

DMTCB

Dance/Movement Therapy Certification Board

Report: Job/Practice Analysis and Board Certification

The ADTA “acknowledges the BC-DMT (Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist) as the required credential for private practice of dance/movement therapy, clinical supervision in dance/movement therapy and teaching dance/movement therapy coursework beyond the introductory level. The Dance/Movement Therapy Certification Board administers and regulates the BC-DMT, as well as the entry level DMT credential, the R-DMT (Registered Dance/Movement Therapist).” The scope of practice for dance/movement therapy as defined by the ADTA is located at www.adta.org.

The Board Certification assessment process combines the intents of criterion-referenced testing and standards-based assessment. This combination addresses how well the applicant has mastered the specific body of knowledge and skills described in the Dance/Movement Therapy knowledge base and assesses *performance standards* from the multiple perspectives of the applicant him or herself, the applicant’s supervisors, and the applicant’s co-workers. The standards used cover the important knowledge and skills advanced practitioners should exhibit in their work. Applicants are assessed in three areas: Documentation, Clinical Expertise, and Theoretical and Practical Formulations.

Board certification is rooted in the original registry process that began in 1971. The evaluation process of performance assessment with portfolio review has been refined over 43 years to reflect changes in the field of mental health and their impact on dance therapy training and practice. Job analyses over the 43 years (2013, 2008, 2001, 2001, 1995/1996, 1965/1967) have targeted developments in the field.

The knowledge base for dance/movement therapy reflects a range of specific, fundamental skill domains including knowledge of dance; knowledge of skills generic to dance/movement therapy theory and practice; theoretical and historical basis of dance/movement therapy; knowledge of the human body and its functioning; methods for observation, analysis and assessment; knowledge of human development across the lifespan; knowledge of expressive and communicative functions of verbal and nonverbal behavior; clinical knowledge and methods of treatment with various client populations and settings; research in dance/movement therapy and human behavior; and professional orientation. In addition fundamental skills in basic counseling approaches are necessary: approaches that (a) facilitate human development; (b) prevent, diagnose, and treat mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders or distresses which are associated with mental health and a sense of well-being; (c) conduct, diagnostic assessments for the purpose of establishing treatment goals and objectives; and (d) plan, implement, and evaluate treatment plans using counseling treatment interventions, in the context of a pluralistic society. The content areas of the knowledge base are related to ethical standards of practice established for the

profession by ADTA and the scope of practice of dance/movement therapy. These integrated competencies are explicitly included in the scoring rubrics used to evaluate performance assessment applicant materials.

The Dance/Movement Therapy Certification Board follows National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence standards. These standards demand regular review of examination content and analysis of job/practice standards.