

*“Increased motivation and fun are the essential ingredients animals bring to therapy settings, moods are lifted and progress follows better than with standard therapy methods.”*

**Judy Peter**



*Animal assisted therapy is an underutilized modality that can greatly enhance patient wellbeing. I wish there were more professionals with the training needed to take social pet visits to the next level-- animal assisted therapeutic interventions.*

**Dr. Kaycee Sink**



*“These animals are walking “little miracle workers,” and Dr. Buettner's Animal Assisted Therapy Certificate Program is leading the way to a new path to helping and healing. I will be the first one to sign up.”*

**Megan Blake**

## University of North Carolina at Greensboro

School of Health and Human Sciences

*The Department of Community and  
Therapeutic Recreation*

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# Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Certificate

University of North Carolina  
at Greensboro

School of Health and Human Sciences

The Department of Community and  
Therapeutic Recreation



## **Why get this Post-Baccalaureate Certificate?**

This 15-credit hour Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) Certificate program provides the knowledge and skills necessary to use AAT as an intervention to motivate, enhance skills, and promote health and optimal well-being. Currently the demand for quality AAT professionals is far greater than the supply of trained individuals. Our certificate program will provide the training and skills essential for successful application of AAT in a variety of settings: hospitals, long term care, mental health, schools, and others.

### **Program Description**

This certificate introduces the basics of animal assisted therapy, its history, and instrumentation and intervention techniques, including assessment, treatment and evaluation processes. Students will prepare policies and procedures to implement AAT practice. It also includes field experiences in both clinical (AAT approaches for specific disabilities) and non-clinical (classroom) applications of AAT.

It has four components: 1) Weekend intensive Delta Society Pet Partners Course followed by RPM 535: Animal Assisted Therapy online course (3 credits), 3) Advanced Field Experience I (6 credits), 4) two approved supportive courses (e.g. animal psychology, abnormal psychology, special education, nursing course, gerontology or advanced professional practice course related to scope of practice which must be 500-level or above.

### **Target Audience**

This coursework is intended for teachers, nurses, physicians, psychologists, therapists, clinical social workers, counselors, recreational therapists, adaptive physical educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and other future health and human service professionals.

### **Educational Objectives**

*Students will be able to:*

- 1) Demonstrate competence in the roles and responsibilities of animal assisted therapy delivery,
- 2) Create policies and procedures for specific AAT program settings within the scope of professional practice,
- 3) Apply health and human service knowledge and evidence-based practice in a variety of clinical and educational settings (i.e. nursing home, assisted living, hospital, special schools, detention centers, behavioral health, military),
- 4) Examine the complementary approaches based on scientific evidence in the form of AAT protocols.

### **Admission Requirements**

A completed undergraduate degree or permission of program director is needed for admission into the certificate.

### **Program Requirements**

This program requires a weekend AAT intensive followed by 100% online and distance education components. RPM 535 (3), RPM 697 (6), and two related courses (6) fulfill the certification requirements. (15 credits).

### **Additional Information**

The online class is taught on campus via our “Virtual Classroom” allowing students from all over the world access to the “live” course from a desktop computer with internet service. Lab courses do require students to be present to experience hands on learning. To apply contact the UNCG Graduate School at 336-334-5596.

### **Admission information**

Please apply through the UNC Greensboro Graduate School. In addition to the application materials required by The Graduate School, applicants must submit a current resume and a professional statement including animal assisted therapy goals. Interviews are encouraged for all applicants.

[www.uncg.edu/grs/bulletin/recreation.html](http://www.uncg.edu/grs/bulletin/recreation.html)

