# GRADUATE HANDBOOK for DRAMA THERAPY STUDENTS

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- Current Information from the K-State Graduate Handbook
Curriculum Outline
New Degree Proposals
Kansas Board of Regents

I. Identify the new degree: (option under Master of Arts in Theatre)
   Master of Arts in Theatre with concentration in drama therapy

II. Provide courses required for each student in the major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name &amp; Number</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 870 Greek and Roman Theatre or another 800 level dramatic literature course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 865 Ethics in Drama Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 862 Workshop in Playwriting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 760 Principles of Drama Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 770 Creative Arts Therapies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 664 Creative Drama</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THTRE 665 Drama Therapy with Special Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Acting, Directing, Technical Theatre, Design, or Theatre Management course at the 600 level or above.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least two electives in psychology or family studies, as required by the National Association for Drama Therapy (areas include Developmental Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Group Dynamics, Advanced Counseling, and/or Theories of Personality).*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research

Creative Project

| THTRE 710 or THTRE 880 | 3 |

Total 33

At least 15 credit hours or 50% of course work needs to be at the 800 level.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS

No matter what your emphasis, all MA students need to identify a Graduate Committee and file a Program of Study with the K-State Graduate School. This should be completed by the end of the second semester of a Student’s first year of study (Spring semester, if starting in the Fall or Fall semester, if starting in the Spring).

Identifying a Graduate Committee
The Major Professor is the faculty member with whom you will develop your specific Program of Study and who will work with you most closely on your Creative Project. If you are in the Drama Therapy Concentration Sally Bailey will be your Major Professor. She will help you identify at least 2 other graduate faculty members to ask to be members of your Graduate Committee. The Graduate Committee serves as an advisory committee to the student for the Creative Project and will adjudicate the Final Oral Examination.

Filing the Program of Study
By the end of your second semester of school you should have chosen all of the courses you will be taking for your program of study in conjunction with your Major Professor, filled out the Program of Study form, and had it signed by all members of your Graduate Committee (and the Head of the SCTD Dept). The original and four copies of the form should be filed with the K-State Graduate School Office in 103 Fairchild Hall.

The Program of Study (and all Graduate Forms) can be downloaded from the K-State website at http://www.k-state.edu/grad/gscurrent/guideforms/masters.htm in either Word or pdf format. You can save the Word version to your computer and type directly on it.

Mark “Non-Thesis/Report” from the 3 choices at the top of the form to indicate that you will be doing a Creative Project as your Masters project, unless you are doing a research study. If you are doing research that needs to be approved by the Institutional Review Board, you will need to mark “Thesis” and answer the appropriate questions on the second page.

List all the courses you anticipate you will be taking during your 2 years of school, with the number, name, number of credit hours, and semester in which the course was/will be offered. At the bottom is a line to put the total number of credit hours earned in your degree. The number needs to equal at least 30 hours (However, drama therapy students sometimes end up taking more than 30 hours in order to complete all the courses required by the National Association for Drama Therapy).

On the second page is a place for the Student, Graduate Committee members, and the Head of the SCTD Department to sign (right column). Those individuals’ names also need to be typed and their department listed by initial on the left column.

Also on the second page is a checklist for students doing Master’s Theses which require Research Approval. You will check “NO” in all of the boxes if you are NOT doing a research thesis.

See example of a Program of Study form.

The Graduate School will check your Program of Study form and if they find that you are missing any requirements to your curriculum, they will contact you.

Changing your Program of Study or Graduate Committee members
If you need to change the courses you put on your program of study for any reason, you must fill out the Program/Committee Change Form. This form must be signed by you, all members of your Graduate Committee, and the Head of SCTD Dept.
If you need to change any members of the committee for any reason, you must fill out the Program/Committee Change Form and get all signatures.

After all the signatures are collect, this form must be sent to the K-State Graduate School at 103 Fairchild Hall.

**Final Examination**
The Graduate Theatre Program has an Oral Examination which happens after the student finishes his/her Creative Project. The Oral Exam focuses mainly on the Creative Project, but other questions about the Student’s studies at K-State might also be asked at this time. A Written Examination is not done in this department. Oral Exams are typically an hour in length.

