

Program Policy Statement

Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training (MS-AT)

Part I. Program History

A. Statement of purpose and expectation of graduate study in the program.

One of the oldest institutions of higher education in the country, the University of Delaware combines tradition and innovation, offering students a rich heritage along with the latest in instructional and research technology. A state-assisted, privately governed institution, the University of Delaware joined the ranks of historic land-grant colleges in 1867. Today, it is a land-grant, sea-grant, space-grant, and urban-grant Carnegie Doctoral/Research Extensive university. Midway between Philadelphia and Baltimore, the main campus is located in Newark, Delaware, a suburban community of 30,000.

As the largest university in the State of Delaware, it supports a broad spectrum of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Students are the focus of the University's academic programs. In fall 2017, 22,168 students were enrolled, including 18,144 undergraduate students, 4,024 graduate students.

Like the University, the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) has a distinguished past. The program traces its' origin to the fall of 1972, when Dr. C. Roy Rylander and Keith Handling initiated plans to develop a NATA approved undergraduate athletic training education program. The first students were admitted to the program on an experimental basis in the fall of 1973. During the spring of 1975 the program was evaluated by the NATA Professional Education Committee and received approval as an accredited program effective September 1, 1975.

The program was initially developed as an emphasis track, with students completing teacher certification in Physical Education along with the Athletic Training coursework and clinical experience. The program eventually evolved to where students had a choice of other majors such as physical education studies (non-teaching), fitness management, and even elementary education.

Through the years, as more courses were added to the curriculum, it became increasingly difficult for students to complete their chosen major and the athletic training track and still graduate in the traditional four-year period. As a result students were forced to add an additional semester or two to complete their program requirements. During the 1991-92 school year, the athletic training faculty and staff decided to pursue the development of an athletic training major, so that students could once again graduate in four years. In the spring of 1993, following University Senate approval, the College of Physical Education, Athletics, and Recreation received approval for a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training (B.S.A.T.). The first class was formally admitted September 1, 1993.

During the 1994-95 academic year UD's ATEP began preparations for accreditation by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). During the spring of 1996 members of the Joint Review Committee on education programs in Athletic

Training (JRC-AT) conducted an on-site visit and initial accreditation by CAAHEP was granted on October 18, 1996. Successful continuing-accreditation was granted in October of 2002. The continuing accreditation self-study document and subsequent on-site visit in the spring of 2007 marked the first involving the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and involved the 2005 CAATE Standards for Entry-Level Athletic Training Education programs (revised 2006). Following 10 years and during the summer of 2016 UD's undergraduate ATEP submitted another self-study document and ensuing on-campus site visit were successful in gaining another 10 year re-accreditation for the ATEP.

Today the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at the University of Delaware is a rigorous and intense curriculum that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. In 2015, the Athletic Training Strategic Alliance established that the professional degree in Athletic Training would be at the master's level. As a result the UD's ATEP transitioned the undergraduate program into an entry-level master's degree program that encompasses 2 consecutive calendar years involving very specific coursework, competitive clinical experiences, and culminating with a full semester-long clinical immersion experience. Fortunately our accrediting agency provided flexibility to our program enabling us to submit a "Substantive Change – Change in Degree" request in-lieu of another extensive self-study in order for our program to *maintain* accreditation for the entry-level Master of Science degree program in Athletic Training. The program is currently compliant with all CAATE standards and the current accreditation expires during the 2026-27 academic year.

The mission of the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at the University of Delaware is to prepare students to become competent, skillful, and compassionate entry-level professionals in the profession of athletic training. Students involved in the professional Athletic Training Education Program will complete the university, departmental, and major coursework requirements and satisfy the clinical proficiencies via the Practicum experience and while working in various clinical environments. Upon completion of the Athletic Training Education Program, the student will be eligible to successfully sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) certification examination for athletic trainers. Furthermore, the student will be recommended for a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training (MS-AT).

The College of Health Sciences (CHS) and the Master of Science degree in Athletic Training embraces diversity, inclusion, connectedness, and professionalism as core institutional values. We believe that a diverse student, faculty, and staff body are critical to our teaching and scholarship and are a much-needed reflection of the diverse patients and caregivers for whom we provide care. Beyond the University's code of conduct for students and employees, which we fully support, we have additional standards and expectations for members of CHS and Master of Science degree in Athletic Training due to our important roles and influence in health and healthcare.

