

Guidance for Art Therapy Program Directors on CAAHEP/ACATE Outcomes Standards

All Art Therapy Programs accredited by CAAHEP, with accreditation review and monitoring managed by ACATE, underwent a comprehensive Initial Accreditation review that included a self-study and site visit. Initial Accreditation continues until the next comprehensive review eight years after the initial accreditation was approved.

In the intervening years, each program is monitored for standards compliance through Annual Reports administered by CAAHEP and reviewed by ACATE. This document is intended to provide further guidance to Art Therapy Program Directors regarding the annual requirements for reporting and complying with the Outcomes Standards.

To assure the continuing compliance of art therapy education programs with accreditation standards and to provide data that can drive quality improvement in the programs, the CAAHEP/ACATE Art Therapy Education Standards employ measures of selected outcomes that are reported each year. Each of the measures is reported in the program's Annual Report and has an established benchmark that must be met.

1. Graduation/Retention
2. Positive Employment Placement
3. Graduate Satisfaction
4. Employer Satisfaction
5. Summative Measures (SLOs)

Graduation/Retention

In addition to inclusion in the Annual Report, each program is required to post its Graduation/Retention rates on its website. These data are important for prospective students as they consider careers in art therapy and applications for art therapy master's programs.

ACATE requires posting of Graduation/Retention rates separately for each of the past three years, i.e., displaying three percentages, not the average of the three. Note below* an exception for programs in their first two years of accreditation.

The program may display the data in any manner of its choosing, so long as the data are easily located and understood by the website viewer. The URL (hyperlink) of the website where the data are posted is required in the Annual Report.

The threshold for student retention rate is: 80% or more of students admitted into the program each year will graduate. Programs whose three-year averaged outcomes do not meet the threshold must complete and submit a Standardized Progress Report for Retention with the Annual Report.

Positive Employment Placement

Each program also is required to post its Positive Employment Placement rates on its website. The posting should be adjacent to the Graduation/Retention data, for ease of access for the viewer. ACATE requires posting of Positive Employment Placement separately for each of the

past three years, i.e., displaying three percentages, not the average of the three. Note below* an exception for programs in their first two years of accreditation.

The threshold for graduate positive placement is: 80% or more of a program's graduating cohort will be positively placed in art therapy employment within 6-12 months after graduation. Programs whose three-year averaged outcomes do not meet the threshold must complete and submit a Standardized Progress Report for Employment Placement with the Annual Report.

Graduate Satisfaction

Each program is required to survey its graduates each year and summarize the results of the survey in the Annual Report. A template for the graduate survey is available on the ACATE website. Surveys should be distributed 6 to 12 months after graduation. Results must be compiled and discussed with the program's Advisory Committee prior to inclusion in the Annual Report.

The threshold for graduate survey returns is: 35% or more of the graduating cohort will complete and return the Graduate Survey.

The threshold for graduate satisfaction with the program is: 85% or more of responses for each survey question being rated 3 or better on a five-point Likert scale. Any question item not meeting this threshold is considered a negative survey item to be addressed by the program in its continuous quality improvement processes. Programs whose three-year averaged outcomes do not meet the threshold must complete and submit to ACATE a Standardized Progress Report for Graduate Satisfaction in conjunction with the Annual Report.

Employer Satisfaction

Each program also is required to survey the employers of its graduates each year and summarize the results of the survey in the Annual Report. A template for the employer survey is available on the ACATE website. Employer Surveys should be distributed 6 to 12 months after graduation. Results must be compiled and discussed with the program's Advisory Committee prior to inclusion in the Annual Report.

The threshold for the send rate for the employer survey is: 100% of those graduates who give permission on their survey for their employer to be contacted.

The threshold for the response rate for the employer survey is: 35% or more of the employers of a program's graduating cohort will complete and return the Employer Survey if the graduate has given permission to contact the employer.

The threshold for employer satisfaction is: Every question will have at least 85% of the responses rated 3 or better on a five-point Likert scale, 1 being considered poor and 5 being considered excellent. Any question item not meeting this threshold is considered a negative survey item to be addressed by the program in its continuous quality improvement processes. Programs whose three-year averaged outcomes do not meet the threshold must complete and submit to ACATE a Standardized Progress Report for Employer Satisfaction in conjunction with the Annual Report.

Summative Measures (SLOs)

Student learning in an art therapy program is evaluated by using the Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) established by the program during its self-study and site visit process. Each course syllabus identifies which SLOs are addressed in each course.

To evaluate student learning, a minimum of three of the program's SLOs are to be analyzed and documented each year and summarized in the Annual Report. The entirety of a program's SLOs must be reviewed over a three-year period. ACATE does not establish thresholds for student evaluation, data collection, or analysis of program SLOs. The program establishes its thresholds indicating sufficiency in meeting program objectives. Programs whose three-year averaged outcomes do not meet its threshold must complete and submit to ACATE a Standardized Progress Report for Summative Measures in conjunction with the Annual Report.

* By the time they submit their first required Annual Report, newly accredited programs must post at least one year of Graduation/Retention and Positive Employment Placement rates on their websites, displaying the rates for the past year. By the time they submit their second required Annual Report, these programs must post Graduation/Retention and Positive Employment Placement rates separately for each of the past two years, i.e., displaying two percentages for each measure, not the average of the two years for each measure.

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