At least 2 weeks prior to the date of the Oral Exam, the Student must submit an Approval to Schedule Final Examination Form with the K-State Graduate School Office in 103 Fairchild Hall. You will need to speak with all the members of your committee and schedule a day and time when you and they are available to meet. You must also find a room for the meeting. Check with the SCTD Office to see if 009, 311, or 301 are free and sign up on the schedule there. This information is also needed on the form as are signatures and emails of all the committee members and the SCTD Department Head.

You will receive an email from the Graduate School titled “Final Defense Letter” which will confirm that your Oral is scheduled and will list any deficiencies or financial requirements you need to take care of in order to graduate and the deadlines by which they must be completed in order for you to graduate this semester. Your Major Professor will be sent a Final Examination Ballot by email which he/she will bring to the Oral Exam.

**Preparing for the Oral Exam:** Each emphasis has different requirements of paperwork and presentation materials required for the Creative Project. Check this manual to see what is required for your emphasis. In addition there may be additional requirements asked for by your Graduate Committee. These items should be delivered completed to the Major Professor at least two weeks prior to the Oral Exam. The Major Professor will make these items available to the other Committee members.

Come to the Oral prepared to talk about your project and your experience with it.

**Specifics about the Oral Exam:** Typically at an Oral Exam, the Student is asked to give a short presentation about his/her Creative Project, detailing the process, the product, and what was learned. Then the Graduate Committee members ask specific questions about the project and about the course of study.

At the conclusion of the Oral Exam, the Student will be asked to step out of the room and the Graduate Committee will deliberate and decide if the Student has passed. If so, they will sign on the “Passed” side (left side) of the Student’s Final Examination Ballot. A Student must be passed by two out of three or a majority of professors (if there are more than three on the committee) on the Graduate Committee in order to pass the Final Exam.

The Final Examination Ballot must be returned to the Graduate School office in 103 Fairchild Hall in order to notify the Graduate School that the Student is eligible to graduate.

**Other Requirements:** Students are required to fill out an online Diploma Information form to verify how you want your name on your diploma, must register for commencement, and submit an exit survey for feedback on the quality of graduate education received at K-State. The Director of Graduate Studies in Theatre will also email you an evaluation document for you to assess if we – the faculty – did a good job of helping you achieve the Student Learning Outcomes of our graduate program. (See SLOs on next page).
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
MASTER OF ARTS in Theatre with concentration in Drama Therapy
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES, THEATRE AND DANCE

The discipline of drama therapy in higher education encompasses interdisciplinary study of theatre, psychology, and drama therapy: theatre as an artistic form and as a social and cultural institution; psychology as the study of human attitudes, emotions, and behavior; drama therapy as the method for changing attitudes, emotions, and behavior through theatrical processes and products. Needed for this collaboration are theatrical knowledge and skills acquired through study and practice in classroom, studio, and public performance; knowledge of basic psychology in the areas of developmental psychology, abnormal psychology, personality theory, and group dynamics; knowledge and skills in applying drama processes and products to bring about therapeutic change in clients; the development of attitudes of ethics and professionalism in the application of drama therapy.

A Graduate of the Master of Arts Program in Theatre with concentration in drama therapy should have these basic competencies:

KNOWLEDGE

1. Knowledge of the theories and current approaches used in drama therapy.
2. Knowledge of how the disciplines of drama and psychology interact and support each other interdisciplinarily in the discipline of drama therapy.
3. Knowledge of the negative impact of stigma on non-dominant individuals and groups in our culture.
4. Knowledge of research sources and methods.
5. Knowledge of the NADT Code of Ethical Principles and how to apply ethics to practice.

SKILLS

1. Competency in drama therapy as demonstrated by the ability to use the techniques and methods of drama processes and products to effect change in attitudes, emotions, and behaviors safely and ethically with individuals and groups.
2. Competency in drama therapy as demonstrated in a final Master's Project, Report, or Thesis.
3. The ability to think critically and analytically, and the capacity to demonstrate this ability in speech.
4. The ability to think critically and analytically, and the capacity to demonstrate this ability in writing.

