

EVMS PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STATEMENT

Brief Introduction to Purpose of Statement (Department of ED and NC- SARA)

Eastern Virginia Medical School delivers online education programs and courses throughout the United States and internationally. All programs have been approved by the EVMS Board of Visitors. The U.S. Department of Education and National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) are agencies that oversee the integrity of distance education.

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education and NC-SARA requirements, EVMS must provide all potential students with the following disclosure(s):

Professional Licensure Disclosure

Art Therapists are required to be licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program does prepare individuals for licensure, and does not meet all of the requirements in order to become licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. EVMS cannot confirm whether the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program meets all of the licensure requirements for students residing outside of Virginia. Requirements for professional licensure can vary by state and can change without notice. All prospective students should consult the state licensing body in the state in which they reside or seek to be licensed to ensure that the degree they earn will meet requirements for licensure in that state. For licensing board contact information, please refer to the information that can be found: [VA Board of Counseling](#).

EVMS is available to discuss with students or prospective students their respective or prospective degree options. Please contact us at (757) 446-5895.

GRADUATE ART THERAPY AND COUNSELING PROGRAM CREDENTIALS & PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STATEMENT

The [Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program](#), School of Health Professions at [Eastern Virginia Medical School](#) supports students, alumni, and area art therapists to pursue professional credentials.

Registered Art Therapist Credential

As a program that is accredited by the Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs ([CAAHEP](#)), and a continuous history of the previous program approval of the American Art Therapy Association ([AATA](#)) Education Program Approval Board ([EPAB](#)), our graduates have an advantage over non – accredited programs as they pursue professional credentials through the Art Therapy Credentials Board ([ATCB](#)). The Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program (GATCP) prepares graduates for seeking the Registered Art Therapist ([ATR](#)) and Provisional (ATR-P) credential and Board Certification ([ATR-BC](#)). We do not guarantee individuals will attain ATR or ATR-BC because pursuit of the professional credentials begins after graduation.

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Licensure

The EVMS Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program prepares graduates to apply for residency for licensure as professional counselors ([LPC](#)) in Virginia and other states. We do not guarantee individuals will attain licensure because there are additional requirements beyond the scope of the program in order to attain licensure and the requirements vary by state. The field is evolving and there is currently a national initiative for stand - alone Professional Art Therapist licensure. Some states have achieved this license, but currently it does not exist in Virginia.

Licensure Efforts in Virginia

In 1995, several EVMS Faculty, as members of the Virginia Art Therapy Association (VATA), pursued the process for developing a license for art therapists in Virginia. After a study and review, in 1998 the [VA Board of Counseling](#) determined the critical mass of art therapists in the state of Virginia was too low to warrant a stand-alone license for art therapists. The Board recommended art therapists continue to pursue Licensure as a Professional Counselors in Virginia in the education and internship equivalent options.

The EVMS Graduate Art Therapy Program, in the early 90s aligned curriculum content to meet the requirements of Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia for then Option B. [Alumni](#) who pursued LPC were successful with licensure in Virginia and other states. The program mentored students and alumni with course cross walks for completing the licensure application. In 2002, the GATCP reconfigured coursework sequencing and content to meet Licensing Board requirements for three credits each in assessment, psychopathology, research methods, addictions, and cultural competency.

We have supported licensure efforts for the protection of the public. As art therapists understand, the facilitation of art making in counseling or psychotherapy is based in clinical intention for the benefits of clients. The purposeful prescription of art processes and media to meet the treatment needs of clients is based in theories for the approaches to art therapy that provide for client safety.

As the VA Board of Counseling revised policies and procedures for licensure, the EVMS Graduate Art Therapy program responded to revisions. In 2009, the program changed coursework, course titles, and the program degree to be a dual degree in art therapy and counseling leading to the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program. The program began offering electives at reduced costs for requisite licensure coursework not already a part of the GATCP curriculum (Addictions & Career Counseling courses). The program has continued to offer these courses, in on-line formats, to increase accessibility for our graduates and others for licensure as professional counselors.

Past directors, Kay Stovall and Abby Calisch, supported alumni to pursue licensure with curriculum and courses that filled gaps in credits and content. One credit and half credit courses in group counseling, research methods, and ethics and professionalism content areas were offered to assist alumni in meeting the education requirements for licensure. The GATCP has continued this tradition to empower our alumni to seek the LPC.

In 2014, the GATCP developed specialization tracks to meet the emerging advances in the field and to assist students in obtaining financial aid for electives, specifically electives for licensure preparation. By declaring [specializations](#), students can make the electives part of their degrees

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and therefore, covered by financial aid. The licensure preparation courses continue to be offered at a reduced tuition rate.

In the current climate of [CAAHEP](#) accreditation and [CACREP](#) accreditation, our students receive updates about the processes of the state for licensure and the movement of the American Counseling Association's 20/20 vision ([ACA](#)). It is important for [EVMS Alumni](#) to understand the needs to protect the public, for the LPC for third party reimbursement and employment in agencies that receive third party payments, and the right for clients to have access to a variety of mental health services including art therapy. For licensure in Virginia, we recommend our state pursue three bills in conjunction with each other: Licensed Professional Art Therapist, Title Protection for Art Therapists, and equal third-party reimbursement for art therapists.

In March 2020, the first Virginia Art Therapy Licensure bill was signed and is effective July 1, 2020. The bill was not inclusive of title protection and third-party reimbursement for protections of the public. It is expected that art therapists will continue to pursue additional bills to address title protection and third-party reimbursement supported by EVMS.

We encourage all of our students to seek the licensure preparation within their degree to better position themselves for licensure as a professional counselor in all states. Additionally, it should be understood that when all counseling coursework is a part of the degree (completed before degree conferral) the [National Certified Counselor](#) (NCC) credential may also be an option.

Currently, graduates meet the criteria for the child Qualified Mental Health Professional ([QMHP](#)), which is becoming a common standard for entry level mental health positions.

The GATCP continues to monitor the advances of the art therapy profession, research, licensure, and related health professions. We encourage [continuing education](#), memberships in professional associations, reviewing journals and new publications, and engaging in the mental health professional community. We encourage our alumni to stay in contact with us and share needs for professional development. We continue to partner with VATA to engage our community in service and professional development.

Respectfully,

The Faculty of the Graduate Art Therapy and Counseling Program:

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