B. Date of Permanent Status (or current status).

The undergraduate major in Athletic Training was first established by UD's Faculty Senate in May of 1993. From an accreditation standpoint, UD's undergraduate ATEP was first accredited in 1996, and most recently granted a 10-year re-accreditation extension from CAATE on December 8, 2016. A successful "Substantive Change" request applied for to CAATE in the Fall 2018 resulted in the accreditation of the MS-AT degree program until the 2026-27 academic year.

C. Degrees offered (include brief description of concentrations, fields, etc.).

Master of Science in degree in Athletic Training (MS-AT).

Part II. Admission

A. Admission Requirements

All applications to UD's MS-AT program are handled through the ATCAS portal -----
<https://atcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

Secondarily, applicants must also submit some additional materials directly to the University of Delaware Graduate College using the [online admission process](#) before admission can be considered. Admission applications are available at: <https://grad-admissions.udel.edu/apply/>

[International applicants](#) must submit official proof of English proficiency such as TOEFL or IELTS scores. The recommended minimum TOEFL score is 100 and/or IELTS of 6.5. Additional information regarding English proficiency can be found at <http://grad.udel.edu/apply/toefl-ielts/>

Students moving from UD's internal Sports Health major via the 3+2 option are only required to complete a brief online application ---- <https://grad-admissions.udel.edu/register/3+2> through UD's Graduate College

The Athletic Training Administrative Team consisting of faculty/staff members dedicated and committed to the Athletic Training Education Program will be responsible for reviewing all applications for the ATEP. The following admissions criteria will be reviewed:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university*

Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or higher

Prerequisite coursework ("B" grade or higher):

Anatomy/Physiology (with labs) – 2 classes

Seminar in Pre-Athletic Training (KAAP106, KAAP107, KAAP206, KAAP207, KAAP306, and KAAP307) --- THIS REQUIREMENT IS ONLY FOR University of Delaware students in the 3+2 option.

Prerequisite coursework ("C-" grade or higher):

Biology (with lab) – 1 class

Biomechanics – 1 class

Chemistry (with lab) – 1 class

Exercise Physiology – 1 class

Mathematics (pre-calculus or higher) – 1 class

Nutrition – 1 class

Physics (with lab) – 1 class

Psychology – 1 class

Research Design/Methods – 1 class

Statistics – 1 class

Additional courses that are recommended but NOT required: Health, Medical Terminology

Proof of current certification in CPR/AED

100+ Hours of Observation under supervision of a BOC certified or licensed athletic trainer

Two (2) academic/professional letters of recommendation*

One-two page essay stating interest in Athletic Training as a career

An interview with department faculty/staff required*

* Student entering the entry-level master's degree program via the "3+2" option from UD's Sports Health major will meet the above admissions criteria (except those with asterisks) throughout the course of their 3-year undergraduate experience

B. Prior Degree Requirements

Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

***Exception:**

Student entering the entry-level master's degree program via the "3+2" option from UD's Sports Health major will not be required to have a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

C. Application deadlines.

The academic program begins in the summer; therefore, all admissions decisions are made prior to that time. It is expected that admissions decisions will be made on or before April 15th of each year to allow adequate time and preparation for the new incoming cohort.

D. Special competencies needed.

Admissions decisions are made by the Athletic Training Administrative Team using the above-mentioned criteria as a guide.

E. Admission categories.

Regular status is offered to students who meet all of the established entrance requirements, who have a record of high scholarship in their fields of specialization, and who have the ability, interest, and maturity necessary for successful study at the graduate level in an Athletic Training degree program.

F. University Statement

Admission to the graduate program is competitive. Those who meet stated requirements are not guaranteed admission, nor are those who fail to meet all of those requirements necessarily precluded from admission if they offer other appropriate strengths.

