

Art Therapy Credentials Board 1993-2013 ♦ 20th Anniversary

Increased Convenience, Same Quality Examination

Penny Orr, PhD, ATR-BC, ATCS, ATCB President

Did you take your SAT, GRE, or a professional credentialing exam on a computer at a testing center? The Art Therapy Credentials Board is happy to announce that ATRs who apply for Board Certification will now have the option of computer testing for taking the Art Therapy Credentials Board Exam!

Until now, current ATRs who wished to sit for the ATCBE to qualify for their Board Certification (BC) credential were limited to taking the exam in a paper and pencil format at one of four to six sites across the USA on one date each year. The Art Therapy Credentials Board has been working diligently for well over a year to build our scientifically validated exam question bank and transfer it to a special digital format so that exams can be administered using a computer based testing (CBT) provider. The CBT versions of the ATCBE will be available at 170 testing centers throughout the USA during two-week periods, three times a year. Candidates report to the designated testing center on their choice of dates within the two week window.

Rest assured, the paper and pencil test will continue to be offered in conjunction with the AATA conference and at other locations throughout the USA on June 29th of 2013. The CBT choices will be in addition to these traditional testing sites and format. ATCB's goal in providing the CBT option is to improve access to, and options for, taking the exam.

What this means is that there are now three different ways to apply and test for the BC, tailored to your needs. The following applications can be downloaded from www.atcb.org.

Options to apply for Board Certification (BC):

Format	2013 Test Dates	Location	Application Fee	Application Title
Paper + Pencil Examination	June 29	Seattle, WA Portland, ME Tampa, FL Indianapolis, IN New York, NY Rochester, NY Louisville, KY	\$235-\$260 testing and application fee.	ATR-BC Application
Computer Based Examination	January 7-19 March 4-16 September 9-21 Mon-Fri 9:00 AM or 1:30 PM	170 designated testing centers throughout the USA	\$450 testing and application fee.	CBT ATR-BC Application
Paper + Pencil Examination for ATRs who passed the ATCBE for state licensure within the past 36 months	N/A	State level	\$95.00 to the ATCB (separate from the testing fee collected)	ATR-BC Application for ATRs who tested for state licensure

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ATCB Review

ATCB Review is published three times annually. Submission deadline for publication is January 15 for the Spring issue, April 15 for the Summer issue, and September 15 for the Fall issue. Information should be sent to atcb@nbcc.org.

Contact the Art Therapy Credentials Board by mail: 3 Terrace Way, Greensboro, NC 27403; by phone at 877-213-2822; by fax at 336-482-2852; by e-mail at atcb@nbcc.org; or internet www.atcb.org.

MISSION

The mission of the Art Therapy Credentials Board is to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy through the credentialing of art therapy professionals.

Message from the ATCB President



Penelope Orr
ATCB President

Welcome to the Spring edition of the 2013 ATCB Review. Twenty-thirteen is a big year for ATCB in that it is our twentieth anniversary! Come see us at the AATA conference in Seattle for special give-a-ways to celebrate our anniversary. One of our projects during this auspicious year will be to collect and document the history of the first twenty years of the ATCB to preserve this history. If you have a written testimony or interesting item to share for our archive about the his-

tory of the ATCB, please send these to our national office.

The ATCB is excited to introduce you to a number of upcoming changes that have been developed to improve credential holder access, ease of use, and communication. In this issue you can read about our exciting new initiative to bring computer testing to the ATCB Exam, which will allow more testing options on a more frequent basis with easier access. You might also want to read the article by Libby Schmanke on CECs that clarifies language of the current recertification process and requirements. Ed Oechsle, ATCB President-elect, wrote an article for this issue on revisions to the director election process that were made to bring the ATCB in line with processes used by other credentialing bodies.

This newsletter has an interesting profile on a credential holder who has started a non-profit called "Sacred Transformations". Read about the innovative art therapy techniques and materials that are being used by art therapist Eric Dean Spruth in a fantastic article by Heather Schröering.

Our traditional listing of deadline dates, paper and pencil exam locations, and new ATCSs, ATRs, and ATR-BCs can also be found in this newsletter. We would like to congratulate all our new credential holders and invite you to stop by our table at the AATA Conference in June to pick up your new ribbon to declare your accomplishment!

