



## American Horticultural Therapy Association.

### For Students Seeking Horticultural Therapy Courses Outside of an AHTA Accredited Program

The American Horticultural Therapy Association currently does not review or accredit horticultural therapy coursework that exists outside an AHTA Accredited Certificate Program, nor does the Association accredit college and university academic programs offering a degree in horticulture with a concentration in horticultural therapy. AHTA encourages students taking horticultural therapy courses that are not part of an AHTA Accredited Certificate Program to seek academic advisement to ensure that the horticultural therapy coursework taken will meet the requirements for professional registration. To help you review the horticultural therapy coursework requirements, below are the content areas for horticultural therapy courses.

#### **Horticultural Therapy Course Content**

Courses are required to cover the content areas as identified. The following topic titles do not represent actual course titles. A course may include additional topic areas.

1. Overview of the profession to include:
  - a. Definition of horticultural therapy
  - b. History of horticultural therapy
  - c. Program types – horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture
  - d. Introduction to the American Horticultural Association
  - e. AHTA Code of Ethics and AHTA Standards of Practice
  - f. Brief overview of the professional registration process
2. Disability groups, characteristics and considerations, to include:
  - a. Psychological (e.g., mental illness, substance use, attention deficit)
  - b. Physical (e.g., spinal injury, orthopedic, cerebral palsy)
  - c. Sensory (e.g., vision, hearing, sensory processing )
  - d. Developmental (e.g., intellectual, autism, Down syndrome)
  - e. Disease (e.g., cancer, dementia, stroke )
3. Program materials, tools, and techniques, to include:
  - a. Client assessment, evaluation, and documentation
  - b. Goals and objectives for horticultural therapy clients
  - c. Horticultural activities and activity modification
  - d. Plant materials for horticultural therapy programs
  - e. Adaptive tools, equipment, and devices
  - f. Accessible indoor/outdoor horticultural therapy area (including consultation, site assessment, installation, utilization, and evaluation)
  - g. Therapeutic garden characteristics and universal design
4. Program management, to include:
  - a. Short- and long-term program plans
  - b. Horticultural therapy program proposals
  - c. Program budgets
  - d. Horticultural therapist role in multi-disciplinary team
  - e. Volunteer resources and management
  - f. Program promotion
  - g. Funding resources, grants, and funding proposals
  - h. Horticultural therapy research methods, evaluation, and outcomes