



Licensing Questions Related to the Newly Approved CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy*

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Now that the *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy* have been formally approved by the CAAHEP Board, some art therapists have had questions about how the new accreditation of educational programs may impact their existing license or future licenses. We hope this article will clear up any confusion. Basically, the new accreditation process will not preclude art therapists with art therapy degrees from education programs that were previously approved by the American Art Therapy Association's Educational Program Approval Board (EPAB) from gaining state licenses. Please read this full article for more details, and if you have further questions on licensure, please [email Jason Besser](#), AATA's Public Policy & Professional Affairs Associate.

The legislative work on new licensure for art therapy undertaken by the AATA Chapters, with the support of the AATA's Public Policy team, has taken three approaches in the development of recent licensing bills, and also in several existing laws that are going through an updating process including:

1. Requiring that applicants have earned the ATR-BC credentials, from the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB), or have met specific requirements that parallel those of the ATCB ATR-BC credential;
2. Requiring applicants to have earned a master's or doctoral degree in art therapy from a program that was either approved by the AATA Education Program Approval Board (EPAB), or accredited by CAAHEP at the time the degree was conferred; or
3. Requiring that licensing boards or agencies determine that any applicant holding the ATR-BC credential qualifies as meeting the education requirements in the legislation. This approach is often included in bills with specific licensing requirements, or in combination with one of the first two approaches, either as a licensure by "endorsement" provision, or as a "grandmother" provision to assure that art therapists with earlier education which may have included fewer credit hours or less hours of supervised experience can also qualify for licensure. Some of these grandmother provisions include the additional qualification that

applicants have a specified number of years of prior practice in art therapy before applying for licensure to align their training more closely with a bill's current licensing standards.

In all cases, the bills have been written to assure that art therapists who have master's degrees from an AATA-approved or CAAHEP accredited program, as well as those achieving ATCB board certification (including those with degrees from non-approved programs who meet ATCB requirements for registration and achieve board certification) will qualify for state art therapy licenses.

AATA members may visit "[My AATA](#)" to learn more about the Association's Public Policy and Advocacy programs.

[Click here](#) to read more about the new *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy*.

