

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Department of Health and Kinesiology

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) accredits the Purdue University undergraduate athletic training education program. The primary goals of the program are to graduate the student with a Bachelor of Science degree, to prepare the student to pass the BOC Certification Examination, pursue graduate or professional school (physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician's assistant, etc.), and to prepare them for potential employment as an entry-level athletic trainer.

Purdue's history of athletic training education is long and rich. The legacy of athletic training at Purdue belongs to William E. "Pinky" Newell. Universally recognized as a founding father of modern athletic training, Mr. Newell served as Head Athletic Trainer at Purdue from 1949 through 1976. He served as Executive Secretary for the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. (NATA) from 1955 to 1968 and saw the profession triple in size and the NATA recognized as a professional organization by the American Medical Association. Mr. Newell was a strong advocate of formal education for athletic trainers and stressed this ideal long before the concept of an "accredited curriculum" became a reality. It was no surprise then that Purdue University was early to enter the formal education process for athletic trainers. Purdue received initial NATA approval of the Athletic Training Education Program in 1973 and was re-approved in 1978, 1983, and 1988. Initial CAAHEP accreditation was granted in 1995 with continuing accreditation awarded in 2000 and 2007. The program is currently accredited by CAATE. In 1986, the program was officially recognized as an academic major within the Department of Health and Kinesiology. The current Program Director of the Athletic Training Education Program is Larry J. Leverenz, Ph.D., ATC. Dr. Leverenz has been in that position since 1991. He served on the NATA Education Council and is a past-president of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Currently, he is Vice-President of the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy and Chair of the Education Committee.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the Purdue University Athletic Training Education Program has 41 students enrolled in the three-year professional preparation program. That program consists of academic coursework offered by the Department of H&K and clinical education experiences with the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA), the Department of Recreational Sports (RSC), and

the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH). Purdue is a member of the Big Ten Conference and offers 9 men's and 9 women's sports at the NCAA Division 1-A level. Dennis A. Miller, ATC, PT, is the Director of Sports Medicine/Head Athletic Trainer. He has been at Purdue since 1973 and became the Head Athletic Trainer in 1977. Mr. Miller is a past-president of the NATA, serving in that office from 1992-96. He is also a member of the NATA Hall of Fame. Nine staff athletic trainers, including the program director, and 4 graduate students serve as Approved Clinical Instructors (ACI's) for the program. Seven of the 13 clinical instructors are dual credentialed as Certified Athletic Trainers and Physical Therapists. The program also utilizes 13 ACI's at off-campus clinical sites.

The following information regarding the program, as well as additional policies, can be found on our web site www.cla.purdue.edu/hk/SPORTSMED.

Program Goal Statement

The Purdue University Athletic Training Education Program is a cooperative educational program housed in the Department of Health and Kinesiology with support from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Division of Recreational Sports, and the Purdue University Student Health Center. The purpose of the program is to prepare students as entry-level athletic trainers through an extensive curriculum of didactic and clinical experiences as set forth in the CAATE Standards. By successfully completing this program, the student will have the knowledge base necessary to sit for, and pass the BOC Certification Examination and begin a career in one of the many environments in which athletic trainers serve.

Pre-Athletic Training

The athletic training major does not admit students directly from high school. Accordingly, if you want to apply for admission to the professional program in Athletic Training, you should enroll as a pre-athletic training student within the Department of Health and Kinesiology at the beginning of your freshman (or first) year at Purdue. This department is housed within the College of Liberal Arts. You may apply for admission to the athletic training major by completing the pre-athletic training requirement and making formal application during the second semester of your freshman (or first) year at Purdue. The professional program takes a minimum of three years to complete.

Even if you have completed the pre-athletic training requirements, you cannot be guaranteed admission to the Athletic Training major. As a professional program, the Department reserves the right to select students it feels are qualified to enter the profession of athletic training. (If you are not admitted to the Athletic Training major, you may select a new major within the Department of Health and Kinesiology, transfer to another department within the College of Liberal Arts or transfer to another school within the University.)

The Pre-Athletic Training Program

Pre-Athletic Training, the pre-professional program, has a two-fold purpose: 1) to allow the potential athletic training student the opportunity to take the basic courses in athletic training and to observe and participate in clinical experiences to determine if the program meets their career objectives, and 2) to allow the athletic training faculty and staff the opportunity to evaluate the student in an environment simulating experiences found in the field. The student will complete a minimum of 200 hours of directed observation (HK 10100, Clinical Practice in Athletic Training-Observation) during the pre-athletic training year. Included in the class are varied experiences in the athletic training rooms and in the physical therapy department of the Student Health Center. These hours do not count towards those required for professional certification.

