



FAQ About the Holy Names University Educational Therapy Program

An Educational Therapist is an educational professional skilled in the areas of assessment, diagnosis, instructional intervention, and program development who works in clinics, learning centers, private practices, and literacy programs with children, adolescents and adults who have various learning disabilities or learning problems. These learning disabilities may include: dyslexia; attention deficit disorder; difficulties in reading, mathematics, written language and spelling; poor study and organizational skills.

The focus of the work in educational therapy is on the precise needs of the individual client rather than a group of individuals, as is often found in school settings. The Educational Therapist does not need a teaching credential to practice. However, to be eligible to teach in California public schools, the educational therapy certificate must be combined with a California mild/moderate teaching credential. Students may earn an Educational Therapy Certificate alone, or combine it with limited additional coursework, for a Master's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Educational Therapy.

At Holy Names University, the Educational Therapy Program combines strong comprehensive graduate level academic preparation with clinical practice. Our curriculum meets the professional standards set by the national body, the Association of Educational Therapists (AET). Courses are taught by educational therapy practitioners and students gain clinical experience at the on-campus Raskob Learning Institute. Professionally directed practice in assessment and remediation, combined with a supervised practicum, provides candidates with experience that build practical knowledge for success.

Frequently asked questions

- 1. What is an educational therapist qualified to do?**
An Educational Therapist (ET) works in a clinic, in private practice and independent schools. Some combine work in multiple settings (private practice and in a school.)
- 2. How long is the program?** The Educational Therapy Program is typically a two-year program. Most candidates begin the program in the Fall Semester with a smaller number starting in the Spring.



3. **What opportunities for employment exist in the Bay Area?** Most graduates from our program enjoy stellar reputations and are sought after. Many combine private practice work with full-time or part-time school employment.
4. **Where can I get practical training?** Our program is affiliated with the on-campus Raskob Learning Institute. Students gain supervised clinical experience at Raskob.
5. **Do opportunities for additional clinical practicum exist in other settings?**

Yes, students may choose to do their internship at a local school to experience how an educational therapist works within a school setting.
6. **Is it possible to combine a Certificate in Educational Therapy with an Education Specialist: Mild/Moderate Teaching Credential?** Holy Names University is the only school in Northern California where you can obtain both a Mild/Moderate Credential & an Educational Therapy Certificate simultaneously. Nearly half of the ET Certificate courses count towards the Credential, as well.
7. **Is it important to get a master's degree?** A master's degree is one of the requirements set forth by the AET to become a Board Certified Educational Therapist. Holy Names University is one of three schools in the United States that offer a master's degree in Educational Therapy. Our program is especially valuable to candidates who have little or no background in education or special education since ET courses are taught in conjunction with Special Education courses.
8. **Is this a cohort program?** No. Candidates complete the program at their own pace, taking as few or as many courses as family commitments and working schedules permit.
9. **Is it possible to work while enrolled in the Educational Therapy Program at Holy Names University?** Yes. Most of our students are working adults. Classes are held M-F at 4-7 p.m. or 7-10 p.m. Each course meets for three hours **every two weeks**.
10. **Are Educational Therapy candidates eligible for financial aid?** Yes. Financial aid exists in the form of the Federal Stafford Loans. Candidates need to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the Federal Government in advance of their anticipated enrollment date.



HOLY NAMES UNIVERSITY

Marion Marshall, M.S., BCET, is Coordinator of Educational Therapy Program at Holy Names University and a Board Certified Educational Therapist. Formerly, she was Director of the Raskob Learning Institute. Ms. Marshall has worked extensively with students with special needs in school settings and private practice in the Bay Area for many years. She has received numerous awards for her work including: *Teacher of the Year*, *Resource Specialist of the Year for the State of California*, and a *Community Service Award* from AET. She was the first Educational Specialist in an independent school in the Bay Area. In addition to teaching at Holy Names University, she is a frequent presenter at workshops and conferences on Educational Therapy both locally and nationally.