

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY (MExpArtsTh)**

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

*These regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Expressive Arts Therapy in the academic year 2017-18 and thereafter.*

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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### **Admission requirements**

MEXAT 1. To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the degree of Master of Expressive Arts Therapy, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall hold a Bachelor's degree of this University, preferably in a field related to social sciences, healthcare, education or the arts disciplines; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
- (c) for a candidate who is seeking admission on the basis of a qualification from a university or comparable institution outside Hong Kong of which the language of teaching and/or examination is not English, shall satisfy the University English language requirement applicable to higher degrees as prescribed under General Regulation G2(b);
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required; .
- (e) shall submit an arts portfolio to demonstrate proficiency in using at least one arts form (visual art, music, dance, drama, poetry); and
- (f) shall preferably have had a minimum of three years of post-qualification experience in the relevant fields.

MEXAT 2. An application for exemption from the above requirements shall be considered on a case by case basis.

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### **Qualifying examination**

MEXAT 3.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report.
  - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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### **Award of degree**

MEXAT 4. To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Expressive Arts Therapy, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations and the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (b) shall complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

## **Period of study**

### **MEXAT 5.**

The curriculum shall normally extend over two academic years of full-time study; or three academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of three academic years of full-time study or five academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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## **Exemption**

MEXAT 6. Candidates may be exempted, with or without special conditions attached, from the requirement prescribed in the regulations and syllabuses governing the curriculum with the approval of the Board of the Faculty, except in the case of a capstone experience. Approval for exemption of a capstone experience may be granted only by the Senate with good reasons. Candidates who are so exempted must replace the number of exempted credits with courses of the same credit value.

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## **Completion of curriculum**

MEXAT 7. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula and follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed assignments and assessments of:

- (a) 10 compulsory courses;
  - (b) 2 elective courses;
  - (c) 500 to 750 hours of practicum; and
  - (d) a dissertation in accordance with MEXAT 8 as prescribed in the syllabuses.
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## **Dissertation**

MEXAT 8. Subject to the provision of Regulation MEXAT 7(d), candidates shall complete a dissertation in the final academic year of study. Candidates shall submit the title of dissertation for approval by March 31 of the final academic year of study and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study. The length of dissertation should not exceed 20,000 words. Candidates shall submit a statement that the dissertation represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

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## **Assessment**

### **MEXAT 9.**

- (a) Candidates shall be assessed for each of the courses for which they have registered, and assessment may be conducted in any combination of continuous assessment of coursework, written examinations and/or any other assessable activities. Only passed courses will earn credits.
- (b) Students will be assessed by multiple assessment methods, including continuous and terminal assessments. Assessment methods will take the form of class presentations, examinations, projects, term papers, and coursework assignments. A final performance evaluation will be used to assess the practicum placement. To complete the curriculum, candidates shall satisfy the examiners in the examination of courses as prescribed in the curriculum.

MEXAT 10. Candidates shall not be permitted to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade for the purpose of upgrading.

MEXAT 11. Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners at their first attempt, in not more than half of the number of courses to be examined, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic years of study, may be permitted to make up for the failed course(s) in the following manner:

- (a) undergoing re-assessment/re-examination in the failed course to be held no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
- (b) re-submitting failed coursework, without having to repeat the same course of instruction; or
- (c) repeating the failed course by undergoing instruction and satisfying the assessments; or
- (d) for elective courses, taking another course in lieu and satisfying the assessment requirements.

MEXAT 12. Candidates who have not satisfactorily completed any prescribed practicum placement may be permitted to undertake an additional period of practicum placement to be specified by the Head of the Department. Candidates who are not permitted to undertake the additional period of practicum placement or have failed to satisfy the examiners at their second attempt may be required to discontinue their studies.

MEXAT 13. Subject to the provision of Regulation MEXAT 8, candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory dissertation may be permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation within an approved specified period.

