



**Art Therapy Major  
Senior Field Application  
(Completed in the spring of your junior year.)**

**Student Name:**

**Date:**

Art Therapy is an exciting and rewarding field. The art therapy major at Converse University is for students who want to pursue a graduate degree in mental health or seek a paraprofessional position at a social service agency. A master's degree in art therapy is a minimum requirement to practice art therapy. This agreement supports your academic success in a rigorous program and prepares you for the expectations of an applied major. Please read the form in its entirety before you answer any questions. **This form must be typed and signed in person.**

As an applied major, students must meet increasingly rigorous academic and interpersonal criteria not required of non-applied majors. It is common for students not to be entirely ready for this level of community responsibility, and pursuing a degree at the master's level may be a better career option. All mental health programs must vet students for readiness regarding this level of responsibility. As per national standards, ultimately, it is not the student's decision if you are prepared for the field but the Program Coordinator's decision. This is a safety issue for you, the individuals we serve, and a liability risk for the University.

**May 10, 2023, will be the deadline, and no late or incomplete forms will be accepted.** An inability to meet the agreed deadline will demonstrate a failure to meet the necessary criteria to be in the major. As a result, a meeting with the Program Coordinator and Chair will be required to create a plan for success. The only exception to late submission will be written documentation from the Academic Services office.

**Expectations from the American Art Therapy Association and our community partners:**

- *What are the Requirements to Become an Art Therapist?* (AATA, 2003a). It is pertinent to answer this question, and personal qualifications are included: An art therapist must have sensitivity to human needs and expressions, emotional and psychological stability, patience, insight into psychological processes [both their own and community members], and an understanding of art media. An art therapist must also be an attentive listener, a keen observer, develop rapport with people, receive feedback and take necessary action. Flexibility and humor

are important in adapting to changing circumstances, frustration, and disappointment. (Feen-Calligan article on Canvas).

**Academic Performance:** (Your academic advisor can provide data. All requests will require a 72-hour turnaround, no exceptions.)

As mentioned in the undergraduate academic catalog, to enroll in ART 453: Art Therapy Field Experience, students must obtain a 3.0 in the major and have permission from the professor.

Major GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ spring term 20\_\_

If below 3.0, please record the spring midterm GPA: \_\_\_\_\_.

Undergraduate 3.00 GPA or above is a graduate school requirement.

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ spring term 20\_\_

**Student Portfolio:** (Students with incomplete websites are welcome to petition for a fall 2022 deadline. The student will create a separate petition and attach it to this agreement.) \_\_\_\_\_

Each semester students will add images to their website. In Art 455, you will be presenting a portfolio consisting of 20-25 images of 2-D, 3-D, and digital work. The artwork must be adequately photographed and cropped to receive academic credit.

**Website link:**

**I have included an unofficial transcript to this agreement** \_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ N

**Student Agreement to abide by the AATA Code of Ethics and Multi-Cultural Competencies**

The Art Therapy major at Converse University is guided by the American Art Therapy Association's Code of Ethics and the Multi-Cultural Competencies. The tenets of these documents are found throughout the curriculum, and a copy of each is available on Canvas.

I recognize, without reservation, the field of art therapy's notion— that a client's values, beliefs, and actions are influenced by race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, political views, sexual orientation, geographic region, physical capacity [or human variation,] and historical or current experiences with the dominant culture. I understand my obligation to engage with respect and dignity for all individuals, regardless of our cultural similarities or differences.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge having read both documents, I understand the required expectations and meet the expected codes of conduct.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

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**Exhibitions:**

As a NASAD accredited department, all students are required to submit artwork to two exhibitions. While we hope you get into the show, acceptance is not a graduation requirement. The Art Society sponsors an annual art exhibition, and other calls for exhibits are emailed and posted on department bulletin boards throughout the year. Please connect with the studio art faculty if you need additional exhibition suggestions. Art Therapy students can submit work to one Art Society Exhibition, and the other must be an off-campus exhibition. Students must be able to present submission documentation.

Exhibition #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibition #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please create a plan to complete any missing requirements?

**Please articulate your current strengths and areas of growth. Include both interpersonal and academic areas for both sections:**

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Is there anything you need from the major?

If you have no comments, please go to the next question.

I am satisfied with my major and currently have no additional needs or suggestions \_\_\_\_.

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**Background Check:**

All students complete a criminal background check before the site visit in ART 453. According to your internship’s protocol, students will complete an additional background check in ART 454.

