

Admission Guidelines for the
Athletic Training Program (ATP)
Department of Kinesiology
Towson University

An athletic trainer is a qualified health care professional educated and experienced in the management of health care problems associated with physical activity. In cooperation with physicians and other health care personnel, the athletic trainer functions as an integral member of the health care team in secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional sports programs, sports medicine clinics, and other health care settings. The athletic trainer functions in cooperation with medical personnel, athletic personnel, individuals involved in physical activity, parents, and guardians in the development and coordination of efficient and responsive athletic health care delivery systems.

The athletic trainer's professional preparation is directed toward the development of specified competencies in the following domains: risk management and injury prevention, pathology of injuries and illnesses, assessment and evaluation, acute care of injury and illness, pharmacology, therapeutic modalities, therapeutic exercise, general medical conditions and disabilities, nutritional aspects of injury and illness, psychosocial intervention and referral, health care administration, professional development and responsibilities. Through a combination of formal classroom instruction and clinical experience, the athletic trainer is prepared to apply a wide variety of specific health care skills and knowledge within each of the domains.

Initiating the Process

Students desiring to major in athletic training are admitted to the "Pre Athletic Training" program. During the fall semester all Pre-AT students will meet with the Director of the ATP who will explain and review the requirements for admission into the ATP. During the Pre-AT program, students will need to complete several requirements to be considered for admission to the ATP. At the completion of the Pre-AT program, students seeking admission into the athletic training major are required to have completed the following courses (these courses are used to calculate the *Prerequisite Courses GPA*):

BIOL 191/L	Biology for the Health Care Professional (4)
PSYC 101	Introduction to Psychology (3)
KNES 235	Physical Wellness for a Healthy America (3)
KNES 291	Introduction to Athletic Training (3)
HLTH 103	EMC, First Aid, and Safety (3)

Transfer students must submit a copy of an official transcript to show completion of coursework similar to the above classes at their previous institution.

The Pre-AT student will make formal application, which includes all of the materials stated below, to the Director of the ATP no later than the 2nd Friday in May. These items will be covered as part of KNES 291.

1. Official transcripts
2. Directed observation hours
3. Two Letters of Recommendation
4. Essay
5. Clinical Skills Worksheet

Criteria for Admission

Seven criteria are evaluated as part of the admission process in accepting students into the ATP:

- 1. Overall GPA** – A student must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 in their college courses to be able to apply to the ATP.
- 2. Prerequisite Courses GPA** – Five classes (KNES 291, KNES 235, BIOL 191/L, HLTH 103, and PSYC 101) are used to calculate the *Prerequisite Courses GPA*.
- 3. Observation Hours** – Students are assigned by the ATP Director or Clinical Education Coordinator to a variety of clinical settings at Towson University which include athletic training rooms, athletic practices, and competitive events, to gain valuable directed observation hours. This occurs during KNES 291.
- 4. Letters of Recommendation** – Students seeking admission into the ATP will be asked to secure two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to their personality, academic success, intellectual abilities and clinical abilities.
- 5. Interview** – Candidates seeking admission to the ATP are given a formal interview conducted by the athletic training admission committee.
- 6. Essay** – Applicants will submit a one-page essay stating why they would want to pursue the profession of Athletic Training.
- 7. Clinical Skills Worksheet** – Students are expected to complete the “Clinical Skills Worksheet” during KNES 291 (February – May). The worksheet will consist of skills that each student should be proficient in performing (i.e. making an ice bag, wound care, record keeping, practice management, etc.)

Along with the above evaluation criteria the following must be completed and turned into the program coordinator to begin clinical hours (paperwork is received during KNES 291):

1. Program Application
2. Acceptance of Technical Standards
3. Verification of Health Status Form completed
4. Background Check Verification
5. Confidentiality Agreement
6. Blood Borne Pathogen Training (completed during KNES 291)

Acceptance into the program is based upon the stated criteria and the number of available openings in the program. Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Offers of admission into the ATP are presented on a competitive basis to those individuals who are most qualified. Students must apply for admission to the program by the 2nd Friday of May in the spring semester. Candidates will be notified of acceptance/rejection in the first week of June by mail.

Appeal Procedures: Students who are not admitted into the program can reapply up to three times, but it will still take six semesters to complete the required class and clinical workload. Students can also appeal the decision of the ATP admissions committee to the Director of the ATP, then to the Chair of the Department of Kinesiology, and finally to the Dean’s Office of the College of Health Professions.

For more information, please contact:

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