MEXAT 14. Candidates who are unable because of their illness to be present at the written examination of any course may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination of the same course to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within two weeks of the first day of the candidate's absence from any examination. Any supplementary examination shall be part of that academic year's examinations, and the provision made in the regulations for failure at the first attempt shall apply accordingly.

MEXAT 15. There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.

MEXAT 16. Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-assessment/re-examination in any failed course(s) or to repeat the failed course(s) or take another course in lieu under Regulation MEXAT 11; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners at a second attempt in any course(s); or
- (c) are not permitted to submit a new or revised dissertation under Regulation MEXAT 13; or
- (d) have failed to submit a satisfactory new or revised dissertation under Regulation MEXAT 13; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration

may be required to discontinue their studies.

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## Grading System

MEXAT 17. Individual courses should be graded according to the following grading system:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

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## Classification of awards

MEXAT 18. On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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## SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY

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### PURPOSE

The Department of Social Work and Social Administration offers a postgraduate curriculum leading to the degree of Master of Expressive Arts Therapy. The curriculum is designed to train students to be highly qualified practitioners of expressive arts therapy in the fields of healthcare, education, and community development. The curriculum shall extend over not less than two or more than three academic years of full-time study; or not less than three and not more than five academic years of part-time study, inclusive of intervening vacations.

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### EXEMPTION

Candidates may be granted exemption of up to 2 compulsory courses in recognition of studies completed in related areas. Exemption will only be considered in special circumstances and each application for exemption will be considered on its own merit. Candidates with exemption granted are required to take an additional elective course to replace the exempted compulsory course to meet the degree requirements.

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## **CURRICULUM**

Candidates are required to complete 10 compulsory courses (6 credits each) and 2 elective courses (6 credits each), a practicum (36 credits) and a dissertation (12 credits), with a total of 120 credits. Each course comprises the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

Candidates may be approved to enroll up to 2 courses offered by other postgraduate curriculum of the Faculty as substitute of elective courses in this curriculum. The substitute must be relevant to expressive arts therapy and comprise the equivalent of at least thirty-six contact hours.

In addition, candidates are required to complete a practicum and a dissertation. They are expected to devote 500 to 750 hours to the practicum and present a final progress report.

### **Compulsory courses**

Candidates shall complete the following courses.

#### *Expressive Arts Therapy*

- EXAT7001. Theory and principles of expressive arts therapy (6 credits)
- EXAT7002. Expressive arts studio (6 credits)
- EXAT7003. Community applications of creative process (6 credits)
- EXAT7004. Facilitating creative process and expression (6 credits)
- EXAT7005. Group creative process and expression (6 credits)
- EXAT7006. Professional practice and ethics in expressive arts therapy (6 credits)

#### *General Helping Professions*

- MSBH6106. Abnormal psychology (6 credits)
- MSBH7005. Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health(6 credits)
- SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development (6 credits)
- SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach (6 credits)

### **Elective courses**

Candidates shall complete two of the following courses.

- EXAT7100. Special topics in expressive arts therapy (6 credits)
- EXAT7101. Fundamentals of music therapy (6 credits)
- EXAT7102. Fundamentals of drama therapy (6 credits)
- EXAT7103. Fundamentals of art therapy (6 credits)
- EXAT7104. Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy (6 credits)
- MSBH6101. Counselling and psychotherapy (6 credits)
- SOWK6206. Play therapy in counselling (6 credits)
- SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)
- SOWK6274. Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)

(Note: not all elective courses will necessarily be offered in a given year.)

