

**TITLE 16 OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**  
**CHAPTER 27 COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS**  
**PART 7 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE AS A PROFESSIONAL ART THERAPIST (LPAT)**

**16.27.7.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** Regulation and Licensing Department Counseling and Therapy Practice Board  
[16.27.7.1 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.1, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.2 SCOPE:** All individuals applying for licensure as professional art therapists.  
[16.27.7.2 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.2, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** These parts are promulgated pursuant to the Counselor and Therapist Practice Act, ~~[Section 61-9A-3, 5, 13, and 15]~~ Sections 61-9A-1, 61-9A-3, 61-9A-5, 61-9A-9, 61-9A-13, 61-9A-15, 61-9A-22, 61-9A-23, and 61-9A-24 NMSA 1978.  
[16.27.7.3 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.3, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.4 DURATION:** Permanent  
[16.27.7.4 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.4, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 15, 2001 unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[16.27.7.5 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.5, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.6 OBJECTIVE:** The objective of Part 7 is to state the minimum requirements for licensure as a professional art therapist and to list the documentation required for application.  
[16.27.7.6 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.6, 6/15/2001]

**16.27.7.7 DEFINITIONS:** [RESERVED]

**16.27.7.8 [APPROPRIATE] SUPERVISION:**  
~~[A. Supervision must be provided by a licensed professional clinical mental health counselor (LPCC), licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), licensed art therapist (LPAT), licensed psychologist, licensed psychiatrist, or licensed independent social worker (LISW). Appropriate supervisors must have education and experience in art therapy.]~~ No supervision is required to practice with a LPAT independent license. The board strongly recommends that all independently licensed counselors and therapists have an ongoing consultation or peer review process in place.  
~~[B. It is the responsibility of the individuals seeking supervision to assure the supervision is acceptable for the level of licensure.]~~  
[16.27.7.9 NMAC - Rp 16 NMAC 27.1.7.5, 6/15/2001; A, 7/1/2004; A, 2/10/2006; A, 1/15/2007]

**16.27.7.9 [RESERVED]**

**16.27.7.10 APPLICANTS FOR LICENSURE: AS A PROFESSIONAL ART THERAPIST (LPAT) MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS AND PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WITH THE APPLICATION:** A licensed professional art therapist (LPAT) must possess the following qualifications and provide the required documentation with the application:

- A. Age requirement. Be at least 21 years of age.
- B. Applicant must sign a statement provided in the application indicating the applicant has read the code of ethics and agrees to be bound and governed by the code of ethics.
- C. Education requirements. ~~[Holds]~~ Professional entry into art therapy requires a masters or doctoral degree in art therapy, counseling or counseling related field [from an accredited institution or nationally approved art therapy program with a total of no less than 48 graduate semester hours or 72 quarter hours in the art therapy core curriculum as defined in 16.27.7.11 NMAC:]. Individuals holding a master's degree in a related field may enter the art therapy profession by completing 48 graduate semester hours or 72 quarter hours in the art therapy core curriculum.
- D. Experience requirements:
  - (1) a minimum of two years postgraduate professional art therapy experience;

(2) evidence of having participated in a total of 3000 hours of postgraduate clinical client contact and 100 hours of appropriate face-to-face postgraduate supervision; 700 clinical client contact hours may be from the applicant's internship or practicum.

E. Application fee of \$75.00 as provided for in Part 17 of 16.27 NMAC.

F. Is of good moral character with conduct consistent with the code of ethics.

[16.27.7.10 NMAC- Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.8, 6/15/2001; A, 7/1/2004; A, 2/10/2006; A, 1/15/2007; A, 11/19/2007]

**16.27.7.11 ART THERAPY CORE CURRICULUM:** ~~[-Means a curriculum for training art therapists that includes a minimum of 48 semester graduate hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate level coursework and consists of the following areas of graduate studies.]~~

~~A. [History of art therapy: A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework. Course content deals with origins, historical development, and major theoretical trends in art therapy.]~~ History and theory of art therapy: To include art therapy history and theory, events, practitioners and the development of art therapy as a distinct therapeutic practice. Overview of psychotherapy theories relevant to art therapy, theories of creativity, and theoretical foundations of art therapy.

