

ATHLETIC TRAINING, M.S.

The Master's degree in Athletic Training is a professional program that provides rigorous and comprehensive preparation for students seeking a health care career in athletic training. Athletic trainers (ATs) are multi-skilled health care professionals who collaborate with physicians as part of the health care team to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical condition. Athletic trainers provide health care in a variety of practice settings for people involved in all levels of physical activity. Practice environments include youth to professional sports, military and public service personnel, secondary schools, colleges, universities, performing arts, workers with physically demanding jobs, physician practice settings, and much more.

Prospective students should visit the program website (<https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/AT/>) for additional information on program outcomes and opportunities.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (<https://caate.net/>) and students are eligible to sit for the national Board of Certification exam (<https://bocatc.org/>) after successful completion of the MSAT program.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet** the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) **of the Graduate School as well as the program(s)**. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	The program does not admit in the fall.
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	April 1*
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a

Letters of Recommendation Required 3

*

Early application consideration deadline is December 1.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING (MSAT)

- Applicants for all graduate programs must complete a UW-Madison Graduate school application: <https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>
- Applicants for the professional program in athletic training must complete the Athletic Training Central Application Service (ATCAS) application: <https://atcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

ADMISSION CRITERIA AND PREREQUISITE COURSES

Admission to the MSAT (professional program in athletic training) requires:

- Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) from a regionally accredited school of higher education by the start of the program
- Transcripts from each college, university, or technical college attended showing work completed and in progress
- Observation of two Certified Athletic Trainers in different clinical practice settings. Refer to the MSAT Program website for forms and guidelines for required observation experiences. (<https://kinesiology.education.wisc.edu/at/apply-msat/>)
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation
- Personal statement responding to prompts provided on the graduate application
- A grade of "C" or better in the following prerequisite courses or their equivalent:

Required Prerequisite Courses / UW-Madison or comparable coursework

UW-Madison Course(s) / Comparable / Description

Code	Title	Credits
ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY 101	Animal Biology	3-5
or ZOOLOGY/ BIOLOGY/ BOTANY 151	Introductory Biology	
CHEM 103	General Chemistry I	4
PHYSICS 103	General Physics	4
PSYCH 210	Basic Statistics for Psychology	3
or STAT 301	Introduction to Statistical Methods	
or STAT 371	Introductory Applied Statistics for the Life Sciences	
PSYCH 202	Introduction to Psychology	3-4
ANAT&PHY 335	Physiology ¹	5
ANAT&PHY 337	Human Anatomy ¹	3
KINES 314	Physiology of Exercise	4

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If anatomy and physiology are taken as a combined course, two semesters are necessary to meet this requirement.

Recommended Prerequisite Courses / UW-Madison or comparable coursework

Code	Title	Credits
NUTR SCI 132	Nutrition Today	3
or NUTR SCI 332	Human Nutritional Needs	

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Financial assistance may be available through School of Education fellowships. The Athletic Training Program also has scholarships available to both incoming and returning students. For more information, please contact the MSAT Program Director.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW-Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Detail
Minimum Credit Requirement	58 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	29 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	All degree coursework must be completed at the graduate level; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide (https://registrar.wisc.edu/course-guide/)).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required.
Other Grade Requirements	No other grade requirements.
Assessments and Examinations	No formal examination required.
Language Requirements	No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES

Code	Title	Credits
Summer I (8 credits)		
KINES 570	Anatomical Foundations in Athletic Training	3
KINES 571	Emergency Procedures for Athletic Trainers	2
KINES 572	Foundational Skills in Athletic Training	1
KINES 620	Clinical Practicum in Athletic Training I	2
Fall I (15 credits)		
KINES 621	Clinical Practicum in Athletic Training II	3
KINES 650	Foundations of Professional Practice in Athletic Training	1
KINES 651	Public Health, Policy, and Practice	3
KINES 652	Evaluation and Therapeutic Interventions I	4
KINES 654	Clinical Medicine in Athletic Training I	3
KINES 670	Enhancing Performance and Wellness	1
Spring I (15 credits)		
KINES 622	Clinical Field Experience in Athletic Training I	3
KINES 650	Foundations of Professional Practice in Athletic Training	1
KINES 653	Evaluation and Therapeutic Interventions II	4
KINES 655	Clinical Medicine in Athletic Training II	3
KINES 656	Scientific Inquiry in Athletic Training	3
KINES 671	Diagnostic Imaging in Athletic Training	1

Summer II (4 credits)		
KINES 623	Clinical Field Experience in Athletic Training II	3
KINES 672	Principles of Pharmacology for Athletic Trainers	1
Fall II (8 credits)		
KINES 624	Athletic Training Preceptorship I	6
KINES 657	Role Transition and Professional Practice in Athletic Training	1
KINES 673	Healthcare Informatics and Quality Improvement in Athletic Training	1
Spring II (8 credits)		
KINES 625	Athletic Training Preceptorship II	7
KINES 674	Practice Based Research in Athletic Training	1
Total Credits		58

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of graduate course work from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW-Madison Undergraduate

No credits from a UW-Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the MSAT degree.

