

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\ACADEMIC AND PERSONNEL

ACTION: **Approve Addition of Pre-Art Therapy Option for Chadron State College**

Per Board Policy 4200, which requires all new academic programs to be submitted to the Board for approval, Chadron State seeks approval to add the Pre-Art Therapy Option, beginning Fall 2022.

The System Office and Chadron State College recommend approval of the Addition of Pre-Art Therapy Option for Chadron State College.

ATTACHMENTS:

- CSC Pre-Art Therapy Option Proposal - Nov 2021 FINAL (PDF)

**Chadron State College
Proposal to Add a New Option to the Art Major
in Pre-Art Therapy**

1. Descriptive Information

- a. Name of Institution
Chadron State College
- b. Name of Program
Art Program
- c. Degrees/credentials to be awarded graduates of the program
Bachelor of Arts with a Comprehensive Major in Art and an Option of Pre-Art Therapy
- d. Other programs offered in this field by the institution
Existing option areas in the Comprehensive Major in Art include Studio, Graphic Design, Museum Studies and Art Education (PK-12)
- e. CIP code
50.0701
- f. Administrative units for the program
School of Liberal Arts
Department of Communication, Music, Art, Theater
- g. Proposed delivery site(s) and type(s) of delivery if applicable
The proposed delivery site will be at Chadron State College.
The type of delivery will be predominately face-to-face instruction.
- h. Proposed date (term/year) the program will be initiated
Fall 2022
- i. Description, including credit hours and other requirements (program of study) and purpose of the proposed program.

The purpose of this new option area is to provide a career focused degree within the medical field for students who are interested in Art. This degree will prepare students for graduate school within the field of art therapy.

The proposed credit hours for this plan of study will be 120 credits. The total credits will include classes from the art core, psychology classes, and Essential Studies. Students will be required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA. All required courses must be passed with a letter grade of C or above.

Art Major with Pre-Art Therapy Option:

Art Core Requirements: List of current Art core for all Art option areas		
ART 131	Drawing	3
ART 133	2-D Design	3
ART 136	Drawing 2	3
ART 223 or Art 343	Black and White Photography or Digital Photography	3
ART 225	Printmaking 1	3
ART 227	Sculpture 1	3
ART 228	Ceramics 1	3
ART 229	Intro to Graphic Design	3
ART 230	3-D Design	3
ART 232	Painting 1	3
ART 239	Elements of Art	3
ART 298	Art History 1 Survey	3
ART 299	Art History 2 Survey	3
	Art Core Credits	39
Pre-Art Therapy Option: (All are existing courses)		
PSYC 131	Intro to Psychological Sciences	3
PSYC 254	Developmental Psychology	3
PSYC 240	Statistics for Psychology	3
PSYC 243	Abnormal Psychology	3
PSYC 251	Social Psychology	3
ART 412	Senior Thesis	3
	Pre-Art Therapy Option Credits	18
	TOTAL CREDITS	57

2. Centrality to Role and Mission

There have been multiple requests by students for an Art Therapy option area. Being a learner-centered institution, it was important for the Art Program to respond to the changing needs and interests of the students. The degree offered is career focused and will provide students with the potential to serve their community through their profession. It will also provide them with the necessary skills and education to pursue a graduate degree, which will lead to obtaining credentials in art therapy.

3. Evidence of Need and Demand

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), projects a 13% growth of employment between 2019-2029 for “counselors all other”¹.

The Nebraska Art Therapy Licensure Coalition states there are “currently 13 Registered Art Therapists (ATR) throughout Nebraska to serve a population of 1.92 million people. The majority of professional art therapists are clustered in the Omaha [and] Lincoln metro areas”². Even though there are only 13 Registered Art Therapists, there are many more who are practicing without a license. This is exemplified through U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimation of over 100 art therapists currently practicing in Nebraska³.

The discrepancy between the licensed art therapists and unlicensed art therapists has come under the attention of Senator Joni Albrecht of Nebraska who has recently filed a bill, LB 325, which requires art therapists practicing in Nebraska to have appropriate credentials as approved by the American Art Therapy Association. This bill requires all therapists who currently offer art therapy without credentials to become licensed⁴. This shift in requirements for art therapy should be recognized as we discuss the need of art therapists within Nebraska as this will influence our potential student population.

In addition to the regional need for art therapy, there have been multiple students who have inquired about art therapy in the last three years. Students have requested this degree and then reluctantly chosen another option area or degree when we could not provide this option.