~~B. [Theories of art therapy: A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework. Included in the course content are differentiation of art therapy from other mental health and educational professions, major theories, and practical applications.]~~ Techniques of practice in art therapy: Direct experience of the therapeutic utility and psychological influence of art processes and materials. Identifying the therapeutic effect of art making leading to establishment of therapeutic goals and intervention strategies. Development of a framework for understanding symbolic language.

~~C. [Techniques in art therapy: A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework which explores various art therapy techniques and interventions. The coursework may examine art therapy processes and approaches appropriate for different diagnostic and presenting problems based on the DSM-IV criteria and/or art based assessments.]~~ Application of art therapy with people in different treatment settings: Art therapy interventions for the treatment of children, adolescents, adults, couples and families in inpatient, outpatient, partial treatment programs, and aftercare. Critical thinking with regard to similarities and differences between art therapy intervention and counseling intervention. Exploration of several behavioral and artistic communication, assessment, treatment planning, treatment approaches, relationship dynamics, and the role of the art therapist on the treatment team.

~~D. [Application of art therapy with different populations in a variety of treatment settings: A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework which examines the therapeutic relationship in working with various client populations using art therapy. The coursework may examine individual, group, conjoint, and family art therapy as it applies to child, adolescent, and adult populations.]~~ Group work: Theoretical and experiential understanding of group dynamics, therapeutic factors, member roles and behaviors, leadership styles and approaches, selection criteria, and short and long term group process.

~~E. Art therapy assessment: [A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework which introduces clinical diagnostic profiles and criteria as it applies to the art image.]~~ Fundamentals of art therapy assessment, statistical concepts including reliability and validity, selection of the assessment tool, and familiarity with a variety of specific art therapy instruments and procedures used in appraisal and evaluation. Ability to recognize indicators of functional and organic disorders in the artwork of clients. Understanding of development levels, cultural factors, symbolism and metaphor, psychopathology, psychological health manifested in artwork and art making. Administration and documentation of art therapy assessment, formulation of treatment goals, objectives and strategies related to assessment and evaluation.

~~F. Ethical and legal issues of art therapy practice: [A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework which explores the philosophical origins and clinical application of professional ethics.]~~ Professional identity, professional ethics, and the ethical practice of art therapy. Familiarity with the ethical standards of the American art therapy association and A TCB, as well as ACA and other related fields. The proper application of ethical and legal principles of art therapy practice.

~~G. Standards of practice in art therapy: [A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework designed to review art therapy practice procedures and case consultation. The coursework may include therapeutic processes, legal considerations, licensure requirements, self-care, and case collaborations.]~~ Professional role as an art therapist with regard to function and relationships with other mental health providers. Knowledge of professional organization, credentialing and licensure, public policy, advocating for the profession, and client advocacy.

**H.** ~~[Cultural diversity issues relevant to art therapy practice: A minimum of three semester hours or four quarter hours of graduate coursework which studies the practice of art therapy in the context of cultural diversity. Content includes assessment, therapeutic strategies, and creative interventions appropriate for different cultural populations.]~~ Cultural and social diversity: Foundation of knowledge in cultural diversity theory and competency models applied to an understanding of diversity of artistic language, symbolism and meaning in artwork and art making across culture and within a diverse society. Investigation of the role of the art therapist in social justice, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

**I.** ~~[Thesis or written and oral comps.]~~ Thesis or culminating project: The integration of knowledge with regard to the profession of art therapy, including the literature in the field through a culminating project. This may include, but is not limited to, thesis or extensive and in-depth projects, use of structured methods and formats such as quantitative and qualitative research, formal case studies, and art-based research.

