

Eligibility Checklist

Horticultural Therapist – Board Certified (HT-BC)



Select the pathway below that best fits your current professional and educational background to verify your eligibility for the HT-BC.

This document references official information from the HT-BC Candidate Handbook. The Candidate Handbook contains necessary information about the HT-BC. It is required reading for those applying for and taking the exam. [Access the Candidate Handbook on AHTA's website.](#)

Pathway 1

For applicants who already hold an AHTA professional registration.

- Professional Registration: Hold a current Horticultural Therapist – Registered (HTR) or Horticultural Therapist – Master (HTM) registration with the AHTA.
- Exam: Successfully complete the HT-BC exam.

Pathway 2

For applicants with a bachelor's degree (or higher) applying via coursework and experience.

1. Education & Coursework

- Degree: Hold a bachelor's degree or higher in any field.
- Core Coursework: 9 semester credits in horticultural therapy from an AHTA-accredited program.

Additional Coursework (Select the option that matches your degree background):

- Option A:** Non-Science Degree (Degree is NOT in plant or human sciences)
 - 12 semester credits required in suggested human science topics.
 - 12 semester credits required in suggested plant science topics.
- Option B:** Plant Science Degree (e.g., Horticulture, Horticultural Science, Plant Physiology, Plant Science, Floriculture)
 - 12 semester credits required in suggested human science topics.

* *Exempt from additional undergraduate plant science coursework based on degree major.*

- **Option C:** Human Science Degree (e.g., Therapeutic Recreation/Recreational Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social Work, Music Therapy, Counseling, Psychology, Rehabilitation)
 - 12 semester credits required in suggested plant science topics.

* *Exempt from additional undergraduate human science coursework based on degree major.*

2. Experience & Exam

- Professional Experience (Meet ONE of the following):
 - *Completed a 480-hour internship supervised by a horticultural therapist.*
 - *Completed at least 1,000 hours of work experience utilizing horticulture as therapy.*
- Exam: Successfully complete the HT-BC exam.

Pathway 3

For applicants holding a current license or certification in an approved allied field.

1. Professional Credentials

- Current License/Certification: Hold an active credential in one of the following AHTA-approved professions (Check yours):
 - *Mental Health: LCSW, LMSW, CRC, LPC, LCADC, LMFT, BCBA*
 - *Allied Professions: OTR, OTR/L, OTD, CTRS, SLP, ATR, ATR-BC, MT-BC, PT, PTA, AAP-BC, LPN, RN, BSN, NP, MD*
 - *Education Professions: State licensure or certification (Career & Technical, Vocational, Alternative Ed, or Special Ed Teacher)*
 - *Horticulture Professions: CPH, RAL, PLA, ISA Certified Arborist*

* *Note: If your license or certification is not listed, contact the AHTA for consideration.*

2. Education & Experience

- Degree: Hold a bachelor's degree or higher in any field.
- Core Coursework: 9 semester credits in horticultural therapy from an AHTA-accredited program.
- Professional Experience (Meet ONE of the following):
 - *Completed a 480-hour internship supervised by a horticultural therapist.*
 - *Completed at least 1,000 hours of work experience utilizing horticulture as therapy.*
- Exam: Successfully complete the HT-BC exam.