ATTITUDES

1. The development of professional discipline.
2. The development of an awareness of the harmful effects of stigma and a personal process through which stigma can be addressed personally and professionally.
3. The development of an ability to think and practice ethically.
4. The development of a collaborative attitude.

5. The development of sensitivity to and appreciation of the diversity of ways in which individuals from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds express themselves artistically and socially.

**STUDENT DEFICIENCIES AND PLANNING PROGRAM OF STUDY**

**Student Deficiencies:** When you arrive at K-State your Major Professor will look over your undergraduate coursework and evaluate your background to determine if you have any deficiencies relating to specific areas of theater or psychology which must be made up.

It is most helpful to have had a Fundamentals of Directing Course as drama therapists often are required to direct plays created by their clients. If you have never taken directing, it may be useful for you to take THTRE 565: Fundamentals of Directing. If you need to take this course, you may also need to take THTRE 261: Fundamentals of Acting if you have never had an acting course with script analysis.

**Planning a Program of Study:** If you wish to become a Registered Drama Therapist, you will need to complete all the drama therapy, psychology courses, and internship hours that are required by the National Association for Drama Therapy. Your Major Professor will look over your undergraduate coursework and discuss your specific interests with you to determine which psychology/family studies and human services courses you will need to take in addition to your drama therapy coursework. If you have not taken a lot of psychology at the undergraduate level, you may find that you need as many as 12-15 hours of psychology (6 hours are required for the MA).

**Alternative Training in Drama Therapy**

The National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) is the credentialing organization for professional drama therapists in the United States and Canada. NADT has created an Alternative Training Program with guidelines for students who wish to be prepared to become a Register Drama Therapist (RDT), the professional credential for drama therapists. This Program requires an MA in theater, psychology, or a field related to drama therapy; a minimum of 24 graduate hours in drama therapy coursework; a minimum of 12 hours of psychology coursework; and 800 hours of internship (with at least two different populations) which must be completed under the supervision of an NADT approved Board Certified Trainer (BCT). The Alternative Training student and the BCT create a learning contract on which all coursework and internship hours are documented. The contract is to be updated at least once a year until it is complete. Upon completion, the learning contract becomes an “official transcript” to be used when applying for the RDT in addition to your K-State transcript (which confirms that you received your MA). The BCT also writes a letter of recommendation for the RDT for the student.

Sally Bailey, the head of the drama therapy program at K-State, is a Registered Drama Therapist and Board Certified Trainer for NADT. Students in the K-State MA program in theatre with concentration in drama therapy may chose to be an Alternative Training Student under her mentorship. Because she is also your faculty advisor, your supervision and contract will considered to be part of your academic program, not separate from it. If you choose to become an AT student, you and she will develop a plan of study that will fulfill the requirements of the NADT learning contract. Most students who have chosen to become AT students have finished all, if not most, of their AT requirements during the 2 years that they completed their MA degree at K-State. Depending on their background and previous coursework, some students may need to take more than the 30 hours required for the MA degree in order to complete NADT’s requirements.

For more information on the NADT Alternative Training Program in Drama Therapy and to download an Alternative Training Handbook, see the NADT website at [www.nadt.org](http://www.nadt.org)
You may choose to do the MA in theatre with concentration in drama therapy and *not* be an Alternative Training student with the NADT.

On the following page is a comparison of the NADT requirements for registry v.s. the K-State MA requirements.
NADT Requirements for Drama Therapy

**NADT**

**Drama Therapy Courses (24 credits):**
- Principles of Drama Therapy
- Creative Drama
- Creative Arts Therapies
- Drama Therapy with Special Populations
- Psychodrama or Sociodrama
- Drama Therapy and Ethics
- Research (DT or Psychology)
- Drama Therapy Elective

**Psychology Courses (12 credits):**
- Developmental Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Theories of Personality
- Group Dynamics or Advanced Counseling Techniques