Have you ever been arrested, convicted, found guilty, entered a plea of no contest, or had adjudication withheld in a criminal offense (including DUI) other than minor traffic violations,

or are there any criminal charges pending against you? Please include both felonies and misdemeanors.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Any failure to answer this question honestly or entirely will result in a denial of admission to the ART 453: Art Therapy Field Experience course. If you check "yes," you must provide a written explanation for each charge. Please attach a separate sheet if you need more space. Any record that has NOT BEEN SEALED or EXPUNGED by a WRITTEN COURT ORDER must be reported in this section. In addition, you agree to have Converse University's Human Resource Department complete an early background check at your expense. Additionally, you agree to share the background results with the Program Coordinator and possibly the Chair.

**Additional Agreements:**

I understand the following, and if in agreement, initial next to each:

\_\_\_\_\_ Art therapists work with marginalized individuals, including and is not limited to individuals with significant psychiatric disorders, poverty, and abusive situations. I am comfortable and committed to serving these populations.

\_\_\_\_\_ There are both physical and emotional risks involved in working with individuals with mental illness, and I can remain calm and solve problems in these types of situations.

\_\_\_\_\_ All students must provide transportation and gas to and from an internship, 2-3 days a week. No student can be guaranteed an internship in Greenville or Spartanburg but the Upstate region.

\_\_\_\_\_ Internships are based on the volunteer hours and availability of professionals in the community. Due to COVID-19 and staffing shortages, currently, youth internships are extremely limited. Students understand that internship availability changes yearly and agree to be willing and able to work with any age group or population.

\_\_\_\_\_ Following protocol in the field is a safety issue for you and the community. All students will demonstrate a capacity to follow protocol regardless of whether they believe it is a necessary rule or expectation.

Currently, no site supervisors are willing to host a student who has demonstrated an inability to follow protocol in their courses and has not transformed this behavior.

\_\_\_\_\_ Converse University will not be able to place any student in a field experience/internship if they meet the "impaired provider criteria" due to any mental health or substance abuse issues, regardless of what year or semester in the major.

If any concerns regarding impairment exist, the Program Coordinator will notify the student in writing. It will then be the student's responsibility to schedule a meeting with the Program Coordinator and the Chair by the deadline.

If a student can't entirely agree with the Program Coordinator and Chair's opinion, in that case, the student is welcome to discuss the situation with the Dean of the School of the Arts. As part of this meeting, you will be able to provide a letter from a licensed mental health provider in South Carolina that, in their clinical judgment, states you are fit to be placed in the field.

Furthermore, the student understands ultimately, and it will be the site supervisors' decision if they are willing to host a student with noted mental health or substance abuse concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_ While enrolled in ART 453: Art Therapy Field Placement and ART 454: Art Therapy Internship courses, students must be able and willing not to disclose any psychiatric history or diagnosis on-site or through social media. (A general rule of thumb, if you need to disclose in class, there is a good chance you will be unable to meet these criteria on-site.) Failure to meet this expectation will result in an assessment regarding impairment by the Program Coordinator.

\_\_\_\_\_ Each student understands if their behavior results in termination from the Field Placement or Internship, this action will also result in automatic dismissal from the major. The student will be required to drop the course if it is within the add/drop period. Otherwise, you will receive an F in ART 453 or ART 454 and will not be able to remain in the course.

If you have any questions or cannot agree and check any of these criteria, please make an appointment with the program coordinator, Professor Laura Zeisler. You can also discuss any concerns with the Art and Design Department Chair, Dr. Susanne Gunter, [susanne.gunter@converse.edu](mailto:susanne.gunter@converse.edu), or the Dean of the School of the Arts, Dr. Chris Vaneman [chris.vaneman@converse.edu](mailto:chris.vaneman@converse.edu).

Please note that an inability to agree to these criteria is a strong indicator that this major is not a good fit. You are recommended to make an appointment with the Program Coordinator or Chair to discuss the option of changing your major.

I certify that the above information is true and accurate to my knowledge. My signature verifies that I understand and am familiar with the policies and requirements for completing the applied major. I agree to keep a paper and electronic copy of this form for my records.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Professor Laura Zeisler, ATR-BC, LISW-CP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dr. Susanne Gunter, Ed.D. (If GPA in the major is below 3.0)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Completed by the department:**

Recommendation of the Art Therapy Program Coordinator:

I have reviewed the candidate's qualifications and have no concerns regarding their application and admission into ART 453 and the community field experience. \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed the candidate's qualifications, have the following concerns and recommend areas of improvement prior to their admission into ART 453: Art Therapy Field Experience.

1.

2.

\_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ N    The student has been notified regarding any concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_\_\_ N    The student has responded and created a behavioral plan to address change(s).

The student is currently not meeting the requirements for enrollment in ART 453, and a meeting is required. \_\_\_\_\_ Y        \_\_\_\_\_ N

The following are the areas of concern:

The Art Therapy Program Coordinator emailed a signed copy of this form to the student \_\_\_\_\_.

Program Coordinator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_