Academically, the student is expected to complete the Pre-Athletic Training plan of study during the pre-athletic training year.

Admission to the Athletic Training Major

The program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree via the Athletic Training Education Program includes one year of pre-athletic training, a selection process, and three years in the Athletic Training major. **Because of enrollment limitations, students who have completed the pre-athletic training year at Purdue cannot be assured admission to the Athletic Training major.** All students must meet the designated criteria in order to be considered for selection. A formal application for admission to the Athletic Training major will be completed and submitted during the second semester of the pre-athletic training year as part of the HK 10100 class.

Selection of Students

The Athletic Training Education Program, the professional program, reserves the right to select students qualified to enter the Athletic Training major after one year of pre-athletic training. The Athletic Training Admissions Committee considers many factors in making its final admission selections including:

1. GPA during the pre-athletic training year. The minimum grade point average for application to the program is a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Individual grades in BIOL 20300, 20400, MA 15900 (or MA 15300 and 15400), PSY 12000, HK 10100, 20800, and ENGL 10600. The committee will be looking for grades of B- or better in these courses.

3. Professional staff ranking. The athletic training staff will rank each student based on the clinical experience of the pre-professional year. The evaluators will consider:
 - a. Ability to learn clinical skills. This is determined by practical exams.
 - b. Ability to apply classroom knowledge to the clinical setting.
 - c. Ability to work within the policies and procedures of the various clinical settings.
 - d. Ability to work with the patient/athlete on a professional basis.
 - e. Ability to work in a stress filled environment.

4. Personal interview. Questions in the personal interview are intended to derive information about the student's athletic training, personal, and academic background. In addition, it is intended to seek out information about the student's career intentions. The questions will determine how much the student knows about athletic training. One-on-one interaction, essential to athletic training, will be assessed also. Interviews will be evaluated on the basis of how the student handled the interview and on how the questions were answered.

5. Letters of recommendation. These letters (3) should be related to the applicant's ability to function in an allied medical setting i.e., patient-athletic trainer relationship. The letter should detail the applicant's personality and work habits, as they would pertain to a career in athletic training. The applicant's desire for and dedication to a career in athletic training should be discussed. These letters will not be scored but are required as part of the application process.

6. Written Essay. As part of the application process, each student will write an in-class essay. These essays will give insight to the students' written communication skills and their general knowledge.

Retention Criteria

Only students formally admitted to the professional phase of the Athletic Training program will be allowed to enroll in advanced course work and clinical experience. Once admitted, the student will be evaluated each semester. As long as appropriate progress is being made in the classroom (2.75 GPA for the semester) and in the clinical experience, the student will be allowed to move on to the next semester. If progress is unsatisfactory, the student will be placed on probation for one semester in order to remedy any deficiencies. Two successive sub-standard semesters will lead to suspension of the student from the program.

Technical Standards for Admission*

The Athletic Training Education Program at Purdue University is a rigorous and intense program 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. The technical standards set forth by the Athletic Training Education Program 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, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to the Athletic Training Education Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be allowed to continue in the program. Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam.

Candidates for selection to the Sports Medicine and Athletic Training Education Program must demonstrate:

1. The ability to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
2. Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients.
3. The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
4. The ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately.
5. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
6. The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the athletic training education program as outlined and sequenced.

7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.

8. Affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the athletic training educational program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations. Purdue University is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. Students requesting accommodations for a disability are responsible for notifying the University of their disability and their request for accommodation. To initiate a request for accommodations, a full statement of the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities, and the rights and responsibilities of the University and its faculty, students must contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Approved by the Purdue University Affirmative Action Office, May 2001*

Additional Information

Purdue University Sports Medicine Web Site:
<http://www.cla.purdue.edu/hk/SPORTSMED/>

For additional information about the athletic training program:

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For an application to Purdue University:

Office of Admissions
Purdue University
1080 Schleman Hall
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Phone: (765) 494-1776

For information about financial aid:

Division of Financial Aid
Purdue University
1102 Schleman Hall
West Lafayette, IN 47907
Phone: (765) 494-5050

For information about housing:

Director of Residence Halls
Purdue University
1744 Smalley Center
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