UW-Madison University Special

With program approval and payment of the difference in tuition (between special and graduate tuition), students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of course work numbered 300 or above taken in UW-Madison University Special student status. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).

2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

An overall GPA below 3.0 will place the student on academic probation. If a 3.0 GPA is not regained in the subsequent semester the student may be dismissed from the program or allowed to continue provisionally for 1 semester based on advisor appeal to the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

The MSAT assigns an advisor to each student. MSAT students must complete one mandatory group advising meeting each semester. In addition, students must meet individually once per semester with an advisor to insure satisfactory progress toward their MSAT degree and to monitor clinical placement progress needs.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Master's degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Students may count the coursework completed before their absence for meeting graduate degree credit requirements; the Graduate School will not count that work toward the Graduate School's minimum residence credit minimum.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)

- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The following School of Education Student Grievance Policy and associated procedures are designed for use in response to individual student grievances regarding faculty or staff in the School of Education.

Any individual student who feels they have been treated unfairly by a School of Education faculty or staff member has the right to file a grievance about the treatment and receive a timely response addressing their concerns. Any student, undergraduate or graduate, may use these grievance procedures, except employees whose complaints are covered under other campus policies. The grievance may concern classroom treatment, mentoring or advising, program admission or continuation, course grades (study abroad grade complaints are handled through International Academic Programs (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/>)), or issues not covered by other campus policies or grievance procedures.

For grievances regarding discrimination based on protected bases (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/>) (i.e., race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, etc.), contact the Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/>).

For grievances or concerns regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence (including sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, stalking and sexual exploitation), contact the Sexual Misconduct Resource and Response Program (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) within the Office of Compliance.

For grievances that involve the behavior of a student, contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards in the Dean of Students Office at <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>.

For grievances about, or directed at, faculty or staff in a School of Education department, unit, or program, students should follow these steps:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to first talk with the person against whom the concern is directed. Many issues can be settled informally at this level. If students are unable to resolve concerns directly or without additional support, step 2 or 3 should be pursued.
2. If unresolved after taking or considering step 1:
 - a. If the concern is directed against a teaching assistant (TA), and the student is not satisfied, the student should contact the TA's supervisor, who is usually the course professor. The course professor will attempt to resolve the concern informally.
 - b. If the concern involves a non-TA instructor, staff member, professor, academic department, or School of Education office or unit, the student should contact the chair of the department or the director of the office or unit, or their designee. The chair or director, or their designee, will attempt to resolve the concern informally. If the concern is about the department chair or office/unit director, the student should consult the School of Education Senior Associate Dean for guidance.

3. If the concern remains unresolved after step 2, the student may submit a formal grievance to the chair or director in writing within 30 business days¹ of the alleged unfair treatment. To the fullest extent possible, a formal written grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of the issue(s) involved and the relief sought.
4. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will notify the person at whom the grievance is directed with a copy of the written grievance. The person at whom the complaint is directed may submit a written response, which would be shared with the student.
5. On receipt of a written grievance, the chair or director will refer the matter to a department, office, or unit committee comprised of at least two members. The committee may be an existing committee or one constituted for this purpose. The committee, or delegates from the committee, may meet with the parties involved and/or review any material either party shares with the committee.
6. The committee will provide a written description of the facts of the grievance and communicate recommendations to the department chair or office/unit head regarding how the grievance should be handled.
7. The chair or director will offer to meet with the student who made the grievance and also will provide a written decision to the student, including a description of any related action taken by the committee, within 30 business days of receiving the formal grievance.

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For the purpose of this policy, business days refers to those days when the University Offices are open and shall not include weekends, university holidays, spring recess, or the period from the last day of exams of fall semester instruction to the first day of spring semester instruction. All time limits may be modified by mutual consent of the parties involved.

If the grievance concerns an undergraduate course grade, the decision of the department chair after reviewing the committee's recommendations is final.

