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TO: Art Therapy Educators and Interested Parties

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On behalf of the American Art Therapy Association (AATA), I want to take this opportunity to clarify some facts about the AATA Educations Standards (2007) and FAQs especially as it relates to clinical experience requirements in graduate art therapy education programs.

The following standards, organizations, and processes exist to support the education and certification of art therapists:

1. The AATA Education standards (2007) include the definition of the need for practicum and internship with minimum required hours in graduate art therapy programs.
2. The Education Programs Approval Board (EPAB) approves graduate art therapy programs based on the AATA Education Standards (2007).
3. The Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE) Commission of Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs CAAHEP (2016) standards include the requirement of the need for practicum and internship in graduate art therapy programs, but they do not list required hours.
4. ACATE recommends graduate art therapy programs to CAAHEP for accreditation based on the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy (2016).
5. The Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB) defines certification requirements for ATR-P, ATR, and ATR-BC that require practicum and internships with minimum required hours in graduate school programs, which matches the AATA Education standards (2007) but ATCB defines these requirements.

The AATA can only change AATA standards, not EPAB, nor CAAHEP, nor ATCB.

However, with the development and launch of ACATE in 2016, the AATA Education Standards (2007) only apply to the few remaining EPAB programs, which are transitioning to the CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Art Therapy. Therefore, the AATA Education Standards (2007) are only guidelines as it relates to EPAB approved programs, not ACATE as ACATE follows CAAHEP’s Standards.

The AATA Education Committee will not go through any more processes to change or update the AATA Education Standards (2007). Therefore, programs who are still EPAB approved abide by AATA’s 2007 educational standards.