLIST	16
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	17
QUALIFYING GPA	17
BACHELOR'S DEGREE.....	17
FOREIGN DEGREES.....	17
• Minimum of 25 in the speaking component	18
PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK.....	18
*TEN-YEAR WINDOW for PREREQUISITES	20
<i>MINIMAL EXPECTED CONTENT for PREREQUISITES:</i>	20
ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TESTING	22
TECHNICAL STANDARDS	23
ADMISSIONS CONSULTATIONS	25
NOTIFICATION & COMMUNICATION	25
GENERAL REVIEW PROCESS.....	25
NOTICE OF INTERVIEWS.....	26
ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM.....	26
WAIVER.....	26
HEALTH REQUIREMENTS.....	27
ORIENTATION.....	27
WAIT LIST STATUS	27
DEFERMENT POLICY.....	28
REAPPLICATION	28
EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL	29
MISSION.....	29
VISION	29
VALUES	29

GOALS	30
STATEMENT FOR DIVERSITY	31

INTRODUCTION

These Admission Policies and Procedures serve as the definitive guide for applicants to the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). Included are generic information about EVMS and our program and specific admissions criteria and application data that relate to the current application cycle. These policies and procedures should be considered an adjunct to the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program Student Handbook, which contains in-depth information regarding the program and related policies. Applicants are also encouraged to fully explore the EVMS website, including the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program page.

The information herein is subject to periodic review and revision as deemed necessary by the program. Changes will be indicated by the revision date. *It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to be aware of all application requirements and work with admissions staff to ensure a successful application.*

ART THERAPY PROFESSION

An art therapist is a mental health professional who is a graduate of an art therapy education program. An art therapist may be nationally credentialed through the Art Therapy Credentials Board as a Registered Art Therapist (ATR) with Board Certification (ATR-BC). Art therapists are master's level mental health professionals working in a variety of settings to help people address their health and well-being.

The American Art Therapy Association defines the field this way:

Art therapy is a mental health profession in which clients, facilitated by the art therapist, use art media, the creative process, and the resulting artwork to explore their feelings, reconcile emotional conflicts, foster self-awareness, manage behavior and addictions, develop social skills, improve reality orientation, reduce anxiety, and increase self-esteem. A goal in art therapy is to improve or restore a client's functioning and his or her sense of personal well-being. Art therapy practice requires knowledge of visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art forms) and the creative process, as well as of human development, psychological, and counseling theories and techniques.

Today art therapy is widely practiced in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, psychiatric and rehabilitation facilities, wellness centers, forensic institutions, schools, crisis centers, senior communities, private practice, and other clinical and community settings. During individual and/or group sessions art therapists elicit their clients' inherent capacity for art making to enhance their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Research supports the use of art therapy within a professional relationship for the therapeutic benefits gained through artistic self-expression and reflection for individuals who experience illness, trauma, and mental health problems and those seeking personal growth.

[\(American Art Therapy Association\)](#)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program is a founding program of Eastern Virginia Medical School and the School of Health Professions. The program was founded in 1973 at the opening of Eastern Virginia Medical School with our first graduating class in 1975. The program evolved from a certificate program to one that offers a Master of Science in Art Therapy, with the first master's degree students graduating in 1982.

Located on the campus of Eastern Virginia Medical School, the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program utilizes innovative instructional methods in conjunction with our community's diverse resources to provide students with outstanding educational opportunities. The curriculum provides graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to participate in the delivery of mental health care as art therapists and leaders in a changing healthcare industry.

The program was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) on September 20, 2020. Our graduates have an advantage over non-approved programs as they pursue professional credentials through the Art Therapy Credentials Board. The EVMS Graduate Art Therapy Program prepares graduates to apply for licensure as professional counselors in Virginia and other states. However, the field is evolving and there is currently a national initiative for stand-alone Professional Art Therapist licensure. Some states have achieved this license, it has been approved in Virginia and is in the process of being administered.

APPROVAL STATUS

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program in the School of Health Professions at Eastern Virginia Medical School is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) since September 20, 2020.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

EVMS does not discriminate in the recruitment and admission of students on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, religion, political affiliation, or handicap as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program runs continuously for 5 semesters.

In the **FIRST Year**, the pre-internship sixteen week semester incorporates classroom interaction with clinical skill development through experiential and didactic coursework (18 credit hours). In the second semester students continue coursework and complete a 36 hour practicum and a 234 hour internship spanning 16 weeks (15-18 credit hours).

Students complete a capstone project demonstrating excellence as applied to and/or in art therapy.

During the **SECOND Year**, students complete coursework (30-36 credit hours), internship experiences, and scholarly inquiry or research which form the basis of their professional development as art therapists.

