

## MASTER of SCIENCE in ATHLETIC TRAINING

### OVERVIEW

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Athletic trainers are health care professionals who provide physically active people services such as injury/illness prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. This Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) degree is a professional program that prepares students to become certified athletic trainers.

It is important to note "pre-athletic training" is not an undergraduate major at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); rather, it is a career classification that allows the College of Health Sciences to identify UWM students who may benefit from special advising services. While choosing a science undergraduate major – kinesiology specifically – is common, athletic training programs typically do not specify or favor any particular major. Therefore, pre-athletic training students are encouraged to select a major that is of interest to them and with which they will excel academically. Many pre-athletic training students at UWM major in kinesiology, but others select majors in nutritional sciences, dance, psychology, business, and biological sciences, for example. The required pre-athletic training courses are added into the student's undergraduate program of study.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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The program seeks to admit highly qualified students until the class has been filled (approximately 12 students per year). There are two admission cycles per year.

	Application Deadline	Interview Window	Notification Window
Early decision cycle	November 15	December 1-15	Dec 15-30
Regular decision cycle	February 1	Feb 15-28	March 15-30

Visit the UWM Graduate School website, <http://uwm.edu/graduateschool/>, to begin your application.

Applicants must satisfy the following minimum requirements to be eligible for admission to the program:

1. Completion of an Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with an overall cumulative grade point average (GPA) of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time application submission *and* graduation. Official transcripts must be submitted. Undergraduate degree must be completed by the time the applicant plans to begin in the MSAT program.
2. Completion of 10 prerequisite courses. A prerequisite GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is recommended.
3. Submission of scores on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within the last five years.
4. Completion of 20 hours of observation of athletic training practice with a certified athletic trainer within 12 months of application submission.
5. Two letters of recommendation.

An applicant must satisfy the UWM Graduate School requirements in addition to the requirements listed above to be considered for admission to the program. Additional information about each of the admission criteria can be found on the next page.

It is possible for students earning a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology degree from UWM to have met all of the prerequisite courses needed for a strong foundation on which to build their athletic training education. Up to 25% (4 out of 12) of slots per year are prioritized for highly qualified students holding a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology degree from UWM.

### ADVISING FOR PROSPECTIVE ATHLETIC TRAINING APPLICANTS

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Prospective applicants who have questions about pursuing athletic training are encouraged to seek advising from the MSAT Program Director by scheduling an appointment ([msat-info@uwm.edu](mailto:msat-info@uwm.edu)). The College of Health Sciences Office of Student Affairs: 414-229-2758; <http://uwm.edu/healthsciences/students/> can also assist, particularly if there is a need to complete prerequisite courses at UWM.

**Completed Baccalaureate Degree:** Prospective applicants who have already completed a bachelor's degree and are interested in taking courses at UWM to satisfy MSAT program prerequisites should apply for admission to UWM (<http://apply.wisconsin.edu>). On the application, applicants should identify their reason for applying as "Undergraduate courses as a visitor/guest student" and their "applying as" status as "Undergraduate non-degree student with a bachelor's degree." Applicants should apply as a second degree student *only* if they plan to complete a second bachelor's degree. Questions regarding financial aid for non-degree students should be directed to Gayla Jenkins ([jenkinsg@uwm.edu](mailto:jenkinsg@uwm.edu)) in the UWM Department of Financial Aid.

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Additional Details**

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**1. Degree & Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Applicants must earn a baccalaureate degree (in any field) with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).

**2. Prerequisite Coursework**

Applicants must complete the following 10 prerequisite courses. A prerequisite GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is recommended.

Prerequisite Course	UWM Course Number (or equivalent)
Human Anatomy (with lab)*	Biological Sciences 202
Human Physiology (with lab)*	Biological Sciences 203
Chemistry I (with lab)	Chemistry 102
Physics I (with lab)	Physics 120 (lecture) and 121 (lab)
Biomechanics	Kinesiology 320
Exercise Physiology	Kinesiology 330
Motor Learning and/or Development	Kinesiology 360 <i>or</i> 361
Introductory Nutrition	Biomedical Sciences 232 <i>or</i> Nutritional Sciences 235
Introductory Psychology (3 cr.)	Psychology 101
Statistics (3 cr.)	Kinesiology 270
<i>*Applicants must complete a 2-semester sequence of anatomy/physiology with lab. This can be a stand-alone anatomy course and a stand-alone physiology course or a 2-semester combined anatomy/physiology course.</i>	

Applicants currently enrolled in a prerequisite course may be granted conditional admission, pending successful completion of the course and meeting all prerequisite criteria. Preference will be given to applicants that have completed all prerequisite courses at the time of application submission. Students are encouraged to complete laboratory science prerequisites at a four-year institution of higher education instead of a two-year or technical school. The program *will* accept college credits that were granted retroactively to students who achieved appropriate scores on high school advanced placement (AP) tests; however, the program will not use those credits in the calculation of the prerequisite courses GPA for admission. Students can consult the following website to determine how UWM accepts AP scores: <http://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/testing/ap/milwaukee.aspx>.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to calculate their GPA for prerequisite courses by utilizing this online GPA calculator: <https://www4.uwm.edu/DES/apps/gpacalculator/>.