Part III. Academic

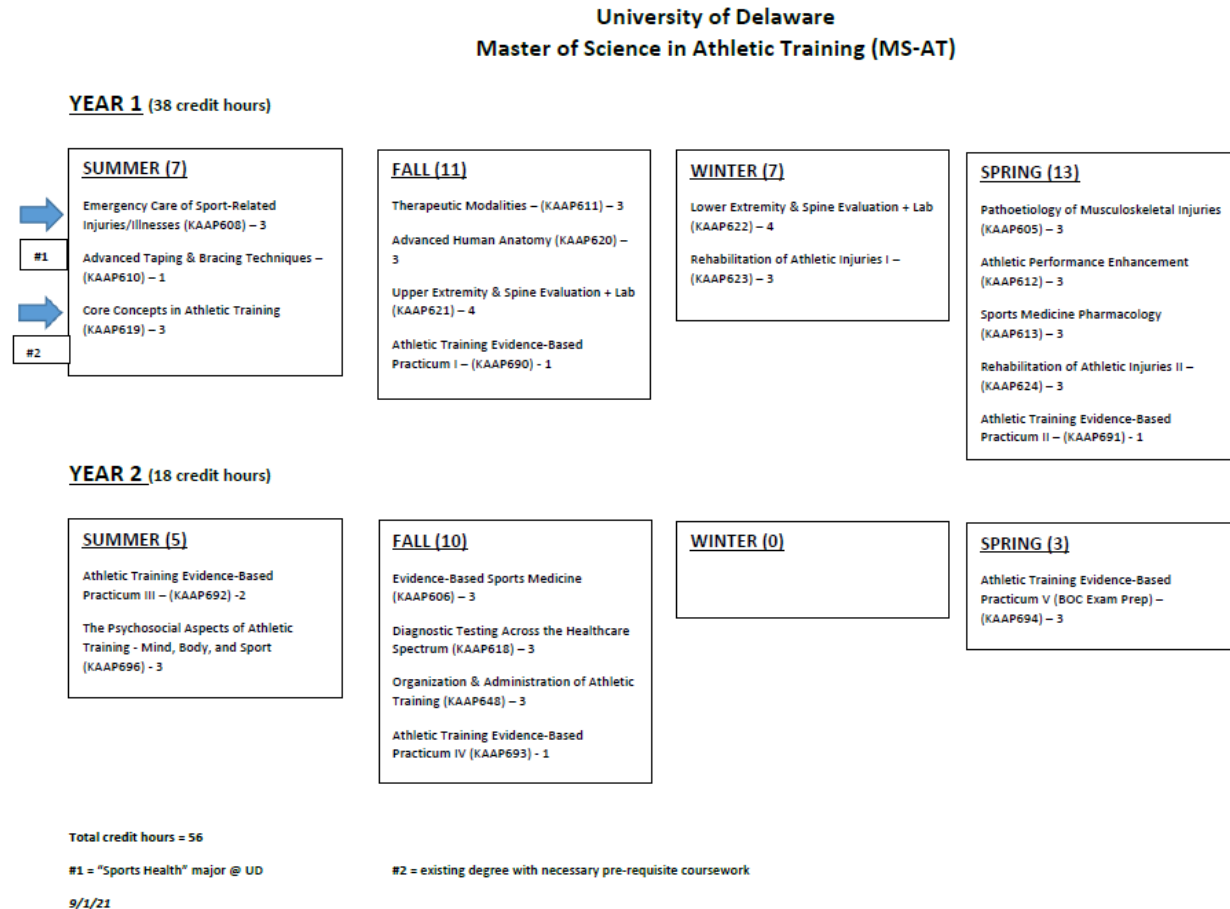
A. Degree Requirements

1. List course requirements according to categories such as core requirements, concentration options, electives, research credits and dissertation credit requirements. List number of credits in each category and include total credits required for degree.

The courses listed are taken in a sequential manner over a two consecutive year period (beginning summer). All coursework has been mandated by our accrediting agency (CAATE) and put forth in the document titled: “Standards for the Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs” (circa 2020). All courses are offered by the Department of Kinesiology & Applied Physiology (KAAP). Here are the specific course requirements along with the intended 2-year program of study:

| Course Prefix/Code | Course Name | Credit Hours |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| KAAP605 | Pathoetiology of Musculoskeletal Injuries | 3 |
| KAAP606 | Evidence-Based Sports Medicine | 3 |
| KAAP608 | Emergency Care of Sport-Related Injuries/Illnesses | 3 |
| KAAP610 | Advanced Taping & Bracing Techniques | 1 |
| KAAP611 | Therapeutic Modalities | 3 |
| KAAP612 | Athletic Performance Enhancement | 3 |
| KAAP613 | Sports Medicine Pharmacology | 3 |
| KAAP618 | Diagnostic Testing Across the Healthcare Spectrum | 3 |
| KAAP619 | Core Concepts in Athletic Training | 3 |
| KAAP620 | Advanced Human Anatomy | 3 |
| KAAP621 | Upper Extremity & Spine Evaluation + Lab | 4 |
| KAAP622 | Lower Extremity & Spine Evaluation + Lab | 4 |
| KAAP623 | Rehabilitation of Athletic Injuries I | 3 |
| KAAP624 | Rehabilitation of Athletic Injuries II | 3 |
| KAAP648 | Organization & Administration of Athletic Training | 3 |
| KAAP690 | Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum I | 1 |
| KAAP691 | Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum II | 1 |
| KAAP692 | Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum III | 2 |
| KAAP693 | Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum IV | 1 |
| KAAP694 | Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum V | 3 |
| KAAP696 | The Psychosocial Aspects of Athletic Training - Mind, Body, and Sport | 3 |
| TOTAL CREDIT HOURS | | 56 |

