



Fact Sheet **Leadership Academy**

Purpose

The Leadership Academy program is sponsored by the Association for Play Therapy (APT) to develop the leadership necessary to ensure the long-term growth and advancement of both play therapy and APT.

The program specifically addresses an Ends policy approved by the Board of Directors (Board) stating that, "because APT exists, mental health professionals can access the benefits of an engaged and vibrant play therapy community."

History

The Board adopted the Policy Governance© Model in 2005 to better define the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between governance (board), management (CEO), and stakeholders (members). To help members understand the Model and to ensure their effective participation in APT governance and programs, the Leadership Academy was established in 2004 and a class has graduated each year thereafter.

Description

The Leadership Academy program is an orientation and not a graduate course. It focuses upon leadership and the "business of play therapy" but not play therapy itself. Graduates do not earn continuing education credit. It welcomes the enrollment of member and non-member mental health academics, practitioners, and students.

Classes commence in January and conclude in June. Class size is restricted to 25 participants and the Leadership Academy fee is \$75 (participants will be invoiced). The program consists of five mandatory assignments, each of which has two parts.

- Part A of each assignment requires emailed written responses to questions based on brief reading materials provided by APT.
- Part B requires online participation in each of three exercises posted to the online Leadership Academy forum. In some cases the group will be working toward consensus and multiple posts by each class member are required, in addition to monitoring the forum for classmates posts.

Successful completion of the Leadership Academy program requires 100% participation in each and every assignment by the deadlines indicated. All deadlines are "hard deadlines" to ensure that each class progresses as a single unit.

Learning Objectives

If enrolled in the Leadership Academy program, you will:

- Learn about APT and its history, structure, programs, personnel, finances, communications, and offices.
- Learn key Policy Governance© Model (PGM) vocabulary, principles, and processes.
- Learn how members participate in APT as both governance and volunteer staff.
- Learn how to monitor and evaluate organizational (and management) performance.
- Learn how APT conducts its daily business via email and the internet and how Stakeholders participate and concisely communicate.
- Learn about the nature of leadership and key leadership attributes.

Reading Material

APT provides brief outside readings to which enrollees refer when completing the first part of each assignment.

Assignments

1. About the Association for Play Therapy – Organization (e.g. purpose, programs, policies, people, etc.)
2. About Leadership – Leadership
3. About the Policy Governance© Model – Vocabulary and Principles
4. About the Policy Governance© Model – Stakeholders as Consumers
5. About the Policy Governance© Model – Stakeholders as Owners

| ASSIGNMENTS | | ASSIGNMENT 1 | ASSIGNMENT 2 | ASSIGNMENT 3 | ASSIGNMENT 4 | ASSIGNMENT 5 |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Tasks | | Association for Play Therapy | Leadership | Policy Governance Model A | Policy Governance Model B | Policy Governance Model C |
| PART A | Part A, a written assignment will be emailed to Class. | Tue, Jan. 9 | Tue, Feb. 13 | Tue, March 20 | Tue, April 24 | Tue, May 29 |
| | Class completes and emails brief written assignment responses to Kathy. | Tue, Jan. 16 | Tue, Feb. 20 | Tue, March 27 | Tue, May 1 | Tue, June 5 |
| PART B* | Part A compiled and distributed. Part B posted in Leadership Academy Forum. | Tue, Jan. 23 | Tue, Feb. 27 | Tue, April 3 | Tue, May 8 | Tue, June 12 |
| | Class posts in all exercises. | Fri, Feb. 2 | Fri, March 9 | Fri, April 13 | Fri, May 18 | Fri, June 22 |

Note: This schedule might be slightly revised if situations occur.

Evaluation

Although no program grades are assigned, the Leadership Committee observes the progress of each class member during online assignments and shares its observations with the program administrator. In the final assignment, enrollees are invited to suggest how the program might be improved. These suggestions are considered when preparing the program for the next class.

Enrollment Criteria

To enroll in and successfully complete the Leadership Academy program, you must:

- Be a mental health academic, practitioner, or graduate student.
- Complete and submit these enrollment materials by **December 15**:
 1. Completed and signed Leadership Application
 2. Color high resolution photo
- Upon acceptance in the 2018 Leadership Academy, participants will receive an invoice for the registration fee in the amount of \$75. Invoices must be paid within five days.
- Participate in 100% of assignments, including the written and online portions of each assignment by the indicated hard deadlines. If unable to satisfy this graduation criteria, enrollment may be once deferred to the next class.

FAQ

1. What time commitment is required by the Academy? Graduation from the Academy requires that each individual participate in and complete five assignments between January and June. Each assignment consists of two parts – part A requires emailed responses to written questions based upon brief readings, and part B requires participating in an online forum. The former takes about 30-60 minutes to complete. The latter requires enrollees to post comments in the online forum over a 10-day period. Academy participants should plan for continual involvement during this period. A daily review of class posts and/or responses in addition to your own posts, will keep you engaged in the discussion. Because participation in all assignments is mandatory, time management and organizational skills are critical.
2. Am I required to attend meetings? No. The Academy is a “virtual program” and, as such, all assignments and communications are conducted via internet. There are no teleconferences and webinars but 100% participation in all assignments is required to successfully complete the program.
3. Can I earn mental health or play therapy continuing education credit for completion of the Academy? No. This is not a mental health or play therapy program. It is an orientation intended to improve the effectiveness of your participation in APT governance and programs and its content applicable to both play therapy and other aspects of your professional and community pursuits.
4. Does the \$75.00 registration fee cover all materials? Yes, including a graduation certificate.