Several electives are offered beginning the second semester of study through the end of the program.

Practicum and Internship sites are located throughout the Hampton Roads area. Students should plan to commute for some of their supervised internship experiences during their clinical training. Public transportation is not extensively available throughout the area, it is recommended to have an automobile to travel and live in Hampton Roads.

Following graduation, graduates are recommended to complete supervised experience and take the ATCB Board Certification exam.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS provides a competency-based education for students desiring a graduate level art therapy education experience that will prepare them for ethical clinical practice. The faculty serves as a resource and guide, and to encourage students as they grow from mental health learners to mental health providers.

Our students develop strong artist-therapist identities through growth-oriented and reflective classroom, studio, community, and clinical experience. We prepare world class art therapists who are culturally responsive, community-involved, ethical professionals with successful careers.

TUITION AND FEES

The tuition and fee rates for the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS are announced prior to the start of each academic year and are subject to change without notice. Tuition for the 2021-2022 academic year is estimated to be \$30,138 for in-state students, and \$38,110 for out-of-state students. Other costs include required fees of \$2,036 and approximately \$2,500 for books. Tuition and fees are subject to change. Tuition and fees are charged separately for students declaring specialty tracks or taking electives.

Students must show proof of major medical insurance coverage. Students who are eligible for coverage under the policy of a parent or spouse are urged to do so. As an alternative, EVMS offers a student health insurance plan for an estimated \$3,500 per year.

FINANCIAL AID

The primary responsibility for the funding of students' education lies with them and their families. Financial aid is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. For more information, contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#).

PROGRAM SEQUENCE

The program is designed for students to complete the designated curriculum in the sequence specified. Each semester's course work is to be considered prerequisite to the next semester. Students may not enter the program with advanced standing, regardless of educational or work experience, and no accelerated curriculum or course waivers are offered. Students participate as a cohort in which students matriculate and graduate as a class.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND EXTERNAL LINKS

Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program Office – General	757.446.5895
Office of Admissions & Enrollment for the School of Health Professions	757.446.7096 757.446.7153
Office of Financial Aid	757.446.5813
Office of Diversity in Educational Programs	757.446.5869
Office of Student Disability Services	757.446.5638

The following links may be useful in learning more about the art therapy profession:

- The American Art Therapy Association | www.arttherapy.org
- The Art Therapy Credentials Board | www.atcb.org

EARLY ASSURANCE PROGRAM

To be eligible for the Early Assurance Program (EAP) with Regent University, a student must:

- Be at least in their junior year at Regent University, and with only one academic year left to complete in their undergraduate education when applying. Interested students should meet with the Regent University EAP Advisor (advising@regent.edu | [757.352.4385](tel:757.352.4385)) during their freshman year or within the first semester of coursework to express interest in the EAP;
- Meet citizenship requirements of the program;
- Meet all Regent University institutional and degree requirements to continue as a student in good standing;
- Have an overall (cumulative) GPA of 3.0 or better;
- Have no academic or other code of conduct violations;
- Follow the [Admission](#) guidelines;
- Have a pre-matriculation meeting with the program director during the spring semester before the fall matriculation date.

The guarantee of admission through the EAP is contingent upon the student's continued eligibility in the EAP.

NON-DEGREE SEEKING REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS

It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of the information in this document and meet all published deadlines and requirements to apply to our program. Applications for non-degree seeking students are due at least two (2) weeks before the start of a course or continuing education for credit learning. Please submit applications through the GradCas online. Please pay close attention to the instruction in these admissions policies and procedures to assure a complete application.

Individuals with broad educational backgrounds, prior healthcare experience, and those who are underrepresented in the healthcare professions are encouraged to apply for admission. Falsification or deliberate exclusion of information (personal or academic) during any portion of the application process will be cause for immediate withdrawal of your application for the current cycle and any future consideration for acceptance into the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: REVIEW ALL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED BELOW

It is the applicant's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this publication (and any subsequent revisions applicable to this admission cycle) and to ensure they meet all the Admission Requirements outlined therein.

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE GradCas APPLICATION

Go to the GradCas web site and follow the instructions for submitting an application.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis all year.

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program reserves the right to verify credentials documented in the applicant's application.

Applicants should review and adhere to the GradCas Applicant Responsibilities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Transcripts from an accredited university or college documenting a Master's degree in art therapy, counseling, psychology, or related field.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

The applicant is **REQUIRED** to provide the following information:

- Citizenship Status
- State Residency Declaration
- Determination of TOEFL requirement

APPLICATION TIMELINE & IMPORTANT DATES

It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with GradCas and EVMS to make sure all requirements are met and documents received in a timely manner to comply with the published deadlines.

