

## MSAT Program Technical Standards

The Athletic Training Program (ATP) at the University of Delaware is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled. This program aims to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a broad spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. The technical standards set forth by the ATP establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]).

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam.

A candidate for the ATP at the University of Delaware must have abilities and skills in five categories: observation, communication, motor, intellectual, and behavioral/social. Reasonable accommodation for people with documented disabilities will be considered individually, but a candidate must be able to perform independently. The following skills are required, with or without accommodation.

**Observation:** Candidates must have sufficient sensory capacity to observe in the lecture hall, the laboratory, the outpatient clinical setting, and in direct patient interaction.

Sensory skills adequate to perform a physical examination are required. Functional vision, hearing, and tactile sensation must be adequate to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information through procedures regularly required in a physical examination, such as inspection, palpation, and special tests.

**Communication:** Candidates must be able to communicate effectively in both academic and healthcare settings. Candidates must show evidence of effective written and verbal communication skills. This includes the ability to record examination and diagnostic results clearly, accurately and efficiently. Students for whom English is a second language must have a facility in English adequate for university work. The ESL assessment test results may require students to take one or more English courses in English as a second language.

**Motor:** The ability to participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures (e.g., palpation and auscultation) is required. Candidates must have sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide care to patients. Candidates must be able to negotiate patient care environments and move between settings, such as classroom buildings and clinical settings.

Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences.

**Intellectual:** Candidates must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. Problem solving, one of the critical skills of athletic trainers, requires all these intellectual abilities. In addition, candidates should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and the spatial relationships of structures. Candidates must be able to read and understand allied health and medical literature. To complete the Athletic Training Program, candidates must demonstrate mastery of these skills and the

ability to use them together in a timely fashion in problem-solving and patient care.

**Behavioral and social attributes:** Candidates must possess the emotional health required to fully utilize their intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all academic and patient care responsibilities. The development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and other members of the healthcare team is essential. The ability to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice, flexibility, compassion, integrity, motivation, interpersonal skills, and concern for others are all required.

Students who do not feel they can meet the technical standards will be referred to the appropriate campus resources for assessment.

The ATP complies with all federal and state laws and University policies, including Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

A signed copy of the ATP Technical Standards is included with the annual forms submission. These standards are reviewed each year, and students are encouraged to notify the Program Director if their ability to meet them changes.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do certify that I have personally examined  
\_\_\_\_\_. In my professional judgment, they (check one):

- are capable
- would be capable, with accommodation for a disability,
- are not capable

of meeting the written technical standards for admission and progression in the Athletic Training Education Program at the University of Delaware.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credential(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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