We would like to thank all of our committee volunteers, for your great work in many areas over the past year. The ATCB mission is to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of Art Therapy through the credentialing of Art Therapy Professionals. We couldn't meet our mission without the help and input of many volunteer
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FAQ: Where can I find out what counts for CECs to maintain my BC credential? Has any of that changed this year?

Libby Schmanke, ATR-BC, ATCB Secretary

The *ATR-BC Recertification Standards* are formatted as a clear 6-page guide that should answer all your questions about recertification! Although hard copies are mailed to credential holders when they first receive the BC after passing the exam, it's advisable to keep the most current version of the Standards in your CEC documentation file. The document can be downloaded from the ATCB website, under "Maintaining Your Credentials: Recertification Standards."

The Standards are reviewed approximately every year, and clarifications may result in a new version. Sometimes, the Board of Directors decides to make actual changes to recertification requirements, often in response to suggestions from credential holders or from the ATCB Certification Committee. Changes in requirements are made only after research and deliberation by the Board of Directors, and are given an appropriate effective date that allows credential holders in mid-cycle to phase-in to the new requirements. To keep informed of changes, credential holders should take note of emailed or mailed notifications (sent when actual changes in requirements are made), as well as articles in the *Review* or on the website.

The latest edition of the Standards, dated January 1, 2013, contains no changes that affect recertification qualifications. In other words, requirements haven't changed since the version dated December 1, 2011.

However, a few explanatory additions were made to create the new edition. Here's a summary of those edits:

- **"Social Action" and "Supervision" are listed as examples under the "Professional Issues" CEC content category.** Last year, it was brought to the Board's attention that "art therapy and social action" is not mentioned in the Standards. Although social action in the form of direct services cannot be added to the *list of activities* earning CEC credit (just as provision

of any other type of direct service in art therapy is not eligible), we could include language in the *list of content areas* to make it clear that presentations, publications, and other eligible CEC activities in this area are acceptable. We also decided to include Supervision under the content area of "Professional Issues" (previously, it was not specified which content area should be used for Supervision CECs when recording activities in the log).

- Clarification is made that **although re-taking and passing the ATCBE is an alternative to acquiring 100 CECs for recertification of the BC, if the credential holder is also recertifying as an ATCS, the 10 hours in supervision CECs required for that credential are still necessary.** Clarification is also made that if the BC is lost through failure to properly recertify, so is the ATCS, since the ATCS is predicated on having the BC.
- Wording is added to stress the importance of **sending postal address changes to the National Office and receiving confirmation.** It is the credential holder's responsibility to do this, by postal mail or email. Lapsed credentials (and the accompanying undesirable monetary and professional consequences) may result when renewal packets or maintenance fee invoices are not received because the National Office does not have a current address.
- Further clarification was given of the **prorated BC maintenance fee** (the \$100 recertification fee is spread out over the 5-year cycle at \$20 a year) and of the waiving of the \$20 fee for 2012 and 2013.

The *ATR-BC Recertification Standards* is a living document, and it's best to work from the most recent version. As always, the National Office staff will assist you, should you have questions that aren't answered after reading! ☞

Revised Director Election Process Announced

Ed Oechsle, President-Elect, Liaison to Nomination Committee

The Art Therapy Credentials Board at its fall meeting unanimously voted to change the structure of its director election process. Bylaws and Policy and Procedure documents were changed to streamline the process of election, be consistent with standards for similar credentialing boards, and ensure stability in serving its mission.

Previously, the bylaws and policies dictated that in every even year, three directors would be elected to the Board by current credential holders. Two additional directors were elected by the Board in those same even years, and four directors were elected by the Board in odd years. With the newly instituted changes, elections of all directors in every year are to be by the Board.

Each director serves for a two-year term and may serve for up to three consecutive terms, or longer if elected to certain officer positions. The change in the system ensures that the Board is consistently seated at nine members, with continuity in membership through overlapping terms and changes in officers.

Related policy governing elections remains unchanged. Credential holders will receive an annual Call for Nominations to provide candidates for

director positions. The nominating committee, whose membership is made up of ATR-BCs who are not current directors, will vet the candidates and provide a slate from which the Board will vote. The Board will select candidates with skill sets that fill current needs of the Board and the projects on which they are working.