*At the discretion of the Admissions Screening Committee, applications may be accepted after the deadlines.

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS & PROCESS

The following information represents the most comprehensive and up to date policies and standards for those interested in applying for the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program this admission cycle. Information herein replaces any former versions of this publication or prior admissions practices.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to be aware of the information in this document and meet all published deadlines and requirements to apply to our program. Applicants are encouraged to file applications by the February 15th deadline. Although we will consider later applications, submissions by February 15th are given priority. Please submit applications through the GradCAS. Please pay close attention to the instruction and deadlines in these admissions policies and procedures to assure a complete and competitive application.

Individuals with broad educational backgrounds, prior healthcare experience, and those who are underrepresented in the healthcare professions are encouraged to apply for admission.

Falsification or deliberate exclusion of information (personal or academic) during any portion of the application process will be cause for immediate withdrawal of your application for the current cycle and any future consideration for acceptance into the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program will extend offers of admission beginning January 1st through May of a year. An application file will be considered complete and reviewable by the Application Screening Committee after satisfactorily completing the following steps:

STEP 1: REVIEW ALL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED BELOW

It is the applicant's responsibility to be familiar with the information contained in this publication (and any subsequent revisions applicable to this admission cycle) and to ensure they meet all the Admission Requirements outlined therein.

STEP 2: COMPLETE THE GradCAS APPLICATION

Go to the GradCAS website and follow the instructions for submitting an application.

Applications are accepted beginning October 1st and are encouraged to be electronically submitted to GradCAS by February 15th for entry into the class that will start the following August.

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program reserves the right to verify credentials documented in the applicant's application.

Applicants should review and adhere to the GradCAS Applicant Responsibilities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Autobiographical Statement: Applicants are asked to type “a brief statement expressing your personal development and motivation leading to your desire to become an art therapist,” which should be written at a graduate level and demonstrate that you have an understanding of the art therapist's role as a mental health professional.

NOTE: Applicants are also encouraged to explain any aspects of their application that may need further clarification (gaps in education or work history; academic inconsistency, difficulty or poor performance; etc.).

Letters of Reference: EVMS requires two (2) references. Both MUST be submitted before the application will be considered complete and reviewed by the Admission Screening Committee.

- References should be selected from individuals who are well acquainted with you academically, personal, and/or professionally over a period of time.
- References from close friends and family members are unacceptable.

Contact the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program (artthrp@evms.edu) if you have questions.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Prerequisites: Please note on the application the prerequisites you are currently taking and the expected date of completion.

Updating Completed Courses: If an applicant has already submitted the GradCAS application but has subsequently completed coursework that will fulfill the prerequisites, it is the applicant's responsibility to update the application by submitting current transcripts to the Office of Enrollment and notifying the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program by July 1st.

The applicant is REQUIRED to provide the following information:

- Explicit information detailing satisfactory completion for all pre-requisites (30 credits)
- Citizenship Status

- State Residency Declaration
- Determination of TOEFL requirement

APPLICATION TIMELINE & IMPORTANT DATES

<u>Early Decision Online Application Deadline</u> December 15th	<u>Early Decision Status Notification</u> February 15th
---	---

It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with GradCAS and EVMS to make sure all requirements are met and documents received in a timely manner to comply with the published deadlines.

There are two options for admission: Early Decision and Open Admissions.

EARLY DECISION

Early Decision is for applicants who are prepared and are seeking the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS as their first choice for graduate study in art therapy. By applying for Early Decision, applicants may be accepted into the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program earlier than February 15th. An applicant accepting an Early Decision offer is firm in his/her decision to attend the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS. Early Decision application does not guarantee an interview. Application for Early Decision gives the applicant an advantage of being reviewed by the Admissions Screening Committee before the February 15th recommended application submittal date. Early Decision applications may be deferred to the Open Admissions application deadline at the discretion of the Admissions Screening Committee.

Early Decision requires applicants to have completed and/or be enrolled in prerequisite courses with expected completion by May 31st of the application year.

Early Decision applicants must be in excellent academic standing evidence by the review of the Admissions Committee.

Early Decision applicants will be notified of their status of acceptance or deferral to the Open Admissions deadline. If notified of deferral status, applications will be reviewed with the Open Admissions applicants and follow Open Admissions deadlines.

OPEN ADMISSIONS

Open Admissions is for applicants applying to be considered during the regular admission cycle. Open Admissions applicants are strongly encouraged to submit all application materials before February 15th. No interviews will be granted for incomplete applications. Applicants submitting

applications after February 15th may still be considered, however applicants with completed applications on or before February 15th are given priority for scheduling interviews.