The following is the 2-year Plan of Study for the MS-AT degree:



2. Give non-registered requirements in detail; includes residency requirements, qualifying examinations (number and format), portfolios, seminars, English proficiency, language requirements, teaching experience, internships, etc.

During the final semester in the MS-AT degree program all students will be required to do a semester-long full-immersion clinical experience at a site of their choice. However, this clinical experience is taken as KAAP694 - Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum V for 3 credit hours at the University of Delaware. All students will be expected to work between 35-40 hours at their clinical sites resulting in between 525-600 clinical hours for the semester. As a requirement of successful completion of KAAP694 - Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum V is success on the UD ATEP Practical Exam. All students must pass this class component before graduating. In the case of our 2nd year MS-AT students, they will return to the UD campus during final exam week in their final Spring semester and challenge the exam. Clinical hours are a valued component within all five Practicum classes and account for 10% of each overall Practicum grade.

3. Give procedure for petitions for variance in degree requirements (e.g., course substitution policies, completion deadlines, etc.).

CAATE-accreditation standards do not allow for any deviations in our planned program of study.

4. Define any grade minimums in courses that are different from University policy.

Not applicable

5. Identify any courses, which may not be used towards the degree (i.e., independent study, pre-candidacy study).

Not applicable

6. Identify expectations of facility of expression in English (oral and written) as part of the degree requirement.

Not applicable.

B. Committees for exams, thesis, or dissertations

UD ATEP is a professional preparation program and therefore there are no associated qualifying exam, thesis, or dissertation requirements.

C. Timetable and Definition of Satisfactory Progress towards the Degree

1. Academic load (full & part-time) expectations. Define normal progress. Define departmental review procedures for evaluating normal progress and evaluation of performance.

Student enrolled in the MS-AT degree program are enrolled on a full-time basis and do so alongside their classmates in each admissions cohort. Full-time academic load requirements are clearly delineated in the above-mentioned academic plan of study. Part-time status is not an option. Most of the courses in the MS-AT degree program are predicated on successful completion of courses taken during the previous semester and create a learning over time platform recognized by the CAATE accrediting agency. Normal progress through the MS-AT degree program involves completion of both didactic and clinical requirements during each of the 7 semesters students are enrolled. Classroom and clinical performance is evaluated using standardized grading rubrics (see Comprehensive Assessment Plan for further details).

2. Grade requirements (general and specific). Include any special departmental expectations such as minimum grades in specific courses, limits on special problem courses, etc.

The majority of coursework in the MS-AT degree program involves standard lecture/didactic formats in a classroom setting and utilize standardized grading policies as set forth in UD's on-line course catalog - <https://catalog.udel.edu/content.php?catoid=40&navoid=6627> The Athletic Training Evidence-Based Practicum sequence of courses (5) are all graded on a *pass* vs. *no pass* basis. There are no independent study or special problem courses associated with the MS-AT degree program.

3. Thesis/dissertation progress timetable guidelines.

This is a professional preparation program and therefore there are no associated qualifying exam, thesis or dissertation requirements.

4. Thesis/dissertation defense guidelines.

This is a professional preparation program and therefore there are no associated qualifying exam, thesis or dissertation requirements.

5. Forms required.

There are no specific forms associated with the MS-AT degree program as the degree is associated with satisfactory completion of all didactic/clinical coursework. Grade reports are filed per usual format in the UDSIS grading system by each individual instructor and processed by the Registrar's Office at UD.

6. Identify consequence for failure to make satisfactory progress.

Students enrolled in the MS-AT degree program who fail to meet minimum grade requirement standards will not be allowed to continue in the program. Students may opt to drop from the program completely or attempt to re-take the course(s) they failed to meet minimum grade requirements in and join the next cohort as they move through the degree program sequence.

7. Protocol for grievance procedure if student has been recommended for termination for failure to make satisfactory progress.