The ATCB carefully researched and debated this change for many months before finalizing the change. In our research, we found that other non-membership credentialing boards are “self-perpetuating” in the manner described above. This serves to safeguard expediency and efficiency in completion of strategic objectives, as well as to avoid the possible perception of “undue influence” on elections, or of elections as popularity contests. By having the Board select directors with specific interests and skills that are in alignment with its current direction, there is little momentum lost in transitioning to a new board makeup. The intent is to keep our focus on the mission and channel all our energy into “protecting the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of Art Therapy through the credentialing of Art Therapy Professionals.” We hope you will work with us in continuing to nominate qualified professionals in service of this mission. ☞

VISIT www.atcb.org TO FIND

- A listing of credential holders by state
- Information about ATCB's Board of Directors
- Guide for Students
- *Code of Professional Practice*
- Complete applications for the ATR, ATR-BC, and ATCS
- Recertification Standards
- ATCBE Preparation Guide
- Continuing Education Tracking Form
- Archive of *ATCB Review* newsletters

Increased Convenience

(continued from cover)

Currently, the National Office is hard at work communicating with state boards that use the ATCBE for licensure. It is possible that some states will prefer to retain a paper and pencil format. Otherwise, contracts will need to be renegotiated and new arrangements made to provide CBT options for those testing for state licensure.

Current holders of the ATR (only) received an email blast about the new CBT opportunity in November. The three applications, BC candidate handbook, and Exam Preparation Guide contain a wealth of further information and can be found online at www.atcb.org. ☞

2013 DEADLINES

March 30 If you are an ATR-BC who is due to recertify in 2013, you should receive your recertification notice by March 30, 2013, via postal mail. Please contact the ATCB National Office if your renewal notice has not arrived by this date. If you are not sure whether you are due to recertify this year, please refer to the expiration date on your ATR-BC certificate or contact the ATCB National Office.

April 26 **Early Application Deadline for BC.** If you are an ATR and plan to take the ATCBE for Board Certification during the national paper-pencil administration, you can save \$25 by submitting your application before this date. The application is available on our Web site or by contacting the ATCB National Office.

May 8 **Final Application Deadline for BC.** If you are an ATR and plan to take the ATCBE for Board Certification, your ATR-BC application must be postmarked by this date.

May 15 **Recertification.** If you are an ATR-BC who is due to recertify this year and who needs an extension of the time to obtain the required CECs, you must submit a written request with the extension fee by this date.

June 1 **Recertification.** If you are an ATR-BC who is recertifying this year, your completed application for recertification must be received by the ATCB National Office by this date.

June 29 **ATCB Examination.** National paper-pencil administration of the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination.

June 30 **Annual Maintenance Fees.** ATR/ATR-BC/ATCS annual maintenance fees are due by this date. Notices will be mailed by May 15. If you have not received a notice by June 1, please contact the ATCB National Office.

ATCB Board Certification Examination Date and Locations

SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2013

Indianapolis, IN

Louisville, KY

Portland, ME

Rochester, NY

*Seattle, WA
(AATA conference)*

Tampa, FL

New York, NY

The early deadline to apply for Board Certification and take the exam on June 29, 2013 is April 26, and the final deadline to apply and take the exam on June 29, 2013 is May 8, 2013. ATRs applying for Board Certification by the April 26 deadline save \$25 off the regular fee of \$260. Unless you plan to test for licensure in New York or New Mexico, you must hold the Registered Art Therapist (ATR) credential before you can apply for the Board Certification and be registered to take the ATCBE. If you are not already an ATR, your complete ATR packet must be received in the ATCB national office no later than March 1, 2013, if you intend to apply for Board Certification by May 8, 2013 and take the ATCBE on June 29. Individuals planning to test for state licensure must be approved to test by the state licensure board. The New Mexico and Kentucky licensure boards approve and register qualifying state examinees. The New York Office of the Professions oversees the approval process, and the licensure applicants register to test through ATCB. All applications are on the ATCB Web site at www.atcb.org.

CREDENTIAL HOLDER PROFILE

ERIC DEAN SPRUTH, ATR

By Heather Schröering



Art Therapist Eric Dean Spruth says it's his quest to broaden the scope of art therapy from the confines of "colored pencils and 12" by 16" sheets of paper." He merges two art forms he knows well: art therapy and the art of tattooing. Spruth, 48, is the founder of Sacred Transformations, a nonprofit organization with a mission to cover up or transform unwanted tattoos, scars, and burns free of charge, with new art that represents a client's personal change. Since he started the organization in



Eric Dean Spruth

2006, Spruth has treated hundreds of clients ranging from former gang members, veterans, women with abusive ex-lovers, and victims

of human trafficking who have names scrawled on their bodies as well as people with scars that were self-inflicted or caused by others. Likely the first of its kind in the Chicago area, the philanthropic endeavor offers those who are held back by negative tattoos or scars a therapeutic transition to a new life by teaching clients to address their past while pushing them to better themselves.