### **Capstone Experience Courses (Compulsory)**

Candidates shall complete the following courses:

- EXAT7020. Expressive arts therapy practicum and supervision (36 credits)
  - EXAT7022. Dissertation(12 credits)
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## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### *Compulsory Courses*

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#### **EXAT7001. Theory and principles of expressive arts therapy (6 credits)**

As the introductory course in expressive arts therapy, students will be immersed in the development, history and overview of expressive arts therapy. Students will be grounded in the foundational theories of the field by learning to appreciate and integrate a diverse array of psychotherapy, philosophical, spiritual and educational concepts. This initial course will engage students in a critical reflection of the ancient roots and more contemporary influences on the place of the arts in medicine to understand the philosophical underpinnings that guide expressive arts therapist. They will come to see the place of expressive arts therapy in the overall context of health promotion, educational achievement and community development.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **EXAT7002. Expressive arts studio (6 credits)**

The creative process is a driving force of human innovation and healing. In all cultures at various times in history, the arts have played a crucial role in health. In order for this force to be fully engaged, practitioners must have first-hand experience of the creative process. With a primary focus on experiential learning and studio practice, students will participate in visual art, music, dance/movement, drama, photography and writing activities to explore the theme of “Who am I?”. By gaining comfort with various arts forms, students will be immersed in their own creative process in order to learn how the arts can be a way of knowing the world. This knowledge will serve as a primary force for students to apply creative experiences in the context of expressive arts therapy. Students will gain appreciation for Paolo Knill’s ideas of “low skill, high sensitivity” in order to promote the importance of integrating various art forms by remaining empathic to client needs.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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#### **EXAT7003. Community applications of creative process (6 credits)**

Expressive arts therapists frequently find themselves working in diverse settings across the healthcare, educational and community sectors. Astute practitioners often need to adapt to various work cultures while maintaining the core principles of the profession. This course primarily focuses on essential questions practitioners need to address when applying expressive arts therapy to various workplaces—such as clinics, hospitals, schools, and community centers. In addition to setting considerations, expressive arts therapists need to become culturally aware and competent to effectively work with clients from socially and culturally diverse populations. Students will learn how to conceptualize and formulate objectives, goals, interventions, and evaluation methods to match the requirements and mission of different settings. The course will also immerse students in how to engage supervision to inform their adaptations and enhance their professional development.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**EXAT7004. Facilitating creative process and expression (6 credits)**

The main task of the expressive arts therapist is to apply the transformative process of creativity to the benefit of a client. At the root of successful expressive arts therapy is to foster empathic relationships, empower client strengths, nurture creativity and identify possible obstacles to engaging with clients. The focus of this course is on how to form and sustain a therapeutic relationship with an individual in expressive arts therapy. Students will learn the stages of the expressive arts therapy process that include beginning/introductory, middle/working, and ending/termination stages, as well as, how those stages affect intervention design. Major emphases will be on facilitating active imagination and the importance of the triangular relationship among expressive arts therapist, client and art product to further treatment and healing. Client-centered processes will form the foundation for engaging clients and inform culturally-competent, phenomenological based methods of interpretation and responsive art making. Cultivating self-awareness and retaining an accepting stance for clients, students will examine the intricacies and benefits of expressive arts therapy.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**EXAT7005. Group creative process and expression (6 credits)**

Group dynamics bring their own challenges and opportunities to expressive arts therapy. Members of a group can influence creative expression in subtle or overt ways. The carefully attuned group expressive arts therapist has strong core knowledge in theories of group dynamics and how artistic process affects them. Particular attention will be paid to how to help group members provide verbal and arts-based feedback to each other within a safe and secure environment. Considerations for how to effectively facilitate group expressive arts therapy in terms of goals, structure, and outcomes will be further discussed. Learning to discern and identify systems and patterns, students will gain competency for how to further group process through the intentional application of expressive arts therapy. Specific strategies for engaging unwilling or disruptive clients will also be included.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**EXAT7006. Professional practice and ethics in expressive arts therapy (6 credits)**

Expressive arts therapists constantly have to act in ways that take into account what is best for their clients, agencies, and society. When sessions do not go according to prescribed plans, there is a need to make decisions in ambiguous situations when multiple courses of action may be considered beneficial or detrimental depending on the context. By analyzing the codes of ethics of leading expressive arts therapy associations alongside the codes of practices of other disciplines that guide practice in Hong Kong, students will understand how to use them to inform their practice. There will be specific emphasis on core matters related to expressive arts therapy, such as confidentiality, duty to warn and protect, progress notes, storing artwork, and maintaining records. The course will encourage students to think critically, while acting intentionally, especially in the face of needing to adhere to multiple sets of ethical codes and in various work settings.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MSBH6106. Abnormal psychology (6 credits)**

