



Observation Instructions for Student

It is very important for applicants to the MS Athletic Training program to have some experience and understanding of the day-to-day work of a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC). Therefore, one of the requirements for application to the program is a minimum of 20 hours of observation of an ATC in his/her work setting. It is strongly recommended that you complete observation hours in more than one setting where an ATC typically works. Examples include high schools, colleges/universities, rehabilitation clinics, physician offices, industