

Professional Credentials in Art Therapy

ART THERAPY
CREDENTIALS BOARD, INC. | **ATCB**

Presentation Goals

- ATCB Organizational History
- The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)
- The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ATCB Organizational History

ATCB Statement of Purpose:

“The Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB) is an organization whose purpose is to protect and benefit the public through maintaining and developing standards of practice in the field of art therapy.”

ATCB Mission Statement:

“The mission of the ATCB is to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy.”

ATCB Organizational History

What is certification?

“The certification of specialized skill-sets affirms a knowledge and experience base for practitioners in a particular field, their employers, and the public at large. Certification represents a declaration of a particular individual’s professional competence. In some professions certification is a requirement for employment or practice...In all instances, certification enhances the employability and career advancement of the individual practitioner or employee.”

National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA)

ATCB Organizational History

What are the benefits of certification?

- *A more productive and highly trained workforce for employers*
- *Prestige for the individual and a competitive advantage over non-certified individuals in the same field*
- *Assisting consumers in making informed decisions about qualified providers*
- *Protection of the general public from incompetent and unfit practitioners*
- *Establishment of a professional standard for individuals in a particular field*

National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA)

ATCB Organizational History

- 1980's - Idea of certification in art therapy begins to be explored as a way to demonstrate competency and boost the credibility of the field
- 1991 - Resolution to establish a certification program within three years passes at AATA Annual Business Meeting
- 1992 - ATCB Interim Board appointed

ATCB Organizational History

1993 - Interim Board develops bylaws, policies & procedures, and establishes a corporate identity for the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB)

Knapp & Associates contracted for exam development and consultation

First Task [Job] Analysis Survey conducted

First *ATCB Review* published

ATCB Organizational History

- 1994 - First Art Therapy Credentials Exam administered November 20 to 344 test takers at AATA Annual Conference in Chicago
- 1995 - ATCB corporate name recorded with U.S. Trademark Office
- 1997 - ATCB joins the National Organization of Competency Assurance (NOCA)

ATCB Organizational History

1999 - Center for Credentialing and Education (CCE)
contracted as management firm

First ATR-BC's recertify

2001 - ATCB Code of Professional Practice becomes
effective March 1

Job Analysis Survey completed for revision of exam
content

ATCB Organizational History

2002 - ATCB joins the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)

Guide to Life after Graduation for Art Therapy Students: Registration (ATR) and Board Certification (ATR-BC) published

2003 - Ad hoc committee established to explore international credentialing

10th annual exam administration!

ATCB Organizational History

2004 - Copyright registration of the BC exam completed

Ad hoc committee formed to explore a supervisor's credential

2005 - ATCB Board engages in formal strategic planning session

Memo of Understanding signed by AATA and ATCB

2006 - Ad hoc committee on distance supervision established

BC Initiative increases ATR-BC's by 1,000 credential holders

ATCB Organizational History

2007 - ATCB unveils new logo design

Board increased to nine (9) members

Special Advisory Board, comprised of past ATCB Board members, established

ATCB renews management contract with CCE

Supervisor credential approved by Board of Directors

Job Analysis Completed

ATCB Organizational History

2008 - *ATCB Review* goes paperless

Launch of new Web site

ATCB exam study guide revised

Reauthorization of Memo of Understanding between
AATA and ATCB

ATCB celebrates 15th Anniversary!

