

NORTH AMERICAN

DRAMA THERAPY

ASSOCIATION

Education Policy Update June 2023

June 10, 2023

To NADTA MA, AT/MA Drama Therapy Students, Drama Therapy Educators, and BCTs,

This Education Policy Update refers to [Interim Policy Change due to COVID-19](#) and [Telehealth Video Policy Changes](#). It is also linked at the bottom of this [webpage](#).

The [Interim Policy Change due to COVID-19](#) was introduced on 6/23/2020 and will end on 6/23/2023. The board has gathered feedback from students, educators, and members in the past months on how the pandemic has shifted Drama Therapy training, internships, and job placements.

The board voted to **EXTEND** Interim Policy Change due to COVID-19: B - Group Defined/ Group or 1:1 Ratio for ONE year to 6/23/2024.

- NADTA allows university and AT programs to lift the 50/50% ratio for students doing internships, either leading 1:1 or group interventions from 6/23/2020 to 6/22/2024
- Students in internships on and after 6/23/2024 will require at least 50% (150 hours) of the direct-client contact time must be group work, while the remaining 50% (150 hours) may be with individuals, couples, and families. All 300 hours may be group work.

The Interim Policy due to COVID-19: A - Client Hours, C - Placements, and D - Post Graduation Experience Hours will be **EXPIRED**. The policies are back to pre-pandemic ones before 6/23/2020.

We also received feedback regarding the requirement of working with at least two different populations with distinct identity markers that will inform clinical practice (e.g., age, ability, culture, sexuality) during the internship. The definition of the different populations is expansive. For example, working with children and parents counts as two different populations as they are in different age categories. Please note that applicant could work with two different populations at one internship site. If not, the applicant may need to intern at two different sites.

The [Telehealth Video Policy](#) changes were introduced on 5/16/2020. The board agrees that telehealth is here to stay, and we value in-person work. We encourage students to have both experience in-person and telehealth internships. Under the discretion of department and program review and supervisor or BCT acceptance, the board **strongly encourages** students to have 60% of the in-person experience. And the remaining 40% may be telehealth. All internship hours may be in-person.

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We would also like to use this opportunity to highlight some of our P-RDT / RDT application requirements and tips. We use the [Alternative Training Handbook](#) as a guide. It is a helpful tool for both Alternative Training students and students in NADTA-accredited programs. Students, educators, and BCTs can also find the handbook on the [Alternative Training Page](#).

1. Supervision is required during internships. The ratio is 1 hour of supervision for every 10 hours of direct hours. Supervisors need to provide adequate supervision. (Please refer to p. 23 of the [Alternative Training Handbook](#) for details.)
2. Students are encouraged to document all certificates of conferences, classes, and workshops outside their AT contract or all NADTA-approved graduate program-required coursework. These hours could be counted under the 500 hours of advanced clinical training. Students are encouraged to submit NADTA conference evaluations to get their certificates when attending the NADTA conference. (Please refer to Basic Eligibility Requirements on the [RDT application](#) for details.)
3. Definition of direct and in-direct hours (Please refer to [RDT application](#) for details.):
 - a. Direct hours refers to the hour that the drama therapist/drama therapy student sees clients face to face in person or through telehealth.
 - b. Indirect hours may include staff meetings, preparing for sessions, contact notes, reviewing professional materials, and other administrative work.
4. A helpful tip for finding information about NADTA questions in mind is to Google "NADTA + the thing in mind" (for example, "NADTA RDT application")

We are grateful for your patience regarding the adjustments made by the board members, education chair, registry committee, and NADTA committees. We are working towards determining healthy next steps for the future of our thriving NADTA. Thank you for your understanding.

Best Regards,

The NADTA Board of Directors