MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MUSIC THERAPY (285)

Graduate Music Therapy Coordinator:
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The Department of Music at SUNY New Paltz offers a Master’s Degree (M.S.) in Music Therapy. Music Therapy applicants pursue a program of study leading to candidacy for licensure as a creative arts therapist (LCAT) through the New York State Education Department Office of the Professions. The Music Therapy program is approved by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and the National Association of Schools of Music, the national accrediting body for schools of music.

The Program
Following completion of the 48-credit graduate degree in Music Therapy, students must complete 1200 clock hours of professional clinical experience and pass a professional licensing examination to fully qualify for the Certification Board Examination in Music Therapy.

Admission Requirements and Procedures
The entrance requirements for the Master of Science Program are

- Baccalaureate degree in music with 54 credits or more in music;
- Passing grade on placement audition for guitar and piano accompaniment;
- Passing grade on placement audition in vocal performance;
- Passing grade on placement audition in sight reading for guitar, piano, and voice;
- Artistry on major instrument demonstrated at live audition at SUNY New Paltz;
- 16 credits of undergraduate work including:
  - Introduction to Music Therapy (3)
  - Music Therapy Methods and Materials (3)
  - Psychology of Music (3)
  - Music Therapy Practicum (2)
  - Psychological Statistics (4)

Application Procedures
Students may select to apply online or via paper application. The Music Therapy faculty review applications for the graduate program on a rolling basis.
NOTE: International admissions closes for students residing outside of the U.S. on December 1st for spring (January) admission, and June 15th for fall (August) admission.

Application Procedures

To apply, submit the following items to the Graduate School in ONE COMPLETE PACKET:

1. A signed application (paper applications) or a signature page (online applications)
2. All undergraduate transcripts, including schools with transfer credits in sealed envelopes
3. One essay stating intent and objective of your graduate studies
4. Three letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes

If you have questions about the application process, you may contact the Graduate School at (845) 257-3947 or gradschool@newpaltz.edu.

Questions related to the music therapy program may be directed to Dr. John Mahoney at (845) 257-2709 or mahoneyj@newpaltz.edu.

Contact the Department of Music to Arrange:

- An audition on candidate's major instrument
- Placement examinations on voice, piano accompaniment and guitar accompaniment
- Placement examination on sight reading

Audition information for the Music Therapy master’s program may be obtained by contacting the Department at (845) 257-2700 or by visiting the Music Department’s website at: http://www.newpaltz.edu/music/.

Other Program Requirements

- Complete the prescribed coursework and other requirements within five years after matriculation.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better, with no more than two grades below B-.

Advisement

Students are assigned an academic advisor upon acceptance into the Music Therapy program. Students should make an appointment with their advisor to develop a comprehensive plan of study. This plan of study officially specifies degree requirements and enables the student to chart progress towards eligibility for licensure as a creative arts therapist. Any changes in this plan of study will require prior approval from the student's academic advisor, who will assist the student and provide guidance throughout the program. Coursework in music therapy is designed to offer
sequential learning experiences that will develop clinical competencies for work as a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist. Students should take these courses in the sequence suggested by their academic advisor.

Training in the mental health professions requires that students be self-reflective, remain open to new and challenging ideas, accept feedback, and be willing to engage in personal growth. Successful completion of the program not only requires that students complete the required coursework and clinical training experiences as specified in the curriculum, but must also, in the judgment of the faculty and supervisors, understand and behave in accordance with the professional and ethical standards of the field.

Transfer Credit
With the approval of their academic advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School, students can transfer up to 9 graduate credits. However, credits cannot be transferred after the Plan of Study is approved. Courses taken prior to acceptance into the Music Therapy program might not be fully credited on your plan of study, even if taken at SUNY New Paltz.

Registration for Courses
Students must meet with their advisor to discuss coursework prior to the beginning of each semester. Pre-registration for the spring semester occurs in November and pre-registration for the summer and fall semesters occurs in April.

Change of Name and/or Address
Please notify the Music Department Office and the Records and Registration Office immediately with name, telephone, or email address changes.

Sample Plan of Study
The Music Therapy program consists of 48 credit hours for students with baccalaureate degrees in Music Therapy or the MT-BC credential. Students with other degrees in music must complete 17 credits of undergraduate work in Music Therapy and meet competencies in sight reading, voice, and piano and guitar accompaniment.

Core Courses in Music Therapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MUS540</td>
<td>Music Therapy Foundations...............................</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS541</td>
<td>Repertoire for Therapy..................................</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS542</td>
<td>Music in Counseling.....................................</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS543</td>
<td>Music Therapy for the Elderly...........................</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MUS544</td>
<td>Medical Music Therapy Assessment and Treatment.......</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS545</td>
<td>Music Therapy in Special Education....................</td>
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</tr>
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<td>MUS546</td>
<td>Improvisation for Therapy................................</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS547</td>
<td>Advanced Guitar for Therapists and Educators</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MUS548</td>
<td>Music Therapy Ensemble</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS742</td>
<td>Music Therapy Research and Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS745</td>
<td>Music Therapy Internship I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUS746</td>
<td>Music Therapy Internship II</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>MUS748</td>
<td>Thesis Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUS749</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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</table>

**Core Courses in Psychology**

PSY552 Psychopathology ........................................................................ 3

**Human Growth and Development Requirement**

Choose ONE course from the following options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSY528</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY556</td>
<td>Contemporary Social Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY560</td>
<td>Cognitive Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective(s)**

May be taken in music, music therapy, special education, sociology, or psychology ........................................................................ 2

**Total** .................................................................................... 14

For course information, please click [COURSES](#).