Students concerned that they have received an unfair evaluation, have been graded inappropriately, or are facing termination from the MS-AT degree program may file grievances in accordance with student guide to [University of Delaware](#) policies. Students are encouraged to contact the MS-AT Program Director prior to filing a formal grievance in an effort to resolve the situation informally.

Part IV. Assessment Plan

Indicate how the program will be evaluated and assessed. Every learning outcome needs to be assessed in at least two ways. One measure must be a direct measurement (where you can see the student demonstrate their learning). Other measures can be direct or indirect (such as a survey). Success should be measured against the criteria listed including the stated learning outcomes and against whatever objectives have been set forth in the first section of the proposal. Academic units are encouraged to consult with the Center for Educational Effectiveness to develop appropriate learning outcomes, assessment criteria, and benchmarks for success.

As part of the 2016 CAATE re-accreditation process involving a submitted self-study (July 2016) and subsequent site visit (December 2016), UD's undergraduate Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) also supplied a "Comprehensive Assessment Plan". Despite the fact

that our Athletic Training Education Program is transitioning from a baccalaureate degree to a master's degree the CAATE-mandated content and educational competencies remain the same. In light of this, we have updated our Comprehensive Assessment Plan to reflect graduate course sequencing and names, but otherwise the plan remains in place and active. The Comprehensive Assessment Plan can be accessed at the following website link: <https://sites.udel.edu/chs-atep/files/2017/10/Comprehensive-Assessment-Plan-UD-MS-AT-Program-October-2017-1x51znr.pdf>

Part V. Financial Aid

A. Financial Awards

1. Types of awards, policy for granting financial awards, summer appointments, and number of years of support.

UD's MS-AT degree program is a professional preparation program that does not have any graduate assistantships or other associated forms of financial assistance. Students are expected to pay the set graduate tuition fee (per credit hour fee based on the amount set by the College of Health Sciences guidelines) as well as any associated fees set by the University of Delaware's Board of Trustees. The current graduate tuition rates can be viewed at -

<https://grad.udel.edu/policies/tuition-rates/> Students may apply on their own for financial assistance through UD's Office of Financial Aid or other graduate student financial aid assistance outlets. Graduate students who are part of the MS-AT degree program do have opportunities to apply for program specific awards - <http://sites.udel.edu/chs-atep/awards/>

2. Responsibilities of students on contract.

Not applicable.

3. Evaluation of students on contract.

Not applicable.

Part VI. Departmental Operations

A. General Student Responsibilities

1. Policies and procedures governing the MS-AT degree program are found at the following website link: <http://sites.udel.edu/chs-atep/policies-procedures/>

B. Student Government and Organizations (both student and professional).

The Athletic Training Student Association (ATSA) at the University of Delaware will serve as the professional and social organization for the MS-AT degree program. ATSA has a dedicated website for all things related to the organization --- <http://udelatsa.weebly.com/>

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) mission is to represent, engage and foster the continued growth and development of the athletic training profession. Therefore, we encourage all of our Athletic Training students to become members of the NATA and to involve themselves in organizational activities to the extent that they are able. The NATA website link is: <https://www.nata.org/>

C. Travel for Professional Meetings or Presentations

There are no specific dedicated funds set aside for graduate students enrolled in the MS-AT degree program. However, students may secure professional development funding from a variety of potential funding sources at the University of Delaware (ATSA, Graduate & Professional Education, Department of KAAP, College of Health Sciences, etc...) or elsewhere if they are able to demonstrate need and purpose.

D. Program Faculty

Per CAATE-accreditation standards the following must be in place on or before July 1, 2023: Program faculty numbers are sufficient to meet the needs of the athletic training program and must include a minimum of **three** core faculty. Program faculty may include core faculty, associated faculty, and adjunct faculty. The needs of the program include advising and mentoring students, meeting program outcomes, scholarship, program administration, recruiting and admissions, and offering courses on a regular and planned basis.

All faculty assigned and responsible for the instruction of athletic training knowledge, skills, and abilities in required coursework are recognized by the University of Delaware as having instructional responsibilities and reflected as having graduate faculty status as delineated in the University of Delaware Faculty Handbook – Faculty Workload Policy 4.3.3 <http://facultyhandbook.udel.edu/handbook/433-faculty-workload-policies> The “graduate faculty status” designation does not exist at the University of Delaware because of the fear that it would unfairly create a class system between faculty members. Therefore, faculty/staff members teaching courses in support of UD’s new MS-AT program beginning Summer 2019 are assigned to do so based on their expertise and approval by the Chair, Department of KAAP on an annual basis.