

How To Meet the Ethics Requirement  
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CBMT Continuing Education Committee

If a certificant chooses to recertify using the continuing education credit method, the Recertification Guidelines outlined in the Fifth Edition of the Recertification Manual state: **To meet recertification requirements, certificants must obtain at least three (3) of the 100 recertification credits in ethical practice.** These credits are accrued under the Continuing Music Therapy Education category and are effective with recertification cycles that began in 2011 or later.

Continuing Music Therapy Education (CMTE) credits may be earned by attending a course that is a minimum of three continual, sustained contact hours with the teacher and materials of the class. This means that the course must last at least 3 hours, allowing for three 10-minute breaks during that time. Attendance at the event must be officially documented (usually with a sign in sheet or certificate). The presenter must be qualified to provide a high-quality educational experience. The learning objectives being addressed and met must directly relate to the current Board Certification Domains (2015)..

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Deluxe Edition (1998) defines **ethics** as the discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. The Board Certification Domains (2015) outlines what Board Certified Music Therapists do in Assessment and Treatment Planning, Treatment Implementation and Termination, Ongoing Documentation and Evaluation of Treatment, and Professional Development and Responsibilities. Each of these areas have components relating to ethics. There are several ways to obtain the mandatory ethics credits for recertification:

- Take a graduate course with content that relates to ethical considerations related to the *Board Certification Domains (2015)*. For example, the New England College of Business offers an online Master of Science in Business Ethics and Compliance. Rush University offers a Masters degree in Health Care Ethics. Enrolling in a course from one of these programs would meet the ethics requirement, provided it relates to the *Board Certification Domains (2015)*. Examples used here have not been evaluated for validity and content.
- Attend an Ethics course offered as a 3 hour learning event from an approved provider. Check out the courses offered by the CBMT Approved Providers and attend one of their courses that offer a 3 (or more) credit Ethics course.
- Attend a course offered by a non-approved provider. The course must be of sufficient length (3 hours minimum) and adhere to *the Board Certification Domains (2015)*. For example, athealth.com offers a 3 credit course called "Ethics: Spiritual Issues in Clinical Practice" and a 6 credit course called "HIPAA Made Friendly: How to become Compliant." There is no guarantee that a non-approved course submitted for credit will be approved. Such courses will be accepted if they are adequately documented and if they meet requirements for content area, contact hours, and other applicable continuing education criteria and guidelines. The certificant is responsible for justifying the significance and validity of the non-approved course in relation to the content areas of the examination and the recertification process. Examples used here have not been evaluated for validity and content.
- Read 3 articles published in a refereed journal, music therapy or non-music therapy, as long as it relates to the profession and to the *Board Certification Domains (2015)*. The articles must have been published within the certificants five-year recertification cycle, and may not be part of a course of study or research project.
- Attend three sessions related to ethics at a conference and document them using the Umbrella Groupings guidelines in the Recertification Manual. For example, at the 2014 AMTA conference, the following concurrent sessions might have been grouped under Ethics for 3 credits: *Ethics*

*and Boundaries in End of Life Care* (60 minutes), and *Ethics Board Presents: Ethical Considerations for Faculty & Internship Supervisors* (90 minutes).

- Use a standardized self-study course, such as *Introduction to Music Therapy Ethics* by Music Works Publications, or *Ethics* by Adawehi Institute.
- Create an individualized self-study program by selecting a qualified mentor to serve as your clinical supervisor, teacher, or guide in learning about ethics. To meet this requirement, one must follow the guidelines on page 17 of the Recertification Manual.

As illustrated in the examples above show, there are many ways to fulfill the new Ethics requirement. If the certificant chooses the exam option, there is no additional ethics requirement because the exam represents the current Scope of Practice and thus meets the requirement. Please contact the CBMT office if you have any questions.