

# **AMTA ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA for Institutional Use Regarding the NASM Alternative Review Process**

**July 2010**

AMTA requires NASM accreditation as one criterion for the approval of music therapy degree programs in institutions of higher education. However, in a small number of cases, NASM accreditation may not be appropriate and/or NASM accreditation may not be a viable option for the institution. In order for the AMTA approval process to work consistently, AMTA requires those degree programs for which NASM accreditation is not appropriate (as is the case for hospitals) or not available (as is the case for international institutions) to complete the NASM Alternative Review Process for Music Therapy Programs. This process does not lead to accreditation but rather to a Statement of Affirmation from NASM providing the assurance that the general context and specifics of the music therapy degree program are aligned with and meet the spirit of the NASM standards.

An institution is eligible for the NASM Alternative Review Process when its degree programs in music therapy meet one or more of the following criteria:

- ◆ Degree administered and given by a hospital or other medical/clinical teaching institution, or a health or psychological sciences institution that is not associated with or in the same institution as an academic unit that offers degrees in music. An academic unit is defined as the administrative unit for music, whether it be an entity within a college or university, or an independent school of music.
- ◆ In an institution where music therapy is the only degree program in music and where the total enrollment of music therapy majors consistently remains below or is capped at (a) 24 or less for programs offering undergraduate degrees only or a combination of undergraduate and graduate degrees, or (b) 14 or less for programs offering graduate degrees only.
- ◆ In a branch campus of an institution where the main campus (a) does not offer any music major or (b) when the music unit of the main campus has a total enrollment that consistently remains below or is capped at 24 or less for programs offering undergraduate degrees only or a combination of undergraduate and graduate degrees, or 14 or less for programs offering graduate degrees only.
- ◆ In an institution with recognized regional or national institutional accreditation where no music or music therapy coursework is administered or taught by the music unit and where the total enrollment of the music unit and the music therapy program consistently remains below or is capped at (a) 24 or less for programs offering undergraduate degrees only or a combination of undergraduate and graduate degrees, or (b) 14 or less for programs offering graduate degrees only.
- ◆ In an institution with a music therapy program approved by one of the predecessor organizations of AMTA but not holding NASM accreditation. Such programs must have been approved by a predecessor organization prior to September 1, 1999.
- ◆ In an institution operating in a foreign country that is owned by a government or citizens of the United States and which meets any of the above criteria.
- ◆ In an institution owned by a government or citizens of a foreign country.

To initiate the NASM Alternative Review Process, an institution must have a letter of authorization from AMTA indicating that it meets one or more of the above criteria. Information concerning the AMTA Approval Process and the NASM Alternative Review Process may be obtained from the respective organizations.

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