Other types of grievances may be appealed using the following procedures:

1. Both the student who filed the grievance or the person at whom the grievance was directed, if unsatisfied with the decision of the department, office or unit, have five (5) business days from receipt of the decision to contact the Senior Associate Dean, indicating the intention to appeal.
2. A written appeal must be filed with the Senior Associate Dean within 10 business days of the time the appealing party was notified of the initial resolution of the complaint.
3. On receipt of a written appeal, the Senior Associate Dean will convene a sub-committee of the School of Education's Academic Planning Council. This subcommittee may ask for additional information from the parties involved and/or may hold a meeting at which both parties will be asked to speak separately (i.e., not in the room at the same time).
4. The subcommittee will then make a written recommendation to the Dean of the School of Education, or their designee, who will render a decision. The dean or designee's written decision shall be made within 30 business days from the date when the written appeal was filed with the Senior Associate Dean. For undergraduate students, the dean or designee's decision is final.

Further appealing a School of Education decision – *graduate students only*

Graduate students have the option to appeal decisions by the School of Education dean or designee by using the process detailed on the Graduate School's website (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>).

Questions about these procedures can be directed to the School of Education Dean's Office, 377 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall, 608-262-1763.

RESOURCES

- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for discrimination based on protected classes, including misconduct) 179A Bascom Hall, 608-262-2378
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts between students, or academic integrity violations) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>) (for students who experience or observe bias or hate incidents) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for graduate students who need informal advice at any level of review; for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions, see Graduate Assistant Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/>)) 217 Bascom Hall, 608-262-2433
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for UW-Madison employees, including graduate students) 523-524 Lowell Center, 608-265-9992
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving graduate assistants and other employees) 256 Lowell Hall, 608-263-2987
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for any students needing advice or support) 70 Bascom Hall, 608-263-5700
- Office of Human Resources (<https://kb.wisc.edu/ohr/policies/search.php?cat=4506>) for policies and procedures to address workplace conflict) 21 N Park Street Suite 5101, 608-265-2257
- School of Education, Office of Student Services (<https://education.wisc.edu/about/student-services/>) (for students, particularly undergraduates, in the School of Education) 139 Education Building, 608-262-1651
- School of Education, Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (<https://education.wisc.edu/about/diversity-inclusion/>) (OEDI) 145 Education Building, 608-262-8427

OTHER

n/a

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand the role of the athletic trainer within the broader health care system.
2. Demonstrate appropriate oral and written communication skills.

3. Develop and apply strategies to prevent the incidence and/or severity of injury and illnesses.
4. Demonstrate the clinical skills needed to appropriately diagnose patients for treatment and referral.
5. Apply clinical and decision-making skills to respond to acute injury and illness, including emergencies.
6. Assess patient status and develop treatment and rehabilitation that are consistent with contemporary disablement models.
7. Demonstrate clinical scholarship in the form of evidence appraisal and application to influence athletic training practice.
8. Maintain the highest standards of clinical practice by examining the quality of patient care through the use of patient outcomes.
9. Apply research methods to develop and evaluate clinical questions applicable to practice-based research environments while demonstrating an understanding of ethical research practice.

PEOPLE

FACULTY AND INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Andrew Winterstein, PhD, ATC
MSAT Program Director
Distinguished Clinical Professor
andrew.winterstein@wisc.edu

David Bell, PhD, ATC
Associate Professor
drbell2@wisc.edu

Shari Clark, MS, ATC
Faculty Associate
svclark1@wisc.edu

ACCREDITATION

ACCREDITATION

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (<https://caate.net/>)

Accreditation status: Active—in good standing. Next accreditation review: 2025–2026.

CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (<https://caate.net/>) and students are eligible to sit for the national Board of Certification exam (<https://bocatc.org/>) after successful completion of the MSAT program.

Currently, 49 states and the District of Columbia regulate the practice of athletic training. Individuals must be legally recognized by the appropriate state regulatory agency prior to practicing athletic training. The Board of Certification (BOC) exam is recognized by all athletic trainer state regulatory agencies to meet their exam requirement. Compliance with state regulatory requirements is mandatory and the only avenue to legal athletic training practice.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/ LICENSURE DISCLOSURE (NC- SARA)

The United States Department of Education requires institutions that provide distance education to disclose information for programs leading to professional certification or licensure about whether each program meets state educational requirements for initial licensure or certification. Following is this disclosure information for this program:

The requirements of this program meet Certification/ Licensure in the following states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, District of Columbia

The requirements of this program do not meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

Not applicable

The requirements of this program have not been determined if they meet Certification/Licensure in the following states:

California*, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands

*California does not regulate athletic training at this time