ATRA Membership - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: How do I become a member of ATRA and what are the criteria to join?

ATRA has a variety of membership categories, each has specific criteria which must be met. ATRA's membership criteria are outlined on the ATRA website in the "Become a Member" section.

Q: How do I apply for ATRA Professional Membership?

The professional membership criteria and application form is located in the "Become a Member" section of the website. There is also a link to a more expanded version of the courses required for professional membership.

Q: Do I need to send in original transcripts when I submit my application for professional membership?

All applications for professional membership must be submitted with <u>original</u> copies of all transcripts used to meet the course criteria required for membership. Applications will not be processed until official transcripts are received.

Q: Do I need to have completed a practicum or internship placement for ATRA professional membership?

Applicants who graduate after May 1, 2011 will be required to demonstrate completion of a minimum of 320 hours of internship placement/practicum. A minimum of 250 hours of this placement must have a clinical component and be completed under the supervision of a recreation therapist who is registered with their provincial association.

Q: My degree/diploma is in an area not listed, will you still accept it if I do the core TR and Recreation courses?

Degrees/diplomas in related fields are considered for individuals who have worked as a Recreation Therapist for over five years. Fill out the professional membership application form and send it in with your fees and original copies of your transcripts. The ATRA Membership Review Committee will advise you if your degree/diploma can be accepted and if there is any additional coursework required. If membership is not processed, fees and original transcripts will be returned to you.

Q: My degree/diploma is in an area you accept but I appear to be short one or two courses in order to meet course criteria, where can I go to complete these courses?

There are a variety of universities and colleges which offer coursework in Therapeutic Recreation, both in Alberta and throughout Canada and many offer these courses with a distance learning option. Any course completed at an accredited university or as part of a 2 year diploma program at an accredited college will be accepted as long as the course title meets ATRA's course criteria.

Q: I am currently working as a Recreation Therapist but do not meet ATRA's current educational requirements. How can I become a member?

"As part of moving recreation therapy toward regulation under the Health Professions Act, ATRA has developed a bridging process for those individuals currently employed in the field but whose past education curriculum does not meet current ATRA registration criteria. The ATRA Membership Review Committee will apply the bridging process on an individual basis after receiving the completed application and course transcripts."

Q: I'm working as a recreation therapist but don't meet ATRA's educational requirements for professional membership. I'm taking one course at college/university right now - can I join as a student member?

Students must be registered as full time students (three or more courses) in order to qualify for an ATRA student membership.

Q: What happens if I let my Professional membership lapse for more then one year?

Members who do not renew their professional membership within the ATRA membership year will have to apply as a new member the following year and meet the professional membership criteria in place at the time of their new application for membership.