

- Athletic trainers are health care professionals who work to identify, prevent, treat, and rehabilitate emergency, acute or chronic illness and injuries. As part of an inter-professional healthcare team, they coordinate with other health professionals to provide injury/illness evaluation, wellness protection, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation.
- Athletic trainers work in a variety of settings including hospitals, intercollegiate athletics, law enforcement and the military, occupational and industrial settings, performing arts, professional sports, industry, secondary schools and sports medicine clinics.
- Athletic trainers receive formal training in acute care of injury and illness, clinical examination, evidence-based practice, health care administration, prevention and health promotion, professional development and responsibility, psychosocial strategies, nutrition, and therapeutic interventions.
- They are especially trained to handle emergency conditions such as concussion, heat stroke, asthma, diabetic emergencies, sickle cell crisis, spine injuries, and sudden cardiac arrest.
- Specializations include prevention and wellness, urgent and emergent care, primary care, orthopedics, rehabilitation, behavioral health, pediatrics, and performance enhancement.

Education & Licensure

- Graduate from a CAATE accredited professional program. Since 2022, a master's degree has been required for entrance to the field.
- Master's degrees include: Master of Athletic Training (MAT) or Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT).
- After graduating, a comprehensive board certification exam (BOC) is required to become a Certified Athletic Trainer.
- Most athletic trainers are required to be credentialed to practice within their state.
- Advanced training for specializations is available through residencies, fellowships and doctoral programs.
- Currently about 70% of athletic trainers hold at least a master's degree.

Preparation

- Shadow athletic trainers to make sure this is the right field for you and you truly understand what they do. At least 50 hours of observation time will be required at many programs (some schools require more).
- Take an aptitude test: the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required at most schools.
- Earn certification in CPR and automatic defibrillator training (AED) for professional rescuers.
- Athletic training programs do not have a standard set of requirements, but many similarities in their requirements do exist.
- The initial courses are similar to other professional health care fields such as physical therapy programs.
- Grades of C or higher are generally required in these prerequisite courses.

Common Prerequisite Courses (required courses determined by each program but similar to this list)

Requirements	Course	Purdue Equivalents (specific courses may vary by major)
Biology	Anatomy & Physiology with lab	BIOL 20300-20400 (BIOL 30100-30200)
	General Biology required at some schools	BIOL 11000 or BIOL 12100 (with a lab)
Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology	Exercise Physiology, Kinesiology or Biomechanics	HK 36800 Exercise Physiology*; HK 26300 Biomechanics*
Chemistry	General chemistry with lab (usually 1 semester)	CHM 11100+ (may need 4 credit hour course) or CHM 11510 (with lab) or CHM 12901
Physics	General physics with lab (usually 1 semester)	PHYS 22000 or PHYS 23300 or equivalent
Nutrition	General	NUTR 30300 or NUTR 31500
Psychology	General	PSY 12000 (some schools will accept abnormal or developmental)
Math	Statistics	STAT 30100 or STAT 50300 or SOC 38200+ or PSY 20100+
Additional	Other Recommended or required Courses	Medical Terminology (HSCI 13100); Epidemiology (HK 44500/PUBH 40500); Ethics (PHIL 11100); Community Health (HK 21500/PUBH 20500 or HSCI 20100) or Personal Health & Wellness (PES 11100); Sociology or Cultural Anthropology; Statistics
Optional	Pre-Med Planning Seminar	BIOL 39600-0 credit 10 week class covering how to apply to health professions programs

*Courses are restricted to kinesiology & public health majors.

+Check with individual schools to confirm that they fulfill their requirements.

~~Courses~~ no longer offered.

Student Organizations: Pre-OT/PT/AT Club

Program Information

[List of the accredited programs](http://caate.net/search-for-accredited-program/) <http://caate.net/search-for-accredited-program/>

Applying

- Application is made through an online centralized system called [ATCAS](https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) (Athletic Training Centralized Application Service). <https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- For programs not using ATCAS, you will need to apply directly to those schools.
- Each program has varying application requirements.
- Early application is essential as programs have relatively small classes. Typically applying within a month of the application opening is most advantageous for your application. ATCAS generally opens the end of June. Application by the end of July or early August is recommended.

Fee Assistance

- At this time ATCAS does not offer a fee assistance program.
- [GRE Fee Reduction Program](https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/fees.html) <https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/fees.html>

Employment Outlook

- With people trying to stay more active, athletic trainers will be in high demand.
- The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/athletic-trainers.htm) anticipates job growth of 13% through 2033. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/athletic-trainers.htm>
- In 2024, median pay was \$60,250.

Programs in the State

- [Purdue University](https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hk/athletictraining/) West Lafayette | <https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hk/athletictraining/>
- [Indiana University](https://www.bulletins.iu.edu/iub/phb/2024-2025/graduate/masters/msat-athletic-training.shtml) Bloomington | <https://www.bulletins.iu.edu/iub/phb/2024-2025/graduate/masters/msat-athletic-training.shtml>
- [University of Indianapolis](http://www.uindy.edu/health-sciences/athletic-training/) Indianapolis | <http://www.uindy.edu/health-sciences/athletic-training/>
- [Franklin College](https://franklincollege.edu/academics/what-to-study/graduate-programs-at-franklin-college/master-of-science-in-athletic-training/) Franklin | <https://franklincollege.edu/academics/what-to-study/graduate-programs-at-franklin-college/master-of-science-in-athletic-training/>
- [Manchester University](https://www.manchester.edu/academics/colleges/College-of-Health-Professions-Nursing-and-Pharmacy/academic-programs/master-of-athletic-training/mat-homepage) Fort Wayne | <https://www.manchester.edu/academics/colleges/College-of-Health-Professions-Nursing-and-Pharmacy/academic-programs/master-of-athletic-training/mat-homepage>
- [University of Evansville](https://www.evansville.edu/majors/athletictraining/msIntro.cfm) Evansville | <https://www.evansville.edu/majors/athletictraining/msIntro.cfm>
- [Ball State University](https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/kinesiology/academic-programs/masters-degrees/athletic-training) Muncie | <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/collegesanddepartments/kinesiology/academic-programs/masters-degrees/athletic-training>
- [Indiana Wesleyan University](https://www.indwes.edu/program/msat/) Marion | <https://www.indwes.edu/program/msat/>
- [Indiana State University](https://indianastate.edu/academics/academic-program-finder/athletic-training-ms) Terre Haute | (Initial accreditation) <https://indianastate.edu/academics/academic-program-finder/athletic-training-ms>

More Information

- [ATCAS](https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) (application service) <https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- [Association for Athletic Training Education](https://aated.org/) <https://aated.org/>
- [National Athletic Trainers Association](https://www.nata.org/) (NATA) <https://www.nata.org/>
- [Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education](https://caate.net/) (CAATE) <https://caate.net/>

Other Careers to Consider

Physical Therapy · Occupational Therapy · Orthotics & Prosthetics · Chiropractic Medicine · Podiatry

Preparing for your Giant Leap

purdue.edu/preprofessional