

Application FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions

When does the system open up for people to be able to complete their application?

The Memberclicks application portal opens two months before the application is due (typically around the 15th of January for the March 15th deadline, and June 15th for the August deadline). Please also refer to the Timeline support document as some required items have long lead times.

I have the P-RDT and am ready to apply for the RDT credential, which application do I fill out next?

You would fill out the P-RDT Part B application. The full RDT application is Part A and Part B combined. Please make sure you are selecting the correct application to fill out.

I would like to apply for the RDT credential but was not able to pay membership dues last year. When would I be able to apply for RDT?

You would need to update your membership standing by paying last year's dues plus the current year. Please contact the NADTA office office@nadta.org Once you are current with membership, you can apply for RDT.

My membership lapsed. Does this affect my RDT credential already awarded?

The RDT and BCT credential is not valid if membership dues lapse, and you must follow reinstatement process. Please refer to the Reinstatement process on the NADTA website and submitted through your memberclicks account.

I received my undergraduate degree in another country and a transcript is difficult to obtain. Is this a problem?

You are only required to submit an undergraduate transcript if you are claiming theatre hours for it. If there are extenuating circumstances in claiming theatre hours, this will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Can I count my Drama Therapy coursework towards my 500 Drama/Theatre hours?

No. These are two separate requirements. Drama/Theatre knowledge and experience is the foundation for our work as drama therapists. Theatre courses taken at the College/University level can count toward these hours, but they must be taken from a program separate from an NADTA approved program or courses required to complete AT training such as a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Theatre.

If I have already completed internship hours, would I be able to start accruing professional hours even if I have not graduated yet from an accredited Drama Therapy program?

*1,500 hours of professional experience as a drama therapist is required to become a Registered Drama Therapist. You may start to accrue these 1,500 hours before you graduate from your M.A. program in drama therapy, or before you complete all the requirements of Alternative Training if you have completed all your core coursework and your internship is complete. **Professional hours are NOT an extension of Internship hours.** They are hours accrued in a professional capacity in a paid setting. You **MUST** wait one year after your M.A. degree is completed to apply for your RDT. (If you graduated in May or June the year before you can apply for registry for the next year's March 15th deadline.) If you already had your M.A. before beginning alternative training, you do not need to wait one year if all other requirements have been met. The order of events is important. NADTA devised the P-RDT so a credential toward RDT could be recognized by employers once you graduate, however, this provisional credential can only be awarded once the educational component of coursework and internship is complete.*

I would like to count hours as paid professional drama therapy after the initial 1,000 minimum hours have been met to meet the 1,500 hours requirement. Do I still need to use the ratio of at least 50% direct hours to 50% indirect hours?

Yes, the same ratio of direct to indirect hours in continuing these hours need to be used, as this is an extension of the same category of Professional hours. This also applies to supervision. The same 10 hours of direct client contact to 1 hour of supervision applies.

I am working towards licensure in my state, can I use that ratio instead?

No, the NADTA has its own requirement for supervision.

I have just received my new RDT credential, but already paid for my student membership for this year. Do I need to pay the difference between the membership fees?

You do not need to pay the difference in the current year, however will pay for that level of credential in the next renewal cycle.

Can hours in research work be counted as professional hours in RDT application?

This would depend on whether this research project was supervised. For the most part, research does not count toward professional hours, only educational. If the research was a paid, supervised activity, then perhaps it would qualify. Keep in mind the required Direct Client Hours, Indirect Hours, Supervision ratios. It would need to be well documented and be applicable to the Drama Therapy space.

I notice that the Alternative Training contract has been updated. I have the older contract with my BCT and already have signatures from prior internship supervisors on last year's submitted contract, what do I do in this case? Can I attach the old contract? Do I have to go back to these supervisors and make them sign again? Or should I just update the old contract without copy pasting on the new version, knowing that we started prior to this revised version.

*Please continue to use the original AT Contract. There are fields for continuing renewal dates. This contract will be honored, although **you should be aware and referencing the new contract for the correct new requirements**. This is a transitional period for the contracts, so we are trying to be as flexible as possible with this process. While the updated AT contract has been in use during 2022, **We do expect that all new Alternative Training / BCT Contracts commenced from January 2023 onward use the new/current contract.***

Last year I downloaded the 1000 Professional hours form and the 500 Additional Experience hours form, both of which I had already started filling out. Now I see only one Professional hours and Additional Experience form for 1500 hours. Do I need to only use the new form?

The newer form was created to both clarify the ratio of post-graduate professional hours and additional training requirements, as well as to streamline the application process. Again, this is a transitional period for application forms, so we are trying to be as flexible as possible. Whenever possible (and certainly from January 2023) we request the newer combined 1500 hours form be used. However, if the process to complete the newer form from a prior completed form is not possible, (ie: with supervisor signatures before January 2023) then the older form will be accepted.

In the basic eligibility requirements, it indicates I need to be supervised by a credentialed mental health professional--does that include a psychiatrist? In other words, if I'm being supervised by a psychiatrist does that count towards RDT?

Yes, as long as the Psychiatrist is licensed / credentialed. The Psychiatrist must have a grounding in experiential work (it would not benefit anyone otherwise). You must have 1 hour of Supervision for every 10 hours direct client contact.

How soon will I hear about my credential after the application submission deadline?

*The review process for all applicants typically takes 6 weeks. Applicants are notified as a cohort as soon as all **completed** applications have been reviewed.*

What is the recommended timeline for completing the RDT application?

- *8-10 weeks: AT students should set up a meeting with their BCT to review internship hours and AT contract.*
- *9 weeks: Double check that you are up to date on your NADTA membership.*
- *6-8 weeks: request undergraduate and graduate transcripts be sent directly to the NADTA office from the institution you attended. Please note, that International students may need to request transcripts earlier.*
 - *Write Theatre/Drama Essay.*

- Review and complete Drama/Theatre experience hours. Remember if you have a degree in theatre, this is complete.
- 6 weeks: reach out to your references. Ask them if they will write your recommendation, provide them with the form (top portion completed by you) and instructions and ask them to email it to credentialing@nadta.org.
- 4-5 weeks: Review Professional Experience Hours forms. Make sure supervisor signatures are on each Professional hours form that will be uploaded. Double check ratios of direct hours to supervision (10:1).
- 3 weeks:
 - Complete Drama Therapy Orientation essay.
 - Read and sign the NADTA CODE OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES.
 - Continue working on getting forms signed.
- 2 weeks: finish up anything that still needs to be completed. Follow up with your references reminding them that they will get an email from the NADTA when you apply. They can also email the office directly at office@nadta.org before you submit if they prefer to get it in early.
- 1 week: Pay the application fee and apply online. Aiming to apply early allows time for any unexpected circumstances that arise to be handled well before the deadline.

I have some questions about how my application was submitted, and I want to make sure it is complete. Who do I contact regarding this?

Please contact the NADTA office office@nadta.org regarding your submission. Applicants are responsible for making sure all requirements are sent to the NADTA office, or uploaded to their own NADTA application Memberclicks account **The Registry Committee does not receive or track any applications until the submission package is deemed complete by the NADTA office, and only then is it released to the Review Committee. None of these materials should be sent directly to the Registry.**

I have opened an application and have processed some of the items needed, but find I am missing a couple of signatures I was counting on for supervision from people no longer available. Since I will likely not make the current deadline in completing my application, what happens to my submission materials between the current deadline and the next one?

Incomplete applications are moved to the next submission period. You must communicate with the NADTA office office@nadta.org regarding your intentions with your application so that whatever is submitted can be held and tracked.