Music Therapy Equivalency Program at Washington Adventist University

The Music Therapy Equivalency Program (MTEP) is designed for those who already hold an undergraduate degree (most typically in music, music performance, or music education), but who wish to complete requirements for professional certification as a music therapist. Rather than completing a second bachelor's degree, the student completes courses that will teach competencies required for professional certification by the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). The student is then eligible to sit for the national examination in music therapy offered by the Certification Board for Music Therapists. Upon passing the exam, the credential Music Therapist-Board Certified (MT-BC) is granted.

For most students with an undergraduate degree in music, the MTEP requires 3 semesters of on-campus study (usually part-time enrollment), followed by a 6-month required internship. Depending on the specific undergraduate degree, some students may require additional credits which will necessitate at least a semester longer to complete the equivalency program. Students with undergraduate degrees in areas other than music must complete basic coursework in music (i.e., music theory, lessons on a major instrument, music history, etc.) in addition to the core music therapy program.

Following coursework at Washington Adventist University, the student must successfully complete a six-month internship at an AMTA-approved clinical site. Transcripts of coursework from the student’s undergraduate program along with the MTEP records at WAU are submitted toward professional certification following completion of the internship.

Because this is a professional studies non-degree program, students may not qualify for university-sponsored financial aid expressly for graduate or undergraduate students. However, they may qualify for WAU Department of Music scholarships and additional financial aid offered through private lending institutions.

Students completing the MTEP will be able to:

- Demonstrate music foundations and clinical skills central to the practice of music therapy.
- Describe the relationship between music therapy, research and practice.
- Utilize a variety of music therapy methods and implement services in clinical settings across distinct population groups.
- Document music therapy services according to the AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice.
- Practice music therapy in a professional and ethical manner as delineated by the AMTA Professional Documents.

Music Therapy Equivalency Core Requirements

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MUTH 110 Introduction to Music Therapy – 3 hours
This course is an introduction to the music therapy profession in terms of its history, theoretical foundations, scope of current clinical practice and research – to include an overview of client populations, settings and methods, and relationship to other healthcare professions.

MUTH 220 Standards of Clinical Practice – 3 hours
Prerequisite: MUTH 110. This course emphasizes the application of the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) Standards of Clinical Practice in preparation for music therapy field placement experiences. Topics include music therapy referral and acceptance, assessment, treatment planning, treatment implementation, treatment evaluation and documentation, termination of services, continuing education and supervision.

MUTH 230 Music Therapy Methods – 3 hours
Prerequisite: MUTH 115, 220. This course is an introduction to the four primary methods of music therapy (recreational, compositional, improvisational and receptive), the interventions used within each, and their clinical applications across populations. Individual research resulting in a term paper, or the equivalent, is expected.

MUTH 335 Psychology of Music – 3 hours
This course analyzes the function of music in human existence, specifically related to the objective and scientific components of sound and music (like acoustics) with their subsequent physiological, psychological, cognitive and sociocultural effects.

MUTH 375 Music Therapy Practicum I – 3 hours
This course integrates music therapy knowledge and skills through clinically supervised observation and participation opportunities in music therapy field settings associated with developmental disabilities, mental health, medical/rehabilitation or gerontology. The AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice guide these experiences, and the AMTA Professional Competencies form benchmarks for student learning and evaluation. Enrollment is limited to those students who have successfully passed the Sophomore Evaluation – (see Music Handbook for details).

MUTH 376 Music Therapy Practicum II – 3 hours
Prerequisite: MUTH 375. This course integrates music therapy knowledge and skills through clinically supervised leading and co-leading opportunities in music therapy field settings associated with developmental disabilities, mental health, medical/rehabilitation or gerontology. The AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice guide these experiences, and AMTA Professional Competencies form benchmarks for student learning and evaluation. Classroom instruction includes lectures, demonstrations and rehearsal of skills.

MUTH 441 Music Therapy Seminar – 2 credits
Prerequisite: MUTH 335. Co-requisite: MUTH 476. This course provides a synthesis of music therapy education and training in preparation for internship. Aspects of personal and professional growth, development, and alignment highlighted in this course include: theoretical and research foundations and clinical functions that inform the articulation of a personal philosophy of music therapy,
professional ethics and responsibilities, enhanced self-awareness specifically through the identification of core values and competency based strengths and needs, and future directions.

**MUTH 476 Music Therapy Practicum III – 3 hours**
*Prerequisite: MUTH 376.* This course integrates music therapy knowledge and skills through clinically supervised leading opportunities in music therapy field settings associated with developmental disabilities, mental health, medical/rehabilitation or gerontology. At this level, a more comprehensive and independent application of the AMTA Standards of Clinical Practice is expected, while the AMTA Professional Competencies continue to form benchmarks for student learning and evaluation. Classroom instruction includes lectures, demonstrations and rehearsal of skills.

**MUTH 481 Music Therapy: Clinical Development – 2 credit hours**
This course will focus on gaining self- and other knowledge through actively engaging with music and music therapy methods to inform the development of a clinical identity. Along with increased self-, other-, and musical- awareness, students will also be introduced to clinical musicianship and leadership skills integral to the group and individual clinical processes.

**MUTH 485 Music Therapy Internship – 12 hours**
Music therapy internship requires a minimum of 900 hours of clinical therapy services under the supervision of a board certified music therapist, completed at a facility approved by the American Music Therapy Association or at Washington Adventist University affiliated sites. **Prerequisites:** Completion of all music, music therapy, psychology, and general education requirements, and demonstrated proficiency in piano, voice, guitar and non-symphonic instruments. In addition, students must have maintained a 3.0 grade point average in all coursework to be eligible to begin their music therapy internship.
Washington Adventist University  
Department of Music  
Admissions Process: Music Therapy Equivalency Program

Requirements for Admission to the Music Therapy Equivalency Program:
1. Graduation from a National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) accredited School/Department of Music* with major in music**.
2. Undergraduate GPA of 2.75
3. Submission of Letter of Interest/Intent
4. Letter of Recommendation from an instructor or professional who can speak to the applicant’s academic achievement and effort as well as to the applicant’s suitability for Music Therapy as a career
5. Interview with Washington Adventist University’s Music Therapy Program Director
6. Acceptance to Washington Adventist University as a Music Therapy Equivalency student

*Graduates from Schools/Departments of Music not accredited by NASM will be considered. These applicants may be asked to supply copies of syllabi from core music courses and may be required to take remedial work in core music areas such as theory, music history, conducting, piano, etc.

**Interested applicants without an undergraduate major in music will need to schedule an audition as well as fulfill additional requirements. These requirements may increase the time necessary to complete the program.

Steps in gaining admission to WAU’s Music Therapy Equivalency Program:
1. Schedule an interview (in person, by phone, or on-line) with Program Director of Music Therapy, sending in advance a copy of the student transcript. During the interview the Program Director will examine the transcript and prepare a list of coursework and other requirements which will lead to Music Therapy Equivalency.
2. Complete WAU’s Non-Degree Music Therapy Equivalency Application
3. Request a Letter of Recommendation (see #4 under Requirements for Admission, above) to be sent to the Music Therapy Program Director.
4. Prepare and submit a formal Letter of Interest/Intent, describing background and interest in the area of Music Therapy, as well as future career goals.

Music Therapy Program Director  
Washington Adventist University  
7600 Flower Ave  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
music@wau.edu

Decisions regarding acceptance into the Music Therapy Equivalency Program will be made based on program space availability and qualifications of applicants. Candidates will receive written notification of the admissions decision once required materials have been processed.