This graduate level course will expose students to past and current research regarding concepts of “abnormal” behaviour, and the processes of clinical assessment of various types of psychological disorders – particularly the neurotic, psychotic, and mood disorders. A variety of in-class exercises – including small group discussion and video tapes are used to understand mental disorders. A number of controversial and culturally-relevant issues in abnormal psychology will also be explored and discussed in the course, such as helping seeking behavior of different cultural groups, and labeling effects of diagnosis. etc. References will be made to our Chinese local context. Case examples will be shared to enhance students’ learning. The newest edition of the multi-axial *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5, 2013)* will serve as the explanatory basis for the description and analysis of these dysfunctional conditions. Although this is not a “therapy course”, we will also glance at accepted treatment strategies for particular diagnostic categories.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MSBH7005. Scientific inquiry and research methods in behavioral health (6 credits)**

This course covers the nature and logic of scientific inquiry, and fundamental concepts like truth, reality, knowledge, and theory. Basic quantitative and qualitative research methods and research ethics are covered; advanced research methods and specific approaches in behavioral health e.g. social network analysis, use of images and movement in research, etc will also be introduced. Students will learn to be critical consumers of the scientific literature. Towards the end of the course, students are required to prepare a research proposal in which classroom learning can be applied to practical examples in behavioral health.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6158. Critical issues in human development (6 credits)**

This course examines factors affecting human development through an exploration of the normal patterns of growth from infancy to old age. Individual, social, and familial conditions affecting growth at different stages in the life cycle will be studied, together with related problems of adaptation and adjustment, with particular foci on current thinking in the field of developmental psychology.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6199. Assessment and interventions in mental health: A clinical case management approach (6 credits)**

Students will be given the opportunity to examine various clinical issues regarding the assessment and interventions on persons with mental health problems such as Depression, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia and Personality Disorders. Students are expected to actively participate in role plays and case discussions. A clinical case management approach will be adopted for this course.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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## *Elective Courses*

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### **EXAT7100. Special topics in expressive arts therapy (6 credits)**

The special topics course is for advanced applications and specific approaches to expressive arts therapy that may arise in order to provide students with timely practices, innovative interventions, and specialty areas.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **EXAT7101. Fundamentals of music therapy (6 credits)**

Through both listening to and actively making music, the intentional application of sound and music in therapy has been used for a variety of purposes. Expressive arts therapists who wish to use music in treatment have to become aware of how the properties of rhythm, pitch, and tempo affect all levels of healing from expression to relaxation. By increasing comfort with a variety of musical instruments, genres and styles, students can identify when to offer specific interventions to advance therapy and healing. In becoming secure in the history and foundational theories of the field of music therapy, practitioners can locate their work in a larger theoretical context, while being mindful of cultural variances and considerations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **EXAT7102. Fundamentals of drama therapy (6 credits)**

Theatre and dramatic activity have often been used to communicate essential truths and to express particular values. Within the context of therapy, drama allows clients to recreate life experiences, imagine new ones, and experiment with alternate endings and choices. Through re-enactment or witnessing others tell one's story, acting is essential modality of healing. Understanding the history and theory of the fields of drama therapy while taking into consideration such activities as improvisation or pantomime can learn to offer drama in therapeutic and educational settings. Developing cultural sensitivity, self-awareness and critical appreciation will allow students to be competent in offering drama activities with clients.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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### **EXAT7103. Fundamentals of art therapy (6 credits)**

This course is designed for helping service professionals, educators, and artists to learn about the practice and profession of art therapy. Content area covered will focus on history, theories and application of art therapy with various populations. In addition to lectures and discussions, students will participate in experiential art workshops to facilitate their understanding of the expressive nature of art making. Although this course does not qualify students to practice art therapy, students will gain awareness of art in therapeutic settings and how to ethically apply art making in their work settings. This course is based on the education standards of the American Art Therapy Association.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**EXAT7104. Fundamentals of dance and movement therapy (6 credits)**

