

WFMT GUIDELINES FOR MUSIC THERAPY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The following guidelines should be applied within the context of the culture of the country.

The practice of music therapy requires an intensive program of study and supervised clinical training through an institution of higher education over an extended period of time.

Intensive studies shall consist of:

- Musical skills and knowledge
- Biological, psychological, and social studies
- Music therapy knowledge and skills

Clinical training shall consist of:

- Supervised field experiences in various areas of music therapy

A program of study may be general or specialized.

A general program of study shall cover:

- Active and receptive methods of music therapy;
- Applications of music therapy with a wide variety of populations and in various settings;
- Different philosophical and theoretical orientations;
- Ethical principles and research; and
- Existing models of music therapy practice.

A specialized program may focus on one or more specific models or orientations.

The program should promote the student's personal growth and professional development. It may be basic or advanced depending upon the depth and breadth of training, the system of education, the standards of practice, and the credential or qualification granted to the graduate. The most appropriate level may be determined partially by the educational system of the country.

The program of study is one which:

- Has a set curriculum;
- Includes required reading;
- Is offered on a regular basis, usually each year;
- Requires that the students are assessed and evaluated through various forms of examination;
- Is recognized in the country by the appropriate professional organization or government agency; and
- Is periodically evaluated for quality of teaching.

The program should stipulate criteria for the selection of students. Selection should be based on an assessment of music skill, academic qualification, and suitability of personal qualities.

The music therapy program should be taught by a person appropriately educated and trained in music therapy who has substantial clinical experience in various aspects of the field. Similarly, clinical training should be supervised by an experienced music therapist.

The training institution should provide and maintain appropriate academic and technological resources.

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