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](http://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.


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.