**Internship:**
- 800 clock hours of internship
- With at least 2 different populations

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K-State MA Requirements

**K-STATE MA in Theatre/DT Concentration Courses (30 credits):**

- THTRE 760: Principles of Drama Therapy
- THTRE 664: Creative Drama
- THTRE 770: Creative Arts Therapies
- THTRE 665: DT with Special Populations
- Available in summers/not required for degree
- THTRE 865: Drama Therapy and Ethics
- Not required for degree but can be elected
- THTRE 862: Workshop in Playwriting

- THTRE 870: Greek and Roman Theatre
- Another theatre elective at the graduate level
- Creative Project

**Electives in psychology or marriage and family therapy at the 600-800 level as needed.**

*(Students can work on and finish their internship hours while they are at K-State, but it is not a required part of the degree. You may take internship as credit or for no credit.)*
CREATIVE PROJECTS IN DRAMA THERAPY

There are 4 types of Creative Projects you could choose to work on:

1. Create and run a drama therapy group with a specific population.
2. Develop a psycho-educational training program for professionals around a drama therapy/creative arts therapy theme/intervention.
3. Write and/or direct a non-fiction play project.
4. Write and/or direct a therapeutic theatre company (for example, Barrier-Free Theatre).

For each of the above, you will need to:

1. Choose a population to work with.
2. Research and write a Literature Review on:
   a. the population.
   b. the methods/interventions that have been used in the past with this and other populations (similar and different).
3. Create an Intervention Plan based on the Literature Review and interviews with the specific members of the population you'll be working with, fine tune the focus of your project by identifying needs to be addressed, goals/objectives of the project, and time frame in which it will be implemented.
4. Identify your Graduate Committee (if it has not yet been formed).
5. Do the Project
   a. While doing the project, keep a list of lesson plans, a journal (process notes) of the sessions, and notes from supervision sessions.
6. Evaluation
   Using your records, write up your project
   ■ What happened
   ■ What was effective
   ■ What was not effective
   ■ What changes you would make if you did it again
   ■ What you learned about this group, the intervention, and drama therapy in general
   ■ What skills you feel you need to develop next in your growth as a drama therapist
7. Submit full written project to committee at least two weeks before oral examination.
8. At your Oral Examination your committee will interview you about your project and what you learned.

For a Research Project, there are additional steps that must be added to the process:

1. Choose a population to work with.
2. Research and write a Literature Review on:
   a. the population
   b. the methods/interventions that have been used in the past with this and other populations (similar and different)
3. Identify or develop the measures you will use for your research.
4. Create an Intervention Plan (Methods) based on the Literature Review and interviews with the specific members of the population you'll be working with, fine tune the focus of your project by identifying needs to be addressed, goals/objectives of the project, and time frame in which it will be implemented.
5. Identify your Graduate Committee (if it has not yet been formed).
6. You will need to get Institutional Review Board approval (IRB) which will involve:
   a. completing an IRB approval form
   b. completing IRB online educational modules
7. After IRB approval, do the Research, gathering the data.
   a. While doing the project, keep a list of lesson plans, a journal (process notes) of the sessions, and notes from supervision sessions.
8. Analyze/Evaluate the data you collect
9. Write a Discussion of how the methods/intervention was completed and the results of your data.
   ■ What happened?
What did you discover?
What was effective
What was not effective
What changes you would make if you did it again
What you learned about this group, the intervention, and drama therapy in general
What skills you feel you need to develop next in your growth as a drama therapist

10. **Submit full written project** to committee at least two weeks before oral examination.
11. At your **Oral Examination** your committee will interview you about your project and what you learned.

For a **Synthesis Paper**:
1. **Identify a population, intervention(s) and/or theory/set of theories** you wish to explore.
   You must be able to connect drama therapy with other disciplines (theatre, other arts, psychology, sociology, anthropology, literature, neuroscience, archeology, etc.) since Drama Therapy is by its nature an interdisciplinary field.
2. **Review relevant literature** in the interdisciplinary fields.
3. Identify unique applications, insights, new areas of study, new interventions, and new theory to explore and explore the connections among them and **explore the connections**.
4. **Conclusion**: what did you discover by doing this exploration?