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# A Guide to Selected Alternate Guitar Tunings for Music Therapists

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While every music therapist is familiar with standard guitar tuning, fewer music therapists are comfortable using alternate guitar tunings, even though this skill is included in the *Professional Competencies* document of the American Music Therapy Association (2013). Specifically, within the music foundations section, guitar skills subsection, there are two competencies relevant to the topic of alternate tunings: (a) tune guitar using standard and other tunings, and (b) perform a basic repertoire of traditional, folk, and popular songs with or without printed music. Likewise, from the *Scope of Practice* document of the Certification Board for Music Therapists (2010), within the professional development and responsibilities section, professional development subsection, the following item has relevance: (a) expand music skills.

...

At the core of the professional competencies is the idea that music therapists should be familiar with...

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