**3. Graduate Record Examination (GRE): [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)**

Applicants must submit scores on the General Test of the GRE taken within the last five years. Applicants are encouraged to complete the GRE approximately six months before the date of application submission, if not sooner. This timeframe allows an applicant to repeat the test to increase scores if desired. GRE scores can take up to 8 weeks to be delivered to UWM. Applicants are encouraged to prepare in advance for the test. Additional information (including preparation materials) is available on the GRE's website (link above). UWM's institutional GRE Code is **1473**.

**4. Observation Hours**

Applicants must complete 20 hours of observation of athletic training practice. Observation hours may be paid or volunteer.

**5. Letters of Recommendation**

Applicants must submit two letters of recommendation: one from an academic reference (preferably a faculty member as opposed to a graduate student instructor) and one from an athletic trainer with whom the applicant completed observation hours. The applicant generates the recommendation request from the Panthera website once the application has been created.

## Interview

Competitive applicants will be offered an interview, which can be completed face-to-face or via video conference. This will last approximately 30-45 minutes and will be scheduled with the applicant during the interview window.

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select students for admission:

1. **Academic Performance**
  - a. The cumulative GRE, GPA and transcripts are used to determine the applicant's potential to meet the academic requirements of the program
2. **Interview** The interview will be evaluated for:
  - a. Ability to articulate cohesive and appropriate responses to questions
  - b. Ability to reflect on personal attributes
  - c. Ability to communicate clearly and professionally
3. **Reasons statement** The responsive essay will be evaluated for:
  - a. The appropriateness of the response to the provided statement/question
  - b. Demonstration of clear, concise, and organized thoughts
  - c. Demonstration of error free grammar and writing style
4. **Recommendations**
  - a. Strength of the recommendation to support the student's potential for success as a graduate student and future athletic trainer.

## Accepting Admission

An acceptance form and place holding fee of \$300 is required to confirming your intention to attend UWM, and is due within 2 weeks of receiving your letter of offer. These fees are held in an account that directly benefits student by providing UWM apparel, professional membership dues, and conference registration. Payment is made directly to the Program, and can be sent to: Lori Woodburn, Pavilion 350, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI 53201. This fee is not refundable should a student decide not to attend UWM.

## Post-Admission Requirements

Once admitted to the program, students must complete the following prior to participating in classes:

### 1. Criminal Background Check

The University is required to perform a criminal background check on students prior to beginning the program. Consistent with Wisconsin's Caregiver Background Law, individuals with certain convictions may be disqualified from working in hospitals and other health care or care facilities. Such individuals may also be denied national certification and licensure. More information about the Caregiver Background Law is available at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/caregiver/index.htm>.

If you have a criminal conviction in your background it may affect your ability to work in certain facilities or obtain certification and licensure. The inability to be placed in facilities may affect your completion of clinical education requirements and thus degree completion. In addition, the existence of disqualifying convictions under the Caregiver Background Law may also affect your eligibility for certification and licensure, and/or your ability to gain employment in this field. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Program Director if an event occurs while in the program that may change the results of the criminal background check. You should contact the Program Director as soon as possible to discuss whether you should apply to the program or consider alternative programs.

## 2. Immunization Verification

Students must provide a document with proof of immunization dates for the following:

- Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)
- Tetanus Booster (Td) (within last 10 yrs)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B (HepB) (Or signed refusal)
- Varicella (Positive titer or OR varicella vaccine (VAR)
- Meningococcal (Recommended for students living in the dormitories, but not required)

There are some additional Immunizations and tests that will be required. These can be completed on campus at the Norris Health Center.

- **2 Step TB Skin test** ( a "one step" TB test is NOT sufficient to meet this requirement) (required before July 1)
- 10 panel urine drug test (required before July 1)
- Influenza vaccine (required before October 15<sup>th</sup>)

## 3. Physical Examination

Prior to beginning the program students must provide proof of a physical examination being completed within the past year. One reason for the physical examination is to have a licensed and qualified health care provider verify that, to the best of his/her ability based on a routine physical examination, the student meets the Technical Standards for Athletic Training Students (with or without reasonable accommodation). The Technical Standards for Athletic Training Students-Healthcare Provider Verification form must be signed by the person who administered the physical exam within the last year. Students must have a physical examination completed annually (at the Norris Student Health Center or from a provider of choice). Any changes in health status that may affect the student's ability to meet the Technical Standards must be disclosed to the Program Director immediately.