IT IS BEST TO APPLY TO OUR PROGRAM AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL PREREQUISITE COURSES OR ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN PREREQUISITE COURSES WITH GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS TIMELINE

Typically, the open places in each year's cohort fill quickly. The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program Admissions Screening Committee recommends meeting the earliest deadlines.

Application Cycle Opens	October 1st
<u>APPLICATION DEADLINES</u>	
Early Decision Open Admissions Application (recommended) Final Transcripts for Prerequisites Bachelor's Degree Completed	December 15th February 15th July 1st July 1st
Applications reviewed by Admissions Screening Committee*	December – April
Notification of Early Decision Status:	January – February 15th
Interview offers made to selected applicants: Early Decision Open Admissions	January – February 15th January – April 30
On-Campus Interviews: Early Decision Open Admissions	January – March 15th January – May
Offers of Admission extended: Early Decision Open Admissions	March 15th – May March 30th – May
Acceptance of Admission Offer	10 calendar days
Matriculation & Orientation	3 rd week of August

*At the discretion of the Admissions Screening Committee, applications may be accepted after the deadlines

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Below is a brief checklist of the major components of the EVMS Admissions criteria that will be necessary to complete your application and be considered for a potential interview. Please select any of the hyperlinks for quick navigation to further information outlined in the Admission Requirements.

SELF-CHECK	REQUIREMENT
	<u>QUALIFYING GPA</u> (3.00 or better)
	<u>BACHELOR'S DEGREE</u> completed (no later than July 1st of the current year)
	All <u>PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK</u> satisfactorily completed (no later than July 1st)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Application (electronically submitted preferred by February 15th) • Application Fee • Official Transcript(s) from all academic institutions attended • Official GRE score report (optional) • Official TOEFL Scores • Two (2) References • Autobiographical Statement
	Official TRANSCRIPT(S) for any outstanding prerequisites, and/or proof of enrollment in prerequisite courses (submitted directly to GradCAS by July 1st)
	Review the <u>TECHNICAL STANDARDS</u> for the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

QUALIFYING GPA

All applicants must have a qualifying GPA described below at 3.00 or better (on a 4.0 scale) for consideration.

- Overall GPA = 3.00
- GPA in prerequisites = 3.00

NOTE: Although 3.00 is the minimum GPA required, the average qualifying GPA is generally 3.5 and higher GPAs are more competitive.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

Applicants must have completed all undergraduate degree requirements and have been issued a bachelor's degree prior to matriculating as an EVMS student. If the bachelor's degree was issued by a U.S. college or university, as a general rule it should be from a regionally accredited institution. However, the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Official transcripts from the awarding institution must specify the date upon which the degree was issued.

FOREIGN DEGREES

Applicants with foreign degrees may be considered on a case-by-case basis. A written request **MUST** be submitted to the [Director of HP Admissions](#) and provide ALL of the following for consideration:

1. An OFFICIAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIAL EVALUATION of the foreign transcript. The evaluation must include the following components:

- [Analysis of credentials](#) to determine equivalence to an accredited U.S. Bachelor's degree
- [Course by course translation](#), including information on course name, grade, & U.S. credit equivalency
- [Overall performance](#) in comparison to the standard U.S. grading system (i.e., GPA)

Although multiple companies provide translation services, an English translation without the appropriate information above will not be accepted in place of an academic credential evaluation.

Our preference is that you submit an evaluation completed by [World Education Services](#), to provide us with the most complete picture of your previous educational background. Please see

WES' website for additional requirements and costs, which are the responsibility of the applicant.

NOTE: All 30 credits of prerequisite coursework **MUST** be completed at an accredited U.S. or Canadian institution with a B, 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) grade or better in order to establish a record of academic performance in this educational system. No foreign courses, degrees, work experience, or other summative exams (e.g. GRE or MAT) will substitute for prerequisite coursework.

2. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS of ALL coursework done in the U.S. educational system to date.

3. TOEFL SCORES: Due to the importance of communication in the English language for both learning and providing healthcare (see Technical Standards), the following applicants be required to provide acceptable TOEFL scores prior to matriculation:

1. All applicants with a foreign degree and English as a second language
2. Any applicant who entered the U.S. after the age of 12 from a non-English-speaking country of origin (as determined by high school graduation or personal statement).
 - o Graduation with an undergraduate degree from a U.S. educational institution will not fulfill this requirement.

To ensure an ability to function at the graduate level in a clinical healthcare program, the following are expected minimal scores:

- Internet-based test (preferred): 85
- Computer-based test: 220
- Minimum of 25 in the speaking component

There is no time frame requirement for when this exam is completed with the assumption that if an applicant has met the cutoff score at any point in the past, their English proficiency will continue to improve

In certain rare circumstances, in-person interviews may be used to override the score requirements as determined by program faculty.

