



American Horticultural Therapy Association®

Professional Registration Policies and Procedures

Grandfather Clause

AHTA recognizes that many members started their pursuit of professional registration under the old Option B (the standards in effect before October 1, 2013) where individuals randomly selected courses from a list of horticulture and human science topic areas. AHTA does not want to discredit this work that many individuals started in the years prior to October 1, 2013. The grandfathering period is based on how many courses an applicant has taken prior to this date.

If six (6) or more courses for professional registration were taken before October 1, 2013, you will be reviewed under the old Option B (the standards in effect before October 1, 2013). We strongly recommend and encourage you to take the remaining courses from the new required coursework list. If all coursework was taken before October 1, 2013, you will be reviewed under the old Option B. Those individuals applying for professional registration after October 1, 2013, that do not meet the noted exceptions, will be reviewed under the new Option B.

AHTA Professional Registration Requirements

I. Education

Option B: An **equivalent baccalaureate degree** and a supervised internship (480 hours)

An equivalent baccalaureate degree is defined as a degree in a field other than horticultural therapy that includes 33 semester credits of specific required coursework as outlined below. All coursework must be for college credit and must be documented through college transcripts. All coursework must have a passing grade of C minus (C-) or above or a pass for a pass/fail course. The required coursework may be in fulfillment of a degree or may be completed in addition to an existing degree.

Please note that the following coursework represents topic areas and not specific course titles.

- A. Twelve (12) semester credits of **human science** coursework, with a minimum of **three** of the topic areas listed below:
 - General Psychology
 - Developmental Psychology
 - Environmental Psychology
 - Abnormal Psychology
 - Counseling Theories
 - Human Growth and Development
 - Adult Development and Aging
 - Aspects of Disabilities and Illnesses
 - Group Dynamics
 - Principles of Therapy
 - Human Anatomy/Physiology
 - Medical and Psychiatric Terminology
 - Professional Ethics
 - Assistive Technology

- B. Twelve (12) semester credits of **horticulture** coursework, with a minimum of **three** of the topic areas listed below:
 - Introduction to Horticulture
 - Plant Materials
 - General Plant Pathology
 - Pest and Disease Management
 - Plant Propagation
 - Floral Design
 - Greenhouse or Nursery Production/Management
 - Landscape Design
 - Entomology

- C. Nine (9) semester credits of horticultural therapy coursework, with a minimum of three of the topic areas listed below:

- Overview of the Horticultural Therapy Profession
- HT Programming and Techniques (i.e. goals, assessments and documentation, activities, adaptive devices, accessibility)
- HT Program Management (i.e. preparing proposals, budgets, fundraising, marketing, grant writing, research, private contract work)
- HT Populations (i.e. people with physical, developmental, or mental/psychological disabilities; older adults, youth at risk, substance abuse and offenders, people with visual impairments, people who have been abused)
- People-Plant Relationships (i.e. the interaction of plants and people in natural and man-made settings, the human psychological response, and horticultural therapy)