

## *I Want That Job! – Music Therapist*

Shavalerie Thurman:

There's an old phrase, "When words fail, music speaks." And for some people, it's speaking to them through therapy. Check out this career path, Music Therapist.

Maria Nichta:

I am a license professional, board certified Music Therapist. We just use music to achieve a non-musical goal. My typical work day is really different every day. Some days, I work with kids with special needs and disabilities. Sometimes I'll work with older adults. Every session, I always have a couple songs. I also will prep a lot of visuals, usually for my younger clients that I work with, using visuals and other sensory stimulation.

Maria Nichta:

To work in this field, you need the four years of college education and then you do a six-month internship after graduating. And then you have to sit for a national board certification exam. We have to study voice, piano, guitar, and basic percussion skills throughout our training, but it's definitely helpful just to have musical knowledge and a musical background coming into it.

Maria Nichta:

What drives my passion for music therapy, I think, is my passion for music personally and my passion for helping people. I just think music is such a part of all of us, whether you have a skill for it or not. You know, we always say music therapy is not for musicians. It's for anybody.

Shavalerie Thurman:

Such an amazing and rewarding job. For more information about a career as a music therapist, go to [workingnation.com](http://workingnation.com) to learn more.