The MPS Art Therapy Department equips students with a strong clinical foundation, combined with intensive training in studio art, art therapy principles and practices, contemporary theories of psychological development and the nature of creativity. Fundamental to the program is the concept that the art therapist and client work together and thus can affect each other’s growth.

The curriculum of the two-year, 60-credit program is interdisciplinary in approach, drawing on art, its clinical and educational applications, and the social sciences. The first year of study covers the general theory and practice of art therapy and is designed to help students understand the relationship between cognition, emotion and behavior, as well as how these areas relate to art diagnosis and treatment. In the second year, students choose between two areas of specialization: addictionology and challenged populations, and complete a thesis project.

The MPS in Art Therapy program is approved by the American Art Therapy Association, Inc., and the New York State Board of Regents, and as such meets the Education Standards of the art therapy profession.

2011 – 2012 student population
47 matriculated students

Department chair
Deborah Farber, art therapist

Faculty members
Claudia Bader, Raquel Chapin Stephenson, Irene Rosner David, Elizabeth DelliCarpini, Rebecca Di Sunno, Michael Fisher, Meagan Frederick, Lisa Furman, Stephanie Gorski, Robert Abel Grant, Joseph Jaworek, Markus J. Kraebber, Carol Greiff Lagstein, Eileen P. McGann, Renee Obstfeld, Valerie Sereno, Brian Tepper

Alumni are employed by Bellevue Hospital; Bethel Nursing Home; Bronx Lebanon Hospital; CASES (Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services for Court Involved Youth); City of New York Department of Correction; HeartShare Human Services; Interfaith Medical Center of New York; Jewish Child Care Association of New York; New York University Hospital; Puerto Rican Family Institute, Adult Partial Hospitalization Unit; The Emily Program Eating Disorders Unit, Minneapolis, MN; United Community & Family Services, Norwich, CT; Victim’s Assistance Services of Westchester

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.sva.edu.