At the time of program interviews, if language issues are identified, further demonstration of English proficiency, to include TOEFL testing, may be requested as a condition of acceptance.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK

All 30 credits of prerequisite coursework must be completed at an accredited institution with a B/ 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) or better for acceptance. Satisfactory completion of prerequisite coursework is documented via the official transcripts submitted to the online application or directly to EVMS. Applicants with grades lower than a B in any course are required to retake the course and submit official transcripts by the July 1st deadline.

The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program will review requests for transfer credits on a case-by-case basis.

- PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE JULY 1st TRANSCRIPT UPDATE DEADLINE.
- PROOF of enrollment in required prerequisite coursework during the summer term preceding matriculation will be accepted with official transcripts due immediately upon completion of coursework. (Satisfactory completion of coursework to a B average is required to complete admissions and matriculate at orientation with the assigned cohort).
- All prerequisite coursework must be listed on an official transcript submitted in GradCAS to complete your application. No offer of admission will be secure and complete until final transcripts have been submitted, reviewed, and verified by the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program or the EVMS Office of Admissions & Enrollment.
- Applicants with grades below the minimum standard may apply. However, these applicants will be expected to retake prerequisite coursework falling below a B average. Applicants may be accepted on a conditional basis at the discretion of the Admissions Screening Committee.

NOTE: Secondary proof of completion (e.g., student copy of transcript or course final grades) may be accepted while awaiting official transcripts. Contact the EVMS Office of Admissions & Enrollment for further information (hpadmissions@evms.edu | 757.446.7437 | 757.446.7096)

Prerequisite Course	Minimum Credit Hours		MINIMUM Grade Accepted	Self-Check
	Semester	Quarter		
(12) semester credit hours in Psychology*	9	15	B	
Developmental Psychology*	3	5	B	
Abnormal Psychology*	3	5	B	
Theories of Personality*	3	5	B	
Additional Psychology Course*	3	5	B	
(18) semester credit hours in Studio Art	12	20	B	
Painting	3	5	B	

Drawing	3	5	B	
Sculpture/ 3-D	3	5	B	
Clay or Ceramics	3	5	B	
Additional Studio Art Courses	6	10	B	

** Quarter system credit hours are converted to semester system by dividing by 1.5 (e.g., 6 quarter credits/1.5 = 4 semester credits)

***TEN-YEAR WINDOW for PREREQUISITES**

TWO (2) prerequisites in psychology (as indicated above) must have been completed no more than ten (10) years prior to the application deadline to the EVMS GRADUATE ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING Program.

If prerequisite coursework was completed MORE THAN ten years ago:

An exception to the ten-year window for courses successfully completed may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Petitions submitted to the Program Director for exceptions to the “10-year window” MUST include:

- When and where you took the course
- The grade received in the course
- Your specific rationale for requesting the exception

NOTE: We believe success in our program is dependent upon current working knowledge of the 2 courses within a 10-year time limit. Because mental health and healthcare fields are rapidly changing, the time limit is intended to help ensure incoming students are current in the knowledge within those disciplines and have a solid foundation of that knowledge for the first semester didactic and experiential instruction. The intent of the exception is for those who have repeatedly returned to the same breadth and depth of content in that course. *Exceptions to the rule are likely to be rare.*

Example: You took 3 semester credit hours in Abnormal Psychology more than 10 years ago, received an A, and feel that you shouldn’t have to repeat the course because you have taught abnormal psychology at the college level for the past 5 years.

MINIMAL EXPECTED CONTENT for PREREQUISITES:

Although the prerequisite courses are fairly universal, there are a wide variety of names for courses among undergraduate programs. In general, if the name of the course is titled similar to the prerequisite requirements listed, it will be acceptable.

NOTE: Courses that cover multiple disciplines and content areas (e.g., “survey” courses) are generally discouraged as the depth of content is not adequate.

If you have specific questions regarding the acceptability of a course, please submit a course description from the institution catalog to the Program Director for review. Additional information (e.g. course syllabus, lecture/topic list, etc.) may be requested in cases of continued uncertainty. Below are further general descriptions to help identify acceptable courses.

