AATA has been involved for many years in building a structure to provide for independent credentialing of art therapists, national competency examinations, a nationwide network of art therapy academic programs, rigorous education and clinical training standards, and national program accreditation that will preserve art therapy’s identity as a distinct profession and assure ample employment and reimbursement opportunities for professionals with art therapy degrees.

Consider the following:

- AATA acted in 2010 to provide for certification of qualified art therapists through a separate independent organization, the Art Therapy Credentials Board (ATCB).
- The ATCB has over 20 years’ experience developing and administering national competency examinations for art therapists seeking both certification and licensure.
- AATA has adopted revised academic standards that mirror recent improvements in program accreditation standards for other licensed mental health professions.
- AATA has received approval by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) to form an independent committee to accredit art therapy master’s degree programs under national standards established by the Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
- AATA has petitioned the Bureau of Labor Statistics to revise the SOC code for art therapy to accurately classify art therapy as a distinct mental health discipline.
- Art therapy has a network of 39 art therapy master’s degree programs approved by a separate Education Programs Approval Board, with two academic institutions seeking approval to form new programs.
- Art therapists have gained licensure in 9 states, qualifying art therapists for insurance and Medicaid reimbursement; AATA chapters in at least 12 states have introduced licensure bills or are involved in state sunrise reviews as prerequisites for introducing legislation.