

Massage Therapy

Associate in Applied Science in Allied Health & Life Science

Program Description:

The A.A.S. degree in Massage Therapy is a cooperative program through Mountwest and Mountain State School of Massage in Charleston. Licensed Massage Therapists (LMTs) offer a range of services from relaxation massage to precise clinical soft tissue treatment. Massage techniques can release scar tissue, increase joint range of motion, enhance circulation of blood and lymph and increase the supply of oxygen and nutrients to cells, eliminating toxic waste products resulting in a healthier person. A holistic approach to massage therapy integrates an understanding that there are physical, mental, emotional and spiritual components to each individual. LMTs are currently employed through private practice, chiropractic offices, hospitals, health clubs, day spas, cruise ships, fitness centers, beauty salons and more.

Career Outlook:

Nationally, the number of jobs for massage therapists is expected to grow faster than average through the year 2016 (www.bls.gov).

Many factors will affect this growth. More people are becoming interested in massage as a way to relieve stress and promote health. As disposable incomes grow, many people will seek massages for personal benefit. There will also be growth in full-service spa salons. These salons offer services such as beauty wraps, pedicures, and massages in addition to traditional hair and makeup services. Many employees will be needed to offer a range of services.

The medical benefits of massage are becoming more widely known. As a result, more naturopaths, acupuncturists, chiropractors, physical therapists, and physicians will refer their patients to massage therapists. However, this will depend somewhat on if massage therapy is covered by health insurance plans. In addition, an aging population will increase the number of people with conditions that can benefit from massage therapy.

Salary Forecast:

Median hourly earnings of massage therapists, including gratuities earned were \$16.78 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned between \$11.36 and \$25.14. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$8.01, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$33.47. Generally, massage therapists earn 15 to 20 percent of their income through gratuities. For those who work in a hospital or other clinical setting, however, tipping is not common.

(Information obtained from *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-2009*)

Admission Requirements:

1. Students seeking admission into the Massage Therapy program must arrange an appointment with the program faculty prior to submitting the application packet. This is to ensure that students receive current information regarding the program admission requirements and the criteria for selection. Application packets are available at the Allied Health and Life Sciences Division, Cabell Hall Room 304 or call (304) 696-6270 for more information.
2. Prior to admission to the Massage Therapy program and/or clinical internships, students may be required to document that they have successfully passed a criminal background check and drug screen. For more information concerning the Allied Health and Life Sciences at (304) 696-6270.

Accreditation Information:

Mountain State School of Massage is accredited through:

The Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA)

1007 Church Street, Suite 302 Evanston, Illinois 60201 Phone: 847-869-5039 or 847-869-6739

www.comta.org

Major Code – CM70

Marshall Community & Technical College	Mountain State School of Massage
Allied Health Courses	Coursework in Massage Therapy^{2,3}
ENL 111 Written Communication3	MAS205 Anatomy and Physiology for Massage Therapy.11
COM 112 Oral Communication.....3	MAS210 Orientation, Awareness Skills, Bus. & Research....4
IT 101 Fundamentals of Computers (EDGE).....3	MAS215 Bodywork I6
MAT 150 Applied Professional Mathematics.....3	MAS220 Bodywork II5
SCI 201 Integrated Science ¹4	MAS225 Pathology for Massage Therapy5
SS 215 Lifespan Psychology3	MAS230 Kinesiology for Massage Therapy7
TOTAL CREDITS.....19	MAS235 Student Clinic Integrative Massage3-4
	TOTAL CREDITS..... 41-42
HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION: 60-61	

Admission Requirements:

The college adheres to an open admissions policy which means applicants with a high school diploma or a GED are eligible for admission to Mountwest. Applicants with neither a high school diploma nor a GED may be admitted on a conditional basis.

Employment Opportunities:

- Doctors' offices
- Chiropractors' offices
- Hospitals
- Physical therapy offices
- Medical clinics
- Massage therapy practices

Earn A Degree Graduate Early (Edge):

This program provides students the opportunity to receive credit for their high school EDGE courses.

Contact Information:

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1. SCI 201 has a prerequisite of MAT 150

2. Massage Therapy courses are delivered at Mountain State School of Massage.

3. All first-semester Massage Therapy courses must be completed with a "C" or better before students can register for subsequent Massage Therapy courses.