



THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE

Our Certificate in Therapeutic Horticulture program was developed five years ago in response to a situation we recognized: there were few affordable and accessible alternatives to becoming a registered Horticultural Therapist with AHTA that provided both quality education about the field and the practical training necessary to create a successful and sustainable program, all in one readily available package.

We sought action. We created our program to bridge this gap. We are confident that our graduates possess the necessary skills and knowledge to meaningfully contribute to the field of Therapeutic Horticulture.

Below we describe what we see as the unique strengths of the CTH. We take great pride in the following key elements that define our program:

1. **Unmatched Partnership:** Developed in collaboration with two distinguished universities, our program blends decades of experience in horticultural therapy and therapeutic horticulture with the academic excellence of a renowned horticultural science department. Our program is a testament to the collaborative efforts of these prestigious universities, ensuring a rich learning experience combining academic rigor with practical expertise.
2. **Affordable and Accessible:** We are committed to providing an affordable and accessible online and hybrid alternative to traditional certificates in Horticultural Therapy (HT), making quality education within reach for all aspiring practitioners with busy professional schedules and responsibilities.
3. **Thorough and Practical Training:** Our curriculum is meticulously designed to provide thorough and practical training that many of our HT cross-trained students have stated is comparable to accredited HT certificate programs.
4. **Emphasis on Inclusivity:** Inclusivity lies at the heart of our program, with a keen understanding of the importance of cultural identity in therapeutic horticulture practices, ensuring that our approach is accessible and effective for all.
5. **National and International Reach:** With a wide-reaching impact, our program extends its influence beyond borders, having reached 40 states and 14 different countries, fostering a global community of therapeutic horticulture practitioners.
6. **Dedication to Professional Development:** We are deeply committed to reaching and teaching healthcare and allied health professionals, master gardeners, and educators, providing them with the necessary tools and knowledge to integrate therapeutic horticulture into their existing practices.

7. **Empowering Future Leaders:** Many of our students are already utilizing therapeutic horticulture in their professions, and our program equips them with the expertise and confidence to develop sustainable programs that make a lasting impact.
8. **Pioneering Progress:** With over 500 enrollments in our introductory class over the past 4.5 years, we are proud to have initiated a movement towards advancing knowledge and understanding in therapeutic horticulture, paving the way for a brighter future.

We developed our program in part to address the logistical barriers that have commonly prevented highly-skilled individuals from entering this field. While we respect the importance of gaining numerous hours of experience in the field such as the HTR and new THP credential requires, we also recognize and celebrate the fact that the majority of our students are accomplished professionals and dedicated volunteers who bring with them a diverse set of skills, experience, and perspectives.

Our TH certificate program builds upon these strengths and recognizes the reality that many of our students may not have the time to accumulate hundreds of internship hours. In addition, they may not want to incur the considerable additional cost of an AHTA-accredited program that could be 3-4 times the cost of our Certificate in Therapeutic Horticulture.

Professional registration is one route of many that a practitioner can choose to take in the practices of therapeutic horticulture and horticultural therapy. We hope the information we have presented here, together with your own research about the HTR and THP credential with AHTA, helps you make an informed decision about the next right steps for you in this field.

We will continue to be here, creating leaders in the field of therapeutic horticulture. Thank you for being part of and/or joining this transformative journey with us, sowing the seeds of positive change and growth in our worlds and beyond.

Sincerely, The NCBG and NC State Online Therapeutic Horticulture Teaching Team



NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN

NC STATE

Extension Gardener