~~**J.** ——— Related core curriculum: The remaining graduate coursework includes psychopathology and diagnostics, human growth and development, group dynamics, research, and studio art to satisfy the 45-hour requirement.]~~

[16.27.7.11 NMAC- N, 6/15/2001; A, 1/15/2007; A, 11/19/2007]

**16.27.7.12 EXAMINATION:** Applicants must demonstrate professional competency by passing the art therapy credentials board certification examination (ATCBE).

[16.27.7.12 NMAC- Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.9, 6/15/2001; A, 2/10/2006]

**16.27.7.13 DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR LICENSURE:**

**A.** A completed application as specified in 16.27.3.8 NMAC.

**B.** Proof of education and experience:

**(1)** The applicant is required to submit an official transcript in a sealed envelope from each institution contributing to the applicant's master or doctoral degree a total of no less than 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours which includes the required [48] clinical core curriculum. Applicants who have just graduated with an appropriate degree field, and whose degrees have not yet been conferred by their university, may submit the following documentation in while awaiting official transcripts to become available:

a) A verification letter from a university official verifying

(1) their degree program;

(2) that all courses have been completed and they have earned passing grades;

(3) their degrees will be conferred by the university; and

b) A receipt verifying that they have ordered their transcripts to be sent to the board office once their degree is conferred.

**(2)** A statement from each supervisor in a sealed envelope on a form provided by the board (attachment B) verifying the applicant's supervised experience and setting forth the nature and extent of such supervision must be submitted with the application; the statement shall verify that the applicant's performance was in accordance with adequate counseling and therapy standards of practice; if a supervisor's statement is not available, the applicant may submit documentation explaining why the supervisor's statement is not available and sworn affidavits from other individuals verifying that supervision took place and describing the nature and the extent of the supervision.

**(3)** Documentation of 3000 client contact hours and 100 hours of appropriate face-to-face supervision.

**(4)** Attachment ~~[E]~~ E, listing only specific graduate coursework. ~~[A courses syllabus and actual course catalogue descriptions for all courses must be included (applies only to applicants who hold counseling or counseling related field degree).]~~ The board may request syllabi as needed to clarify course content.

**(5)** Documentation of the applicant's licensure, registration or certification status must be submitted on application attachment form A, which must be sent directly to the board by the jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed, certified, or registered.

**(6)** Application fee of \$75.00 as provided for in Part 17 of 16.27 NMAC.

[16.27.7.13 NMAC- Rp 16 NMAC 27.6.10, 6/15/2001; A, 7/1/2004; A, 2/10/2006; A, 1/15/2007; A, 11/19/2007]

**16.27.7.14 LICENSURE BY ~~[RECIPROcity]~~ CREDENTIALS:**

**A.** A completed application as specified in 16.27.3.8 NMAC.

**B.** Verification (attachment A) that the applicant holds and has held a current independent license for ~~five~~ two years issued by the appropriate examining board under the law of any other state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or any foreign nation.

**C.** Verification that the applicant is in good standing with no disciplinary action pending or brought against the applicant within the past ~~five~~ two years.

**D.** Holds masters or doctoral degree in counseling or a counseling-related field from an accredited institution.

**E.** Application fee of \$75.00 as provided for in Part 17 of 16.27 NMAC.

**F.** Applicants who do not meet the licensure by reciprocity must meet the current licensure requirements.

[16.27.7.14 NMAC- Rp 16 NMAC 27.9.8&9, 6/15/2001; A, 7/1/2004; A, 2/10/2006; A, 1/15/2007]

**HISTORY OF 16.27.7 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

Rule 6, Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Art Therapist, 3/24/1994

Rule 6, Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Art Therapist, 3/20/1995

**History of Repealed Material:**

16 NMAC 27.6, Requirements for Licensure as a Professional Art Therapist - Repealed 6/15/2001

16 NMAC 27.9, Licensure by Credentials - Repealed 6/15/2001