Current Credential Holder Numbers

ATRs	2006
ATR-BCs	2261
Total	4267

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

■ BECOMING AN ATR (ART THERAPIST - REGISTERED)

Requires:

- Education
- Post-Education Experience
- Confirmation from ATCB that your ATR application has been approved

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

EDUCATION

All art therapy coursework must be completed in the context of a **Master's degree** program from an accredited college or university

Two Options:

- Master's degree that meets criteria for preparatory coursework and art therapy content

OR

- First Master's degree in a related* field and a second Master's degree in ART THERAPY that meets criteria for preparatory coursework and art therapy content

** Acceptable related fields include: Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, Psychology, Addictions Counseling, Psychiatric Nursing, and Psychiatry*

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

EDUCATION

Must include:

- Preparatory coursework in studio art and psychology
- Art Therapy content within the master's degree:
 - 24 credits of art therapy core curriculum
 - 700 hours of supervised internship

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

EDUCATION

Applicants for the ATR may graduate from

- a program “Approved” by the American Art Therapy Association (AATA)

OR

- a program not “Approved” by AATA

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

EDUCATION:

POST-EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

A program's AATA "Approved" status, at the time of an ATR applicant's graduation from the program, determines the applicant's Post-Education experience requirements.

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

EDUCATION:

POST-EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

- **Graduates of AATA “Approved” Programs must**
Complete 1000 hours of direct client contact and
obtain 100 hours of supervision
- **Graduates of programs not AATA “Approved” must**
Complete 1500 hours of direct client contact and
obtain 150 hours of supervision

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

POST-EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Direct client contact hours are defined as:

- Hours spent providing art therapy services to clients (may be individual, couple, family, or group format)

Experience hours are defined as:

- All hours spent in a professional capacity including, but not limited to: direct client contact, preparation, clean-up, assessment, writing clinical notes, attending team or professional development meetings, conducting research, and other related professional activities.

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

POST-EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Supervision

- 50% of the required supervision hours **MUST** be provided by a current ATR or ATR-BC
- The other 50% may be supervised by a current licensed or credentialed practitioner with a master's degree or higher in a related* mental health field

** Acceptable related fields include: Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, Psychology, Addictions Counseling, Psychiatric Nursing, and Psychiatry*

- Supervision may occur in an individual and/or group context

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB

- Make sure your supervisors are APPROPRIATELY credentialed/licensed

If you are unsure whether a non-art therapy supervisor is appropriate contact the ATCB National Office for help by phone: 1-877-213-2822 or email: atcb@nbcc.org

- Make sure your supervisors are CURRENTLY credentialed/licensed

To learn the status of an art therapy supervisor check the ATCB Web site www.atcb.org/findacredentialedarttherapist/ if the supervisor's name does not appear he/she may not be a current ATR or ATR-BC

- Get a copy of your supervisor's resume if he/she is not an ATR or ATR-BC

You will need to submit this along with your ATR application

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB

- Maintain written records of your experience hours and your direct contact hours
- Have these records signed on a regular basis by your supervisor(s)
- Maintain written records of your supervision meetings
- Have these records signed on a regular basis by your supervisor(s)

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

■ RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB

■ **Be aware which EDUCATION standards apply to you**

Applicants for the ATR have seven (7) years from the date of graduation to apply using the Education Standards in effect at the time of graduation - *after 7 years applicants are evaluated on the basis of current education standards*

■ **Be aware which POST-EDUCATION standards apply to you**

All applicants for the ATR, regardless of date of graduation, must meet the Post-Education Experience standards in effect at the time of application

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB

When applying for the ATR

Be sure to use the ATR Application form that is appropriate for you

- Which OPTION is right for you (A or B)?
- What YEAR is on the form?
 - (only current year application forms are accepted)

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB

When applying for the ATR

Be aware what additional materials must be gathered into a single application packet and allot time to collect these, for example:

Official transcripts

Letters of reference

Experience verification forms

A copy of your AATA membership form (if applicable)

Be sure to check the application form appropriate for you for the specifics of what additional materials must be included.

The Registered Art Therapist (ATR)

- **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ATCB**
- **When applying for the ATR**
 - The ATCB National Office needs 6 - 8 weeks to process your application
 - If you are planning to take the Board Certification exam shortly after obtaining the ATR, you must allot the 6 - 8 weeks ATR application processing time and an additional 90 days (typically) for the exam application deadline

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

■ Transition from ATR to ATR-BC:

What is the difference?