PREREQUISITE COURSE	EXPECTED CONTENT
Drawing	A foundation course with the emphasis on the formal and conceptual nature of drawing.
Painting	An introduction to the use of paints with an emphasis on the organization of the artistic image, through the use of plastic form and color, coupled with analysis of historical and contemporary work.
Sculpture/ 3-D	Effective expression of ideas in 3-D form. The student is introduced to the basic tools, 3-D materials and techniques with attention given to problem-solving. A study of contemporary technology, philosophy, criticism and their relation to material resources and technical practices.
Clay/Ceramics	Introduction to beginning processes of wheel throwing and hand-built construction techniques, design, aesthetics and the creative development of clay objects examining cultural, historical and personal modes of expression. Students will be introduced to various ceramic aesthetics in contemporary, social and historical context.
Abnormal Psychology	Development of personality is discussed, with emphasis on factors leading to maladjustment. Lectures and reading cover the symptom groups of emotional disorders of both psychological and organic origin. Methods of assessing and treating these disorders are surveyed.

Introductory Psychology	Covers the scientific study of behavior, behavioral research methods and analysis, and theoretical interpretations. Includes topics that cover physiological mechanisms, sensation/perception, motivation, learning, personality, psychopathology, therapy, and social psychology.
Developmental Psychology Human Growth and Development Lifespan Development	Reviews the basic concepts and principles of physical, cognitive and social development at each major stage of life-prenatal, infancy, toddlerhood, preschool, middle childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. Consideration is given to the study of development at each stage of life and to different theoretical explanations for development.
Theories of Personality	This course provides basic introduction to several theories of personality. With a focus on the historical contribution of the major traditions in theories of personality and personality development. The review and evaluation of the major formal theories of personality and the implication of those theories for practical and applied areas. The course also helps the student to understand the characteristics of research methods of each theory and the applied implications of this research.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TESTING

Please submit an official GRE score report. There is no minimum score accepted. The GRE score is one element of the application package used to evaluate candidates.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

1.0 Observation Skills Technical Standard

1.01 Demonstrate sufficient attention and accuracy in observation skills (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the classroom, lecture hall, studio, and internship settings.

1.02 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Accurate observations of a patient near and at a distance; recognizing non-verbal and verbal signs.
- b. Accurate identification of differences in color, texture, shape, and other formal elements of artwork.
- c. Accurate visualization and discrimination of text, numbers, patterns, graphic illustrations and key characteristics of other images.

2.0 Communication Skills Technical Standard

2.01 Demonstrate effective communication skills with all ages and genders of patients who have a variety of diagnoses, disabilities, cultures, ethnicities, and personalities.

2.02 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Clear, efficient, and intelligible articulation of verbal language.
- b. Legible, efficient, and intelligible written English language.
- c. Accurate and efficient reading skills (English language).
- d. Ability to prepare and communicate concise oral and written summaries of patient encounters.
- e. Ability to accurately follow oral and written directions.

3.0 Critical Reasoning Skills Technical Standard

3.01 Demonstrate critical reasoning skills, including, but not limited to, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

3.02 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information.
- b. Demonstrate ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.

- c. Demonstrate appropriate judgment in patient assessment, diagnosis, monitoring, and evaluation, including planning, time management, and choice of art materials.

4.0 Motor and Sensory Function Technical Standard

4.01 Demonstrate sufficient motor and sensory function to perform typical functions of art therapists, including, but not limited to, assessments, evaluations, and individual, group, and family treatment.

4.02 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to adequately perform a complete Art Therapy Projective Imagery Assessment (AT-PIA).
- b. Execute motor movements to assess patients, provide assistance with art materials and techniques, and implement basic art therapy processes.
- c. Execute motor movements that demonstrate safety and efficiency in the various learning settings (i.e., classroom, lecture hall, and clinical settings).
- d. Properly use art materials and tools for art making, including but not limited to, drawing implements, brushes, clay tools, glue guns, etc.
- e. Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study, which may include prolonged periods of sitting, standing, and/or rapid ambulation.

5.0 Behavioral and Social Attributes Technical Standard

5.01 Demonstrate the behavioral and social attributes vital to participation in a professional program and service as a practicing professional art therapist.

5.02 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (judgment, orientation, affect, and cognition).
- b. Ability to develop mature and effective professional relationships with faculty, patients, the public, and other members of the health care team.
- c. Possess personal qualities that facilitate effective therapeutic interactions (compassion, empathy, integrity, honesty, benevolence, confidentiality).
- d. Demonstrate impartial motives, attitudes, and values in roles, functions, and relationships.

e. Ability to monitor and react appropriately to one's own emotional needs and responses.

f. Display appropriate flexibility and adaptability in the face of stress or uncertainty associated with clinical encounters and clinical environments.

g. Compliance with standards, policies, and practices set forth in the EVMS Student Handbook

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATIONS

Please contact the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program for specific questions or consultation needs.

NOTE: This opportunity is NOT AVAILABLE to applicants who have already applied in the current cycle and still awaiting a final decision on their application file.