"The work we do therapeutically [is about] not denying the past, not celebrating the past in a bad way, but accepting the past," he says. "Our works are based on a transformative process that acknowledges what ever [the mark] was, and it works at taking every line, every mark and painstakingly incorporating it into a new design that shifts everything into a new direction."

Spruth's private studio is located in Miller Beach, Indiana, just outside of Chicago. However,

it was not always Spruth's plan to start his own nonprofit. His studies in art therapy at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago led him to work with patients in many mental health-care systems across the country over his 25 year career. These include Chicago's Cook County Jail / Cermak Health Services, the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, where he started a mural program that allows the kids to paint the center's walls, as well as The Cook County State's Attorney's Office of Victim-Witness. Over the years working along with so many patients, he says he began to "see in their eyes" how they viewed themselves as well as their many tattoos, scars and burns as anchors to their past—anchors not only to negative memories of the past, but to some of the darkest times of their lives. Triggers to many negative ways of being for themselves and also to those around them.

"We're spending enormous amounts of money, housing, feeding, treating individuals to get to the next step in their life ... So many of them working so hard to regain their footing to rejoin society, but the worst part for me was to see them go back with the same tattoos, i.e., gang affiliations, names representing the worst relationship or abusers and ... marks on their physical body, but more importantly, marks on their psyche."

He set out to join forces with a charitable program that merged the principles of art therapy with tattooing, but Internet searches led him to believe that there was nothing out there with that concept. So he decided to do it himself. He began to outline the organization while apprenticing at a tattoo shop. Shortly after, Spruth and his wife Sara applied for nonprofit status and with the help of the Chicago Community Trust, various donations and fundraisers in night clubs, restaurants and galleries and more than 50 volunteers, Sacred Transformations is able to be what it is today.

Spruth says he believes many charities are about giving those in need free handouts, which makes the recipients rely too heavily on them. Instead, he wants his clients to work to prove to themselves that they can (*continued on next page*)

CREDENTIAL HOLDER PROFILE (continued)


function on their own. Though he says he's never counted, Spruth warrants that he's had about a thousand people express interest in the organization, but he's only served about 150. Spruth's goal for each client is to achieve independence through Sacred Transformations.

In order for clients to acquire a tattoo from Sacred Transformations, much prior planning is involved, which is all part of the therapeutic process. Just to be considered, clients must first go through an extensive five page application. This process includes answering self-reflective essay questions, providing photographs of tattoos or scars and mailing the application "the old fashioned way" to Spruth's studio.

Spruth carefully selects clients based on how determined they are, a reason the application process is so lengthy, working closely with the judicial and law enforcement systems when reviewing applications to ensure no one is attempting to take advantage of the program to "evade justice."

When Spruth receives the letters, he notifies the applicants, and then it's on them to set up a series of meetings with him. Before doing any tattoo work, Spruth meets clients several times to work

together on how the tattoo will be a positive reflection and ensure they are 100 percent sure of the design. Spruth and his team of volunteers including social workers, artist, law-enforcement officials meets with new clients within many public places within Chicago, as well the studio in Indiana. Meeting places are not determined by convenience to the client. Spruth will sometimes ask clients who live in Indiana to meet him somewhere in Chicago and vice-versa. "It may cost a bit more and a bigger investment of time for the client and our team; however, we utilize the dual locations to get clients out of their neighborhoods to encourage them to "exercise their freedom of movement."

Spruth respects that his clients' scars and tattoos are representative of some of the lowest points in their lives. The end result Spruth hopes to see is less about the tattoo and more about helping each client triumph over their monsters. He says he believes it is his duty to utilize his art therapy degree to do so. The Sacred Transformations program, a 501(c)3, is approved to operate in both Indiana and Illinois. 

"We all make marks in the world; some people make a mark then spend all their life trying to erase it, others make a mark and others spend their life trying to duplicate it."

Eric Dean Spruth recalls his grandfather saying these words in a dream.