- Two students are currently completing an Interdisciplinary degree at Chadron State College so they can fulfill the required courses needed to apply for art therapy graduate school. These two students are following the art core and taking other art courses, but are not counted towards the Art Program’s graduation numbers.
- Two students have accepted that CSC does not have this degree and have since chosen another option area.
- Another student has stopped attending Chadron State College and is now attending a college in New Mexico.

This list exemplifies five different students who have expressed interest in this area of study. This list demonstrates a shift in student interest and need. The Art Program believes we should be sensitive to the shifting educational interests of students and assist students who are interested in art with being career focused. The Pre-Art Therapy plan of study will be a pre-professional degree that will allow the Art Program to fill the need of incoming freshmen or transfer students who want to work within art and have a solid job prospect. Art therapists have the ability to work in a variety of fields including hospitals, mental health agencies, domestic violence agencies, Veterans Associations, community health agencies, private practice, nursing and rehabilitation facilities, prisons, agencies that work with children who have experienced trauma, alcohol and substance treatment facilities, and hospice.

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/emp-by-detailed-occupation.htm>

² <https://nearttherapylicensurecoalition.weebly.com/frequently-asked-questions.html>

³ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291129.htm>

⁴ <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/AM/AM527.pdf>

According to the Bureau of Labor, Art therapists are categorized as “therapists, all other”, of which has a National median annual wage of \$57,310⁵. Nebraska’s median wage is \$53,210- \$61,980. Although salaries are dependent upon location and demand, this provides a glimpse of a potential salary for a student choosing art therapy for their career⁶.

With student interest, the new legislation requiring licensure of art therapists in Nebraska and the BLS projection of 13% growth within this field, Chadron State College has an opportunity to prepare students entering this field and to help currently practicing unlicensed art therapists prepare for their graduate degree in art therapy⁷. This pre-professional degree in art therapy will provide a benefit for the student population but will not create an added cost for Chadron State College.

4. Adequacy of Resources

a. Faculty and Staff Resources

There will not be any added faculty or staff needed for this new option area. CSC is able to utilize existing instructional resources at this time, as all courses are existing courses that are currently offered.

b. Physical Facilities

There will not be any new physical facilities needed for this new option area. We will use existing resources at this time.

c. Instructional Equipment and Informational Resources

Since all courses are currently being offered on a regular basis at Chadron State College, there will not be any new requirements or additional resources needed at this time.

d. Budget Projections

Since all courses for this new option area are currently offered on a regular basis, and there are available seats in each of the courses to accommodate additional students interested in this option, there will not be any additional costs at this time.

5. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

Currently, the Nebraska State College System does not offer an Art Therapy or Pre-Art Therapy degree. Listed in the chart below are the regional art therapy programs that are currently available from the identified institutions.

⁵ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291129.htm>

⁶ <https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes291129.htm>

⁷ <https://www.bls.gov/emp/tables/emp-by-detailed-occupation.htm>

Institution	Location	Degree	Distance
Concordia University	Seward, NE	Bachelor of Arts in Art Therapy	431 miles
Naropa University	Boulder, CO	Master of Arts in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology, concentration in Art Therapy	301 miles
Emporia State University	Emporia, KS	Master of Science in Art Therapy Master of Science in Art Therapy Counseling Master of Science in Art Therapy & Clinical Psychology- dual curriculum program	627 miles
Southwestern College	Santa Fe, NM	Master of Arts in Art Therapy/Counseling Master of Arts in Art Therapy for Clinical Professionals	646 Miles
Southern IL University	Edwardsville, IL	Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling	990 miles

6. Consistency with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education

Section Three, Part B of the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education focuses on workforce development and preparing graduates for careers. This new option area for art, Pre-Art Therapy, will be a career-focused degree that prepares students to apply for graduate school to obtain the required credentials to practice art therapy. Recently, Nebraska Senator Joni Albrecht introduced Legislative Bill 325⁸. This bill states that art therapists practicing in Nebraska will be required to have appropriate credentials as approved by the American Art Therapy Association. LB 325 was filed on March 15, 2021. This degree will be a pre-professional degree that places students on the right path to follow through with the most recent requirements coming from the Nebraska State Legislature.

Section Three, Part E, focuses on attendance, retention, and dropout rates of students. The Art Program has had multiple requests for art therapy by potential, current, and previous students. Chadron State College Art Program has lost students due to the lack of a specific Pre-Art Therapy Option or students have settled for a degree that is not career focused. The Art Program would like to address this issue and fill the need for a career-focused Pre-Art Therapy Option.

⁸ <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/107/PDF/AM/AM527.pdf>