As one of the modalities engaged by creative and expressive arts therapists, dance and movement allow individuals to express, communicate, and engage in healing through their bodies. Engaged in a variety of clinical and educational settings, dance and movement can be engaged as effective nonverbal interventions. In order to be able to use it effectively, practitioners must be grounded in anatomy, comfortable with their own body awareness, and attuned to the artistic, social, and cultural influences that affect movement. By exploring the history of the field of dance and movement therapy and the various ways to involve the body in therapy, students will be able to use dance and/or movement as a way to help facilitate the process during interventions with clinical and non-clinical populations.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**MSBH6101. Counselling and psychotherapy (6 credits)**

This course examines the basic tenets and therapeutic processes of the major counselling and psychotherapy approaches available to modern-day practitioners. It covers basic counselling skills and core issues in counselling practice, such as values, ethics, socio-cultural awareness, therapeutic alliance and use of self. The therapeutic models are clustered according to the four major forces in psychotherapy: psychodynamic, behavioral/cognitive-behavioral, humanistic/experiential and contextual/systemic. Students are expected to be active seekers of knowledge and to participate actively in collective learning. Emphasis is placed on the cultivation of independent, critical, and reflective thought through reading, discussion and experiential learning.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6206. Play therapy (6 credits)**

This course introduces the class to the use of play therapy in working with children, adolescents and families. The students will be presented with the essential elements and principles of play therapy, including historical development, theoretical modalities, basic techniques and applications.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**SOWK6259. Contemporary perspectives on death, dying and bereavement (6 credits)**

Death is an inevitable life experience for everyone. Death-related problem is one of the commonest issues that clients brought to counselling, but is also rated as the most uncomfortable scenario by beginning counsellors. This course is aimed to orientate those in helping profession the updated knowledge and intervention on death, dying and bereavement. Reviewing major theories related to death, including end-of-life situation, suicide, trauma and bereavement, the students are expected to have a better understanding of the universality of impermanence, and the impact of death towards individuals and societies. Updated intervention strategies on end-of-life care and bereavement care will be introduced. It is hoped to equip those who are working with or going to work with clients facing death, dying and bereavement with both the knowledge and practical competence.

Assessment: 100% coursework

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**SOWK6274. Theories and practices in positive psychology and strength-based interventions (6 credits)**

Positive Psychology emphasizes the discovery and cultivation of human strengths and potential for a flourishing life, and strength-based interventions include counseling and therapy models that foster psychological well-being and reduce distress and symptoms in clients. This course critically reviews the theory and practice of positive psychology, including the study of happiness, character strengths, optimism, resilience, compassion, meaning, goals, flow, creativity and hope and their relevance to psychological health and psychotherapy, as well as strength-oriented interventions which include mindfulness-based, compassion-based and valued-based models. The cultural relevance of Positive Psychology and strength-based interventions will also be examined.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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*Capstone Experience Courses*

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**EXAT7020. Expressive arts therapy practicum and supervision (36 credits)**

The clinical practicum focuses on the integration of theory into practice with expressive arts therapy. Students engage in approximately 500 to 750 practicum hours of prescribed work in a clinical internship with regular supervision. A practice supervisor will be assigned to supervise the student's clinical work, provide both informal and formal feedback and to facilitate completion of the practicum report. The report should essentially be an evaluation of the clinical application of behavioral intervention provided by the student. Individual and group supervision will be provided.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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**EXAT7022. Dissertation (12 credits)**

Students are expected to complete a scholarly dissertation in the form of a research study or an in-depth case study that demonstrates insights for professional practice. The length of dissertation should not exceed 20,000 words. The title of the dissertation shall be submitted for approval by not later than March 31 of the final academic year of study, and the dissertation shall be presented by not later than August 1 of the final academic year of study.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

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