NOTIFICATION & COMMUNICATION

Upon submission of any of the application requirements, applicants will receive electronic notification of their application status from the EVMS Office of Admissions and Enrollment. Due to the high volume of applications, e-mail is the best mode of communication. You are required to regularly check your account and update the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program in a reasonable period of time with regard to any e-mail address changes. Failure to respond to program requests in a timely manner may result in loss of eligibility for program admission.

NOTE: The months of January to March and July to September are the busiest in the Office of Admissions and Enrollment, which may limit the ability of staff to respond to individual questions about the admissions process or an individual application. Updates to your online application status may also be slower during this period due to the influx of applications.

GENERAL REVIEW PROCESS

Completed and verified online applications are forwarded to the program by the online application system. Although we begin accepting applications September 15th, the Admissions Screening Committee will not begin processing applications for the current cycle until December 15th.

Following the receipt of all required documents, an application is first evaluated for completeness and consistency by the Office of Admissions and Enrollment and designated staff. A second review for compliance with program requirements and selection for personal interview is performed by the Admissions Screening Committee.

NOTE: Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee an invitation for an interview.

NOTICE OF INTERVIEWS

Competitive applicants will be invited to participate in full-day interviews that are scheduled from January to May to assess interpersonal and communication skills, maturity, and understanding and commitment to an art therapy career and the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program's mission and values.

Interviews will be held on the EVMS campus and candidates will be given no less than two weeks' notice to facilitate the necessary arrangements to participate in the interview process. Absence or withdrawal from the interview automatically places the applicant at risk for forfeiture of consideration for a place in the class.

Due to the interactive nature of the interview process, long-distance interviews (either via telephone or videoconferencing) are not acceptable alternatives.

The full-day interview may include but is not limited to the following:

- Brief description of the Art Therapy and Counseling, MS Program
- A group meeting with the Program Director
- Completing a writing sample
- Individual interview with a faculty member
- Group interview with at least two (2) faculty members
- Group lunch and discussion with alumni and/or students and other applicants
- Financial Aid Meeting
- Group Portfolio Review- Submit a digital portfolio in the format of a Word PowerPoint (.ppt). Create a PowerPoint that includes 8-10 images of your artwork that display your development in art making. These images should demonstrate competency in a variety of media and an understanding of personal expression. Each artwork should include a title, size, and media. It is recommended that you compress images in JPEG format to no larger than 1200 x1200.
- Tour of EVMS lead by a student ambassador

ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM

Notification of acceptance into the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program will be provided within two (2) weeks of the final interviews. Applicants offered a place in the August class must acknowledge acceptance of the offer within ten (10) calendar days of their notification by providing the following:

1. An electronic response to the Admissions Offer and Conditions of Acceptance letter;
2. A non-refundable acceptance deposit (\$300) to hold a place in the class and which will be applied toward tuition;
3. A completed criminal background check (will include checking sex offenses and crimes against minors or elderly).

WAIVER

The Admission Committee considers multiple factors that contribute to a comprehensive view of each applicant. At times, the Admission Committee may recommend an applicant for admission

that is below the above stated minimum requirements resulting in a Waiver of an admissions requirement. Below are examples of possible and not guaranteed conditions for waiver:

1. A waiver may be granted for an applicant whose GPA is below 3.0 when the applicant's transcript documents consistent 3.0 average GPA during the last 2 years of 4 years of study, the prerequisite coursework combined GPA is 3.0 or above, the applicant explains the discrepancy in the personal statement, interview, or upon being asked, and the applicant excels in other areas of the application or interview process.
2. A waiver may be granted for prerequisite coursework for an applicant who has earned and documented an advanced degree (Master's, Education Specialist, and Doctorate of Philosophy) and the applicant can demonstrate competency in the content area as requested by the Admission Committee.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Students accepting the Admissions Offer and enrolling in the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS must submit documentation of proof of childhood immunizations and recent tuberculosis screening results. Completion of all program health requirements is required prior to matriculation.

ORIENTATION

Applicants who have accepted a place in the program are required to attend orientation in the middle of August. This 3 to 4 day event includes critical information about the institution and our program, and provides students with the necessary means of accessing campus parking lots, buildings, computer network, and other functions critical to a smooth transition into the academic schedule.

NOTE: Noncompliance with criminal background check, health requirements, or attendance at orientation may be cause for revocation of admission offer.

WAIT LIST STATUS

Students who are not offered a place in the program following the interviews may be placed on a wait list at the recommendation of the Admissions Screening Committee and/or the Program Director. The wait list is activated as necessary by the Program Director. Rank or position on the wait list will not be disclosed to candidates.

