



Professional Credentialing: A Guide for Students and Recent Graduates

Mission of the ATCB

It is the mission of the Art Therapy Credentials Board to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy.

ATCB is committed to operating its programs in a nondiscriminatory manner, and affirms that it shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental disability, medical condition (including but not limited to cancer-related or genetic characteristics), pregnancy, age, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.)

ART THERAPY CREDENTIALS BOARD, INC.
3 Terrace Way
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660

ATCB CREDENTIAL HOLDER TESTIMONIALS

“I work in a medical setting that expects me to have reached the highest level of professional certification in my field. The ATR-BC has also been important to organizations which have contracted for my services.”

Janet Eskridge,
ATR-BC, Nebraska

“My ATR-BC was accepted as ‘license equivalent’ for both a faculty appointment and medical staff privileges.”

Linda Chapman,
ATR-BC, California

“The Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination was an essential part of achieving state regulations for licensure in Mississippi.”

Susan Anand,
ATR-BC, Mississippi

“When my institution had to cut staff, I was the only art therapist retained and it was because I was board certified, a regulation of the accrediting body.”

Brenda Barthell,
ATR-BC, Virginia

BECOMING REGISTERED (ATR)

While you are still a student:

- Verify that your supervisors are either registered (ATR) or Board Certified (ATR-BC) by using the “Find a Credentialed Art Therapist” feature of the ATCB Web site.
- Document required hours of clinical experience and supervision for practicum/internship.
- Request references from your supervisors as each practicum/internship is completed.

After graduation:

- Become familiar with the application process by obtaining a copy of the ATR application and reviewing all requirements carefully.
- Verify that your supervisors are properly credentialed and/or licensed.
- Document required post-masters hours of clinical experience and supervision.
- Request references from supervisor(s) for use in the ATR application process and for use in your employment search.
- Contact the ATCB National Office at any time during the application process with questions or concerns.

WHEN ARE YOU AN ATR?

You are entitled to use the designation ATR only when you receive official notification, from the ATCB and as long as you maintain the credential.

WHY BECOME BOARD CERTIFIED (ATR-BC)?

- Board Certification is a widely recognized practice of the major health and educational professions in the United States.
- The ATR-BC is the highest credential you can earn as an art therapist.
- The ATR-BC is an assurance to employers, clients, and the public that you have met the rigorous standards set by a nationally recognized credentialing body.
- The ATR-BC means that you provide services within the ethical guidelines of the ATCB’s Code of Professional Practice.
- The ATCB Board Certification Exam is a reliable and valid tool used by the licensing boards of several states.
- The ATR-BC is a national credential and is portable from state-to-state.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF THE CREDENTIALING PROCESS?

A complete schedule of all current fees, a listing of exam dates and locations, all applications as well as additional helpful information and forms are available online at www.atcb.org.

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BECOMING AN ATR-BC

Eligibility for the ATR-BC:

- Once you have earned the ATR, you are eligible to apply to take the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination (ATCBE). There is no waiting period.
- In order to take the ATCBE you must complete the current application form. The form can be downloaded from www.atcb.org or requested from the ATCB National Office.
- The application should be reviewed carefully and completed in detail. If you have any questions, please contact the ATCB National Office by email or phone.
- The exam is administered annually during the American Art Therapy Association’s Annual Conference and simultaneously in cities nationwide.

WHEN ARE YOU AN ATR-BC?

You are entitled to use the designation ATR-BC only when you receive official notification from the ATCB and as long as you maintain the credential.

CREDENTIAL MAINTENANCE

- Both the ATR and the ATR-BC are subject to an annual maintenance fee.
- The ATR-BC must be recertified every five years by completing and documenting required continuing education or through re-examination.