

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 or closely related field 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), registered by 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 as required by Article 163 of the Mental Health Practitioner's Law. Upon successful completion of all coursework and clinical hours, 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 in music therapy will be required to complete extra coursework, and an additional 720 hours of clinical training. Upon completion of all required coursework and clinical hours, students are eligible to sit for the certification exam offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists, Inc, and apply for licensure as a Creative Arts Therapist in the State of New York.

Admission Requirements

- 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.*

- 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.
- Contact information for three references
 - Applicants should submit two videos (or links to 2 videos) demonstrating musical skills.
 - The first video should contain the following: Two musical compositions demonstrating your musicality. These can be on any instrument of the applicants choosing. They can be vocal or instrumental. Applicants may submit their original compositions. Each example should be no longer than 5 minutes.
 - In the second video you should demonstrate the ability to sing and accompany yourself on piano (2 songs), the ability to sing and accompany yourself on guitar (2 songs) and the ability to sing and accompany yourself on percussion (2 songs). Percussion includes hand held instruments (such as a hand drum, shaker, or tambourine), or a body percussion pattern (a combination of clapping, stomping, tapping or snapping). Each song should be from a different genre. *Song list is available in your applicant portal.*
 - 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
 - Music Theory Placement Test (sent to applicants after their interview)
 - Evidence of Music Therapy Board Certification (*if applicable*)

Application Deadlines

May 30	Fall Admission
November 30	Spring Admission

These are application deadlines for those with undergraduate degrees in Music Therapy.

Students who have no undergraduate degree in Music Therapy have a deadline of April 30th for Summer admission only.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations and Theory (12 Credits)		
MTX540	Music Therapy Foundations	3
MTX754	Music Therapy Across the Lifespan	3
COU540	Psychopathology	3
COU575	Human Growth and Development	3
Clinical Skills (16 Credits)		
MUS756	Music Therapy Groupwork	3
MUS544	Medical Music Therapy Assessment and Treatment	3

MTX502	Music Therapy Practicum I	2
MTX503	Music Therapy Practicum II	2
MTX745	Music Therapy Internship I	3
MUS746	Music Therapy Internship II	3
Research (6 Credits)		
MUS742	Music Therapy Research	3
MUS748	Thesis Seminar	1
MUS749	Thesis (Taken twice)	2
Clinical Musicianship (12 Credits)		
MUS541	Recreative Methods in Music Therapy	3
MTX546	Advanced Clinical Improvisation	3
MTX550	Advanced Receptive Methods	3
MUS547	Advanced Guitar for Therapists and Educators	3
Personal Development and Professional Role (2 Credits)		
MUS750	Cultural Humility in Music Therapy	2
Total Credits		48

NOTE: Students accepted into the MS Music Therapy program without an undergraduate Music Therapy degree should consult the program director for advisement. Such students may need additional undergraduate coursework in foundational music and psychology courses as well as supplemental voice, piano, and guitar training. Up to 12 additional graduate credits may also be required.

Graduate Checklist

- Apply for graduation via my.newpaltz.edu under "Graduation" tab according to the schedule in the [academic calendar](#).
- Resolve any pending admission conditions (outlined in your acceptance letter) and/or missing documents if applicable.
- Review your progress report via my.newpaltz.edu to ensure that you have completed all program requirements.
- Remember that only two grades below a B- may be applied to your [plan of study](#).
- Contact your advisor if you need to amend your plan or process [transfer credit](#).
- Ensure that you are in [good academic standing](#) with a GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or higher.
- Pass your capstone or culminating assessment.
- Complete your degree within the [specified time limit](#) outlined in the Program Overview.

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.