A wait list is valid from the close of the interview process until Orientation for the year for which the student applied. Wait listed applicants not advanced to a place in the upcoming class may be considered for admission in the following year based on an acceptable ranking. Wait listed applicants may be offered a deferment in acceptance or may be asked to submit a letter of request to be considered with the next year's applicants. Consultation with the Office of Admissions and Enrollment or Program Director is recommended in those cases.

DEFERMENT POLICY

Questions about deferment of admission are only entertained before matriculation and in such cases where unpredicted life circumstance may interfere with expected matriculation or success in the program. The EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program reserves the right to determine if the request warrants deferment or if the candidate will need to reapply in a future admission cycle. Deferment of acceptance may be granted for up to one (1) year; after one (1) accepted applicants must reapply.

REAPPLICATION

Applicants who are not accepted to the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program are encouraged to self-evaluate their application (and interview if granted) in order to identify areas that can be improved. The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program at EVMS encourages reapplication once a serious effort has been made to remedy any deficiencies. Such an effort by an applicant is viewed by the Admissions Committee as an indication of motivation and perseverance.

Consultations with admissions staff to discuss ways to strengthen your application to our program are available.

If recycling your online application for a subsequent admissions cycle, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the resubmission accurately reflects your most recent preparation and status. Updating your transcripts, healthcare experience, certifications, and personal statement are highly recommended.

EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Situated in the bustling port city of Norfolk, Virginia, near the outlet of the Chesapeake Bay, EVMS is part of the Eastern Virginia Medical Center campus, which contains two hospitals and a number of EVMS-related institutes and centers.

Students are immersed in their studies while attending a school with a wide range of programs in the School of Health Professions or the Medical School. Currently, the growing School of Health Professions has 700 plus students and the medical school has approximately 450 students.

MISSION

EVMS is an academic health center dedicated to achieving excellence and fostering the highest ethical standards in medical and health professions education, research, and patient care. We value creating and fostering a diverse and cohesive faculty, professional staff, and student body as the surest way to achieve our mission. Adhering to the highest ethical standards, we will strive to improve the health of our community and to be recognized as a national center of intellectual and clinical strength in medicine.

VISION

EVMS will be recognized as the most community-oriented medical school in the nation.

VALUES

Three core values drive our daily efforts:

- **Excellence:** We determine with our stakeholders what is valuable and hold ourselves to high performance standards that fulfill our promises.
- **Collegiality:** We serve our community and one another, building strong and mutually supportive relationships. We work as a cooperative, united team to further our purposes of education, research, and patient care.
- **Integrity:** We strive to maintain the highest ethical standards and accept accountability for all we do and say.

GOALS

- Prepare competent entry-level art therapists in the cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills) and affective (behavior) learning domains.
- Prepare art therapists with clinical competence in assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning, which includes fostering skills in therapeutic use of a broad range of art processes and materials, integrative theoretical approaches and requisite education needed for counseling licensure.
- Prepare art therapists to speak and write professionally about art therapy.
- Encourage students to develop an innovative, professional, ethical, research-minded and culturally responsive approach to art therapy through academic inquiry and personal art making and self-reflection for self-awareness.

Accomplishment of our goals will serve the:

- **Student**, by fostering personal and professional discovery and development with the skills to become lifelong learners.
- **Client/patient**, through student preparation to provide competent client- and patient-centered primary and specialty care.
- **Institution**, by contributing to a seamless learning environment which fosters the development of competent and compassionate mental healthcare professionals.
- **Community**, by graduating professionals who understand the importance of community service, forging community alliances and having an understanding of culturally appropriate care.
- **World**, by graduating culturally competent professionals who practice across the globe and contribute to research and social action.

STATEMENT FOR DIVERSITY

The education, research and patient care mission of Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) is shaped by many considerations: the demographics of the surrounding communities, the significant presence of military personnel, retirees and their families, the rural and underserved communities of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the broader national and global need to address gaps in the health workforce and the accessibility of health care.

Eastern Virginia Medical School has a unique history as one of the few institutions in the United States established by the local community to serve the local community. Indeed, its vision is to be the most community-oriented school of medicine and health professions in the nation. In fulfilling that vision, EVMS strives to attract talented students, trainees, faculty, staff and leaders who bring diverse attributes and experience to drive our collective commitment to excellence.

Eastern Virginia Medical School embraces diversity broadly defined, but places a special emphasis on recruitment of women, traditionally underrepresented minorities in medicine and the health professions (African Americans, Latinos, American Indians and Native Alaskans, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders), veterans and individuals who come from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Acknowledging that diversity is a fluid and evolving concept, we will continually strive to be inclusive of individuals and groups in the broadest possible manner.

Adopted June 11, 2013