



## *Frequently Asked Questions about the **NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate***

Last revised May 16, 2023

### **What is the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate?**

The NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate is a new digital certificate of completion created by NOAH, launched in early 2023. This certificate documents an individual's knowledge of the entire *Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals* book publication and is intended to demonstrate a person's foundational competency in the arts in health field. This certificate is intended for artists and administrators who are using the arts to support health and well-being in healthcare facilities and community settings. Anyone will be able to achieve this certificate by successfully completing an online test on the *Core Curriculum*.

### **What can the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate be used for?**

When you successfully complete the online test, you will receive from NOAH a digital certificate of completion that designates you as a recipient of the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate. You can list this credential on your resume. You can layer this credential with other academic degrees and professional development programs to develop a highly individualized career trajectory that includes arts in health.

### **What does the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate communicate to employers in healthcare facilities, public health settings, arts organizations, and community organizations?**

The NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate communicates to employers that you have successfully demonstrated your understanding of a specific body of knowledge – the entire *Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals*. This certificate is intended to serve as a foundational competency across the entire arts in health field. This certificate does not substitute for the important knowledge and experience that you would acquire from a rigorous academic program or professional development program, and from supervised internships in the field. This certificate is not a professional certification in the arts in health field.

### **Who is eligible to achieve the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate?**

Any adult who is a high school graduate or equivalent, anywhere in the world! This self-study opportunity and certificate of completion are intended to offer an accessible and inclusive “on-ramp” to the arts in health field. We expect this certificate to be of interest to visual artists, performing artists, literary artists, healthcare administrators, arts administrators, healthcare architects and designers, art consultants, recreational therapists, creative arts therapists, expressive arts therapists, nurses, physicians, public health professionals, and more.

### **Is the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate of Completion equivalent to an academic degree or certificate?**

No. The NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate documents that you have successfully completed an online test on the [\*Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals\*](#). This is not intended to replace the important knowledge and experience that you would achieve through an academic degree or certificate program. Please refer to the Higher Education page on this website to identify academic programs that may be of interest to you.

### **Is the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate equivalent to professional certification in the field?**

No. The NOAH Arts in Health Professional Certificate documents that you have successfully completed an online test on the [\*Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals\*](#). This is not nearly as comprehensive and robust as a professional certification.

### **Why isn't the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health considered to be a professional certification?**

The NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate is not a professional certification. It's true that most medical professions and allied health professions have a rigorous certification and/or licensure system in place. In the United States, the creative arts therapies and expressive art therapy field have such a certification/licensure system. The broader arts in health field does not yet have a standardized system for professional certification in place, although specific groups of artists (namely, musicians) have options for professional certification through programs such as those overseen by the National Standards Board for Therapeutic Musicians.

It's important to understand the distinctions in terminology. *Licensing* refers to legal approval from a state government to practice a profession. Only those who are licensed are allowed to use certain titles associated with the profession. In contrast, *certification* refers to formal recognition of competency from a nongovernmental, national professional organization. For professions that aren't licensed (like professionals in the broad arts in health field), professional certification is a way of demonstrating quality to employers and to the public.

However, the process of developing a professional certification system involves numerous steps. For example, detailed job analyses must be conducted, exclusionary eligibility criteria (professional qualifications, academic degrees, etc.) must be established, artistic excellence must be evaluated, a system of mentoring and supervised internships must be set up, continuing education opportunities to maintain certification must be sorted out, and a certification board must oversee all of this. The national field of arts in health is not yet structured to a stage where this complex professional certification system can be established. NOAH has established a task force beginning in 2023 to develop a plan for professional certification of artists to work in healthcare facilities and public health settings. We anticipate that any future professional certification will include a requirement to successfully pass the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health test.

And so, the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health designation – a certificate of completion – is a solid first step in developing pathways forward for further professionalization of the field in the future.

### **What happened to the Arts in Health-Certified (AIH-C) that was in development?**

As indicated above, we've learned that an official professional certification system requires a much more complex process than NOAH has been able to oversee in recent years. Work on the Arts in Health-Certified (AIH-C) is currently being re-initiated, but it will likely be several years before a rigorous professional certification is available.

### **My employer is mandating that I have a professional certification. What are my current options?**

There are many ways that you can layer the new NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate with other degree programs and professional certifications. Musicians have an array of options available through the National Standards Board for Therapeutic Musicians. You may wish to look into professional certification as an Expressive Arts Therapist. National certification organizations for recreational therapists and activity professionals may also provide a good pathway: see the National Association of Activity Professionals Credentialing Center, the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals, and the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. For professionals working in the sphere of arts in health environments (architects, designers, art consultants), we encourage you to look at certifications available through the Center for Health Design.

### **What additional NOAH professionalization credentials are in development?**

NOAH is envisioning the NOAH Essentials of Arts in Health Certificate– based on a test of the *Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals* – to be an accessible, entry-level, foundational competency for the field as a whole. As a logical next step, parallel educational resources and credentials for Arts in Public Health and Arts in Medical Education may be developed in the future. Over time and with many more resources available, it may be possible to move forward with developing the Arts in Health-Certified (AIH-C) professional certification.

### **Can I complete this credential for Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits?**

This will depend on decisions made by your professional association and your professional certification or license. NOAH will be gradually reaching out to relevant professional associations to make our educational materials available to allied health professions for CEUs.