MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC THERAPY

Program Overview

Program Coordinator  
Kathleen Murphy, (845) 257-2708, murphyk@newpaltz.edu

Program ID  
285

Credits  
48

Program Length  
MS can be completed in 2 years if enrolled full-time, but students must complete degree within 7 years

Modality  
In-person

Full-time/Part-time  
Full-time

Transfer Credits  
9

Capstone  
Internship

Licensure/Certification  
NYS Creative Arts Therapist Licensure

Program Description

The Master of Science degree in Music Therapy comprises 48 credits and provides students with a baccalaureate degree in music the opportunity to study music therapy at an advanced level. In this program, students acquire musical, clinical, and research skills essential for professional practice. The program is approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), the New York State Department of Education, and accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music.

Students who enter the program with an undergraduate degree in music therapy, complete the required 48 credit curriculum and a minimum of 500 hours advanced internship, 30-hour advanced practicum, students are eligible to apply for licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist in the State of New York. Students who do not enter the program with a bachelor’s degree will be required to complete extra coursework, 180 hours of supervised fieldwork, and an additional 520 hours of internship.

Admission Requirements

1. One official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate work providing evidence of a baccalaureate degree in music* (60 credits in music) from an accredited institution with at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0, which includes the following courses: music therapy, methods and materials, psychology of music, practicum and a statistics course.

   * Interested non-music majors should contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Kathy Murphy, before applying. Students without a degree in music, music therapy, or related discipline and a music minor may be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis, but they should expect to take additional coursework.

2. Admissions essay in response to the following prompts:
   - Describe what has influenced your decision to study music therapy. Consider the impact of your life experiences and challenges and how you handled them.
   - Describe your relationship to music.

3. Contact information for three references

4. A video (or link to a video) demonstrating their musical skills. The video should contain the following examples:
   - Two musical compositions demonstrating musical skill. These can be on any instrument of the applicants choosing. They can be vocal or instrumental.

5. Interview & music skills assessment with music therapy faculty.
   During the music skills assessment applicants will be asked to:
   - Demonstrate the ability to sing and accompany themselves on piano (2 songs)
   - Demonstrate the ability to sing and accompany themselves on guitar (2 songs)
   - Demonstrate musical skill by performing 2 songs of the applicants choosing

6. Music Theory Placement Test (sent to applicants after their interview)

7. Evidence of Music Therapy Board Certification (if applicable)

Deadlines for application to the Music Therapy master’s program can be obtained by contacting the Music Department at (845) 257-2700 or by visiting the Music Department’s website at http://www.newpaltz.edu/music/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS540</td>
<td>Music Therapy Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS754</td>
<td>Music Therapy Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COU540</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COU575</td>
<td>Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS544</td>
<td>Medical Music Therapy Assessment and Treatment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS743</td>
<td>Fieldwork 1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS744</td>
<td>Fieldwork 2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS745</td>
<td>Music Therapy Internship I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS746</td>
<td>Music Therapy Internship II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS742</td>
<td>Music Therapy Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS748</td>
<td>Thesis Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS749</td>
<td>Thesis (Taken twice)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS541</td>
<td>Recreational Methods in Music Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS546</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Improvisation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS550</td>
<td>Advanced Receptive Music Therapy Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS547</td>
<td>Advanced Guitar for Therapists and Educators</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS750</td>
<td>Cultural Humility in Music Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits  
48

Program Requirements

Complete the prescribed course work and other requirements within five years after matriculation. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, with no more than two grades below B-.

Advisement

You will be informed of your academic advisor and his/her office hours when you are accepted into the Music Therapy program. You should...
make an appointment immediately with your advisor to develop a comprehensive plan of study.

The comprehensive plan of study developed by you and your academic advisor officially outlines your degree requirements and eligibility for licensure as a creative arts therapist. Any changes in this plan of study will require prior approval from your academic advisor. Your academic advisor is available to assist you throughout your study and will serve as your guide during the program. It is important to maintain continuous communication with your academic advisor in order to facilitate your progress in the program.

Transfer Credit

With the approval of your academic advisor and the Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate, Professional & Interdisciplinary Studies, students can transfer up to 9 graduate credits. However, credits cannot be transferred after the Plan of Study is approved.

Please note: Courses taken prior to acceptance into the Music Therapy program may not be fully credited on your plan of study, even if taken at SUNY New Paltz.

Registering for Courses

Be sure to pre-register for your courses as outlined in the Plan of Study. You must meet with your advisor to discuss course work each semester. Pre-registration for the spring semester occurs in November and pre-registration for the summer and fall semesters occurs in April.

Change of Name and/or Address

Please notify the Music Department Office and the Records and Registration Office immediately if your name changes and/or if your address, telephone, and/or email address changes.

Sample Program

The Music Therapy program consists of 48 credit hours for students with baccalaureate degrees in Music Therapy or the MT-BC. Students with other degrees in music must complete 15 credits of undergraduate work in Music Therapy and meet competencies in sight-reading, voice, and piano and guitar accompaniment.

Course Work

Course work in music therapy is designed to offer sequential learning experiences that will develop clinical competencies for work as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist. You should take these courses in the sequence suggested by your academic advisor.

Program Learning Objectives

- Build a foundation of musicianship based on performing, composing, interpreting, and improvising.
- Engage in a diverse range of multi-ethnic musical styles through study and participation that gives students a broad understanding of cultural, historical, political, and health-wellness contexts.
- Work effectively as a contributing member of a small team and larger group.
- Cultivate organizational and team-building skills to create and serve future communities.
- Synthesize foundational skills and knowledge to empower creative risk-taking in developing artistic career paths.