

**SOUND THERAPY ASSOCIATION
TRAINING STANDARDS
for
Schools, Tutors, Group Leaders and Facilitators
Working with Therapeutic Sound**

Glossary of terms

'Tutor'	Teacher of a professional training or workshop (certified)
'Group Leader'	Presenter or Leader of workshops or courses (non-certified)
'Facilitator'	Facilitator or presenter who assists; may not necessarily be qualified
'Therapist'	A qualified therapist or practitioner
'Student'	A trainee therapist or practitioner
'CPD'	Continuing professional development

Guidelines for Assessing Courses (Credits)

The Sound Therapy Association's Training Standards have been adapted from the 'Qualifications and Credit Framework' guidelines for courses – see this link for further information: (<http://www.qcda.gov.uk/qualifications/qcf/4926.aspx>).

The QCF guidelines suggest a specified number of contact hours should equal 1 credit.

In the STA's case, we have agreed a ratio of 6 contact hours = 1 credit, in order to differentiate between workshops, short courses and professional training (certified) courses.

**Workshops and CPD modules = 1 – 4 credits; Short courses = 4 – 10 credits
Professional training courses (certificated) = minimum of 11 credits or 66 hours**

In order to offer membership to a broad spectrum of facilitators, trainers or tutors, the STA has created two membership categories for those offering training courses, workshops and continuing professional development modules (CPD's). They are as follows -

Group Leaders / Facilitators (non-certified courses)

For individual trainers, group leaders or facilitators who do not run professional (certified) training courses, but wish to register with the Sound Therapy Association (STA). This category applies to individuals presenting workshops for personal development use.

Individuals in this category benefit from STA membership, including assistance to move towards School/Tutor category membership if so desired (consultancy fees may apply). Workshops and/or courses presented by members in this category do not qualify for STA 'approved' status (only applies to certified courses).

Registration Fee: £25.00.

Registration includes one-time £5.00 administration fee to add contact details to website and £20.00 annual subscription fee.

STA Training Standards – Schools or Independent Tutors

Prospective students will be able to choose an appropriate practitioner-level certified training course, knowing that every course offered by an ‘approved’ School or ‘approved’ Independent Tutor meets the following agreed training standards.

- Contact teaching hours need to include a balance of theoretical and practical elements with a structure and assessed support/observation/feedback procedure.
- Home study both practical and theoretical that is assessed/evaluated/monitored and recorded (marking criteria needs to be in place).
- Formal and recorded assessment and evaluation process at the end of the course with pass/fail/deferral procedure
- Clinical practice in the form of case studies which observe the data protection act as well as conforming to the STA best practice guidelines for therapists.
- Clear contra-indications to giving a treatment/client/therapist safety needs to be delivered
- Knowledge of relevant anatomy and physiology is provided
- Knowledge of client support and case study/handling is taught
- Complaints procedure – each school or tutor to have one in place
- Code of Ethics – the school or tutor agrees to abide by the STA’s code of ethics
- Insurance – the school needs to be insured as well as each individual tutor
- Each student needs to be insured before they begin their case studies
- Each tutor has a first aid qualification

Important Elements for Tutors

- There are a wide variety of learning/teaching methods
- There is a clear curriculum that follows a logical process
- Tutors are at least 2 years post-qualified and insured and have undergone some kind of teacher training course

Criteria for Certified Courses

- Contact teaching of at least 11 credits or 66 hours (includes home study requirement)
- A minimum number of case study sessions (30)
- An assessment procedure must be in place which needs to include formative and summative assessment methods
- A marking criteria is submitted
- A clear model of the treatment process must be in place
- A clear curriculum needs to be in place (basic scheme of work/framework need only be submitted).

Registration Fee: £100 (School or Independent Tutor)

Registration fee consists of £25 one-time administration fee for registering courses and £75.00 annual subscription fee for school or independent tutor.

Fee covers all courses submitted at time of initial application. Any new course submitted thereafter will incur an additional administrative fee per course.