Client's forearm before and after being tattooed by Eric Dean Spruth

Congratulations to Our New Credential Holders September 15, 2012 to January 15, 2013

New ATCSs

Elizabeth A. Rundquist

New ATR-BCs

Teresa R. Ballinger
Corien Bologna
Benjamin Davis
Sara Haimoff
Sarah J. Hayden
Janeen Mary Ilardo
Lara A. Kahan
Lindsey K. Kretschy
Jennifer L. Maslow
Nina H. Morris
Justine Rogers
Stephanie Syfert
Arielle C. Taitz
Jane E. Zweibel

New ATRs

Bethany L. Adam
Cara S. Allan
Melissa Arsenault
Saadia T. Aslam
Pooja Bakri
Katie A. Batt
Brooke S. Bender
Amanda J. Bolen
Emily Boyce
Chelsea L. Bulik
Chia-Hsuan Chen
Crystal A. Contrino

New ATRs (continued)

Abigail Cutler
Susan L. Dahl
Amber Christine Deering
Karen Dyer
Brenda L. Elliott
Frederick Engelhardt
Kelly Teresa Enger
Angelica J. Erickson
Audrey L. Evans
Lior Eytan
Maegan L. Fabiano
Jade Giffin
Carolyn M. Gorman
Mirat Grossnass
Tami Harris
Blake Elizabeth Hastings
Katherine R. Hein
Michaela M. Herr
Christine R. Hill
Ashley Hines
Tracy Hofstatter
Kai-Ying Huang
Melanie Huss
Christine M. Jones
Coquille A. Knudsen
Kristie Kremer
Karen Kurak
Jennifer Leonard
LeeAnn Love
Renee Melton

New ATRs (continued)

John Muraco
Michelle L. Oldford
Cynthia M. Prodzinski
Amy Rostollan
Jill L. Ruby-Wahba
Molly B. Schwarb
Paul Singleton
JaeJeung So
Mokryon Song
Lindsay A. Spina
Natalie Joy Trzeciak
Laura K.J. Tuomisto
Laura Vajdich
Mallory B. Van Fossen
Markia N Ware
Devora Weinapple
Tracy A. Weisbrod
Christine E. Wheeler
Virginia A. White
Cristie Yontz-Hall

Editor's note:

We regret misspelling
Maggie M. Ritnour's name
in the last newsletter.
Maggie passed the ATBCE
on July 14, 2012
and was granted
her ATR-BC.

The Board Hears You

The National Office receives inquiries from credential holders who are experiencing financial difficulties during these austere times. In an effort to work with art therapists experiencing financial hardship, the ATCB offers temporary inactive and retired statuses. Requirements to file for either status differ, and your situation might dictate the best route for you. Please contact the National Office to inquire about your situation *before* you allow your credential to lapse.

President's Message

(continued from page 2)

committee and board members. As I write this we are calling for nominations for potential board members and as always welcome inquiries about service with ATCB on our committees. Please feel free to email or write to our national office with your interest.

Penelope Orr, PhD, ATR-BC, ATCS
ATCB President

**Art Therapy Credentials Board 1993-2013
20th Anniversary**

ATCB Timeline

November 1992

Resolution passed at AATA conference to implement a certification program for art therapists within three years. Interim ATCB Board is set up to develop policy and procedure

February 1993

ATCB Bylaws adopted

November 1993

ATCB Board members appointed

November 1994

First certification examination given in Chicago

July 1995

ATCB organized as a corporation separate from AATA

January 1997

ATCB joins National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA)

April 2000

ATCB Code of Professional Conduct is compiled

August 2005

AATA-ATCB Memorandum of Understanding is written

December 2011

ATCB's ATR-BC credential receives accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies

March 2013

First administration of computer-based Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination at 170 designated testing centers throughout the U.S.

Board Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina October 26-27, 2012



ATCB Board 2012

The Board members meet twice per year to discuss policy, trends, the Art Therapy Credentials Board Examination, and more. Pictured in the photo above, top row: Rita Maloy, Executive Director; Barbara Mescher, Director; Libby Schmanke, Secretary; Ed Oechsle, President-Elect; Janice Hoshino, Director; Penny Orr, President; Susan Anand, Treasurer. Bottom row: Jennifer Stone, Public Member; Carolyn Brown Treadon, Director; Mary Ellen McAlevy, Director. Below: President Penny Orr and President-Elect Ed Oechsle



ATCB Board of Directors 2012

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Fairview, PA

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