

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Department of Health & Kinesiology

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

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 become recognized as an allied health profession 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 initiate the formal educational process for athletic trainers. Purdue received initial NATA approval for the Athletic Training 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 & 2007. The program is currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). In 1986, the program was officially recognized as an academic major within the Department of Health & Kinesiology.

The current Program Director of the Athletic Training Program is Dr. Scott Lawrance, ATC. Dr. Lawrance starts in this position in 2017. He serves as chair of the NATA State Association Advisory Committee, is a past-president of Indiana Athletic Trainers' Association, and a member of the Indiana Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. Currently, he also serves as President of the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers' Association and a member of the Indiana Athletic Training Licensing Board. Dr. Lawrance is in his first year after taking over from Dr. Larry Leverenz, ATC. Dr. Leverenz was at Purdue from 1991 to 2017, but continues to be involved in the program as an emeriti clinical professor. Dr. Leverenz is a former member of the NATA Education Council, is a past-president of CAAHEP, and a member of the NATA Hall of Fame. He currently serves as President of the World Federation of Athletic Training and Therapy and is a member of the Medical Advisory Board of the GE/NFL Head Health Initiative.

For 2017-2018, the Purdue University Athletic Training Program has 46 students enrolled in the three-year professional preparation program. The program consists of academic coursework offered by the Department of Health & Kinesiology and clinical education experiences with the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA), the Division of Recreational Sports (RSC), and the

Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH), as well as several off-campus sites. Purdue is a member of the Big Ten Conference and offers nine men's and nine women's sports at the NCAA Division I level.

Doug Boersma, ATC, is the Director of Sports Medicine and Head Athletic Trainer. Mr. Boersma is a 1997 graduate of the Purdue Athletic Training Education Program and received his Master's degree from the University of Kentucky. This is his fifth year after taking over from Dennis Miller, ATC/PT. Mr. Miller was at Purdue from 1973 to 2012 and continues to teach as an adjunct professor in the AT Program. Mr. Miller became the Head Athletic Trainer in 1977. He is a past-president of the NATA, serving in that office from 1992-96 and is also a member of the NATA Hall of Fame. Fourteen staff athletic trainers and four graduate students serve as Preceptors (Clinical Instructors) for the program. There are twelve off-campus Preceptors at local high schools and sports medicine clinics where the athletic training students gain clinical experiences in the non-collegiate settings.

Information regarding the program and more can be found on our website at <http://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hk/SPORTSMED>.

Program Goal Statement

The Purdue University Athletic Training Program is a cooperative educational program housed in the Department of Health & 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 examination and begin a career in one of the many healthcare 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 & Kinesiology at the beginning of your freshman (or first) year at Purdue. The department is housed within the College of Health and Human Sciences. 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 complete 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 be eligible to change to a different major within the Department of Health & Kinesiology, the College of Health and Human Sciences, or another college or school at Purdue.)

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. Varied experiences in the athletic training rooms and in the physical therapy department of the Student Health Center are included in the class. These hours do not count towards those required for professional certification.

Students are expected to complete the Pre-Athletic Training plan of study during the pre-athletic training year. Additionally, all students are required to have a Criminal Background Check and PPD test (annual Tb test) completed within 90 days of beginning the clinical observation. Faculty will assist students in obtaining these.

Admission to the Athletic Training Major

The program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree via the Athletic Training 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 must be completed and submitted during the second semester of the pre-athletic training year.

Selection of Students

The Athletic Training 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 for pre-athletic training coursework. A minimum grade point average of 2.75/4.0 in BIOL 20300, BIOL 20400, ENGL 10600, HK 10100, HK 20800, MA 15800, and PSY 12000 is required for application to the program.

2. Individual grades in BIOL 20300, BIOL 20400, ENGL 10600, HK 10100, HK 20800, MA 15800, and PSY 12000. The committee will be looking for grades of B- or better in these courses.
3. Clinical 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.

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 progress 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 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 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 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 exam.

Candidates for selection to the Sports Medicine and Athletic Training 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 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 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*

For additional information about the athletic training program:

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