- ATR indicates documented supervision of a required number of direct client contact hours. Does not require demonstration of ongoing competency
- ATR-BC is earned after the demonstration of a comprehensive knowledge base through examination and is maintained through continuing education. Requires current understanding of the art therapy and mental health arenas.

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

A Simple Formula:

Knowledge (measured through an exam)

+ Current and updated information (maintained through Continuing Education Credits/**CECs**)

= **Board Certification**

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

- Taking the Art Therapy Board Certification Exam
 - This voluntary exam is available to all ATRs in good standing
 - The exam is offered annually at the time of the art therapy conference in several US cities
 - Special accommodations are available to those who demonstrate a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), for religious reasons, and Test-on-Demand is available for an additional fee*
 - The Structure and Content of the ATCBE is based upon the results of a regularly administered **Job Analysis**

* *All requests for exam accommodation must be made in writing to the ATCB National Office.*

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

■ The Job Analysis

- A comprehensive survey conducted approximately every 5 years
- Developed to ensure that the content of the ATCBE is job related
- Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE) works with ATCB's Job Analysis Advisory Committee to develop the survey instrument
- Survey respondents are asked to provide demographic information and evaluate job tasks, clinical issues, and theoretical approaches
- The ATCBE is evaluated based on survey responses and exam content and categories are revised as necessary

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

- The following 2007 Job Analysis Categories were used to organize the current exam, determine the appropriateness of questions, and have been included in the ATCB Exam Preparation Guide:
 - Administrative Functions
 - Initial Interview and Evaluation
 - Assessment
 - Art Therapy Treatment Services
 - Professional Practice & Ethics
 - Theory and Therapeutic Application

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

■ Preparing for the ATCBE

- The ATCB Exam Preparation Guide is developed by the Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc. (ATCB)
- It provides information to those planning to take the exam and is designed to assist applicants in developing a personal approach to exam prep

The ATCB does not endorse, nor recommend, any study guide published or exam preparation program offered by any individual or group not directly authorized by the ATCB, Inc.

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

- The ATCB Certification Committee
 - Works with the Job Analysis Committee & CCE testing experts to update and organize the exam
 - Writes, reviews/edits, and selects questions for the ATCBE item bank
 - Establishes and coordinates with the Standards Setting Committee to establish a cut score for the exam
- The ATCB Standards Setting Committee
 - Reviews and ranks each exam item based upon correct responses and degree of difficulty
 - Determines a cut score for each exam

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

- ATR-BC Maintenance Requirements are:
 - Completed in 5 year cycles
 - Two (2) options to recertify
 - Collect 100 Continuing Education Credits (CEC's)
 - Specific areas of continuing education accepted
 - Psychological theories and practice
 - Assessment
 - Art Therapy theory and practice
 - Client populations
 - Art Therapy and media
 - Professionalism and Multiculturalism
 - Ethics*
 - CEC's must be from an approved provider
 - Take the ATCBE again

** Those recertifying after 7/1/06 must earn a minimum of 6 CECs in Ethics*

The Board Certified Art Therapist (ATR-BC)

- Why should you choose to be Board Certified?
 - Creates nationwide recognition and consistency, in art therapy practice, regardless of differences in state licensure requirements
 - Advances your professional accountability and visibility
 - Ensures a national standard set **by art therapists for art therapists**
 - Demonstrates a continuing commitment to developing professional skills (ATR-BC)

FAQ-Applications

Where can I get an application for the ATR or to take the BC exam?

