

Doctor of Art Therapy Course Descriptions

ATH 811 Introduction to Doctoral Studies

1 credit

Introduces the student to the goals, values, and learning expectations of the professional doctorate that lead to successful participation and outcomes. This course prepares the student to engage in the collaborative online learning environment, to develop critical and creative thinking skills, and to integrate professional or educational careers goals with applied scholarship. Seminar plus completion of a preliminary plan of study.

ATH 812 Integration of Art, Science and Social Action in Art Therapy I

3 credits

Students will examine the “state of the profession,” bringing their own questions and areas of interest into the larger contexts of art, science, and social action in art therapy. This course encourages advanced explorations into the historical and contemporary discourse on the scientific and creative imagination in art therapy approached through cross-disciplinary dialogues, with reference to philosophical, psychological, pedagogical, and artistic traditions.

ATH 813 Art Therapy Studio

2 credits

The art therapy studio encourages intensive involvement in personal artistic expression and creative exploration, and reflection on these processes through self-inquiry in the role of advanced practitioner. The course requires participation to create a community studio with artistic explorations continuing through the year with cohort peers, individual study with another artist, affiliation with a community arts organization or educational setting, or artist in residence within a treatment setting.

ATH 814–817 Art Therapy Electives

1 credit each

The art therapy elective seminars are advanced weekend intensive courses designed to examine current topics and trends in the field of art therapy, including special needs of a diverse range of populations as they relate to the practice of art therapy. Issues pertaining to the art therapist in a variety of settings are explored. Course topics are rotated in response to student interest. Students are expected to choose a variety of electives in order to broaden the scope of their learning.

ATH 820 Systems-Based Thinking and Action

3 credits

This course examines the interdependent relationship among different elements in an organization or social system and the feedback structures that determine the system’s behavior over time under varying assumptions. An action research model will help students identify and transform relationships within a complex system. Conceptual modeling will advance understanding of systems-based thinking to work more effectively and strategically in education, therapy, and other systems.

ATH 821 Principles of Creative Leadership

3 credits

Students will examine foundational knowledge and practices for becoming a transformational change agent in education, health care, community arts or other institutions. They will evaluate their own practices as creative leaders and study the communication styles and ethical choices that drive change and advance goals. The language and perspectives of design and collaborative critique will inform the development of critical thinking and creative reasoning skills.

ATH 822 Integration of Art, Science and Social Action II

3 credits

This course will focus on the ethics of social justice in contemporary art therapy practices and the practitioner’s relationship to power, privilege and cultural values in the ethical delivery of health and education services. Students will reflect on the principles of social change and their own impact as a change agent. The social implications for how artistic and scientific knowledge is generated will be examined.

ATH 823 Conflict Management and Related Skills

3 credits

This course provides practitioners with basic tools for managing human resources and diverse interpersonal relations. Students will examine healthy and unhealthy ways of addressing and resolving conflict with a focus on the transfer and translation of therapeutic skills to diverse settings, needs, and relationships in education and health care agencies.

ATH 824 Contemporary Issues and Ethics of Supervision

3 credits

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This course focuses on the models, standards, and skills of supervision that are applicable to educating practitioners within academic and therapeutic settings. A review of ethical, regulatory, and legal standards for supervision is included as well as dealing with cultural, behavioral, and evaluation issues.

ATH 825 Art Therapy Pedagogy in Diverse Settings

3 credits

This course will examine current and innovative practices in art therapy education, with particular attention to transformational models to meet the needs of diverse populations and settings. Students will have opportunities to enrich their skills in didactic presentation, formulation of artistic methodology, course development and evaluation, and classroom management issues.

ATH 830 Art Therapy Internship

2 credits

Supervised work experience for the advanced practitioner in higher education or an area of individual focus. The type of internship, nature of the setting and its unique challenges, goals and activities, and evaluation procedures are stipulated in a learning contract in consultation with the doctoral advisor.

ATH 840 Art Therapy Research Methods

3 credits

This course is designed to advance the professional doctoral student's understanding of the components of evaluating, designing, and conducting art therapy research. Quantitative, qualitative, social action, and arts-based research methodologies will be examined for their value in addressing relevant research questions in the field.

ATH 841 Art Therapy Research Applications

3 credits

Advanced quantitative and qualitative reasoning and analysis, to include applications in counseling and therapeutic settings, research report development and implementation, program evaluation and needs assessment, the informed use and value of published research to assess effectiveness, and ethical and legal considerations. The course is intended to help doctoral students begin to formulate and articulate their areas of specific interest in relation to the culminating project.

ATH 850 Art Therapy Culminating Project

4 credits

Students develop and demonstrate in-depth knowledge in an area pertinent to advanced art therapy practice and/or art therapy education that is relevant to their experience in the culminating project. The purpose of the culminating project is to demonstrate mastery through the achievement and presentation of art therapy research. The culminating project must include a significant written component that provides historic and scholarly context for the project.

ATH 899 Continuing Registration

0 credits

If a student is unable to complete the research project within the time frame of the allotted three credits, continuing registration until completion is required. Such continuing registration does not result in additional credit, but does underwrite the services implicit in the advisor/advisee relationship. Additionally, there is a continuation of Mount Mary College services, such as library circulation, interlibrary loan, use of the computer center and statistical consultation.