Applications may be downloaded from the ATCB Web site www.atcb@nbcc.org or by contacting the National Office:

3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403

1-877-213-2833

FAQ-Applications

- Where does my application go when I send it to ATCB?
 - The ATCB National Office
 - handles the daily operations
 - implements ATCB Board policies and procedures

FAQ-ATR Application Process

- What is the ATR application review process?
 - Materials are received and new record/folder is created; payment is processed
 - Applications are processed in the order in which they are received
 - Applicant is notified in writing of any missing documentation
 - When a review of the packet is complete, the applicant is notified in writing; a certificate and wallet card are provided

FAQ-ATR Application Process

- How long does the ATR application review process take?
 - About 6-8 weeks unless there is missing information
- How much does it cost to apply for the ATR?
 - Currently, \$125.00
- How do I 'maintain' the ATR credential?
 - Adhere to the ATCB Code of Professional Practice
 - Pay annual maintenance fees

FAQ-ATR-BC Application Process

- How long does it take to receive exam results?
 - Approximately eight (8) weeks. (Results cannot be given over the phone.)

- Is there was a "waiting period" before I can take the exam to become Board Certified (BC)?
 - No, but you must be an ATR to take the exam for national certification

FAQ-Recertification (ATR-BC)

- How many CECs do I need?
 - 100 CECs per recertification cycle (or 5 years)

- Do I need a certain number of ethics CECs?
 - For recertification periods beginning on or after July 1, 2006, a minimum of six (6) hours

- How do I know if a workshop would qualify for the ethics recertification requirement?
 - Generally speaking, these will have ethics in the title of the workshop. However, workshops that **focus** on the principles of conduct for art therapists would also apply.

FAQ-Recertification

- How do I know if a course/workshop will count for recertification?
 - Must meet the requirements listed in the ATCB Recertification Standards
 - CEC folder (available at ATCB booth)

FAQ-Recertification

- What forms of documentation are acceptable for audits?
 - Certificates of attendance
 - Copies of juried shows brochures (must include certificant's name and the name of jurors)
 - Signed letters (on letterhead) from organizations for whom workshops were given or courses were taught
 - Course syllabi for teaching a course for credit
 - Official transcripts
 - Photocopies of sections of published material, inclusive of publication name, author for whom credit is claimed, and date of publication

FAQ-Recertification

- What is the process for submitting my recertification materials?
 - Approximately 90 days prior to your recertification date, the National Office will distribute a recertification package.
 - This recertification packet will inform you if you have been selected for audit and provide specific information about completing the process.
 - It is **very important** to adhere to the stated deadline.
 - Once your packet has been received and reviewed, you will be contacted in writing.

FAQ-Completing the CEC Log

Date	Activity	Presenter	Provider	Area	No. CECs
11/20/04	“Art Therapy Ethics” Workshop	Jane Doe, ATR-BC	AATA	Ethics	1 CEC
11/21/05	“Selecting Art Therapy Techniques”	John Smith (self)	AATA	AT Theory and Practice	2 CECs
3/26/06	Annual Juried Art Show	John Smith (self)	A. Institute Juror-Sam A. Therapist	AT and Media	10 CECs
9/07-12/07	Attended sem. course “Adv Assessment AT Techniques”	Anne Jones, ATR-BC	Accredited Univ. USA	AT Assessment	(3 credit hrs.) 15 CECs

FAQ-Recertification

- If chosen for random audit, what will I need to submit to the ATCB?
 - Recertification application
 - CEC log
 - Approved documentation to validate the CECs.
 - Examples: certificates of attendance, copies of juried shows brochures, course syllabi for teaching a course for credit; transcripts

FAQ-Recertification

- If I do not follow the recertification process as outlined in the packet (including to adhering to deadlines), what can happen?
 - You may lose the ATR-BC credential.

FAQ-Other

- What do I do if I have a concern about a current ATCB credential holder?
 - Submit the concern in writing to the ATCB National Office. Include:
 - the identity (and contact information, if you have it) of the credential holder
 - the identity of others who may have knowledge of the facts and circumstances concerning the alleged conduct
 - the facts concerning the alleged conduct in as much detail and specificity as possible
 - any appropriate written documentation
 - your name, address, and telephone number

Contact

- Web site: www.atcb.org

- ATCB National Office
 - Address: 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, NC 27403
 - Telephone Number: 877-213-2822
 - Fax: (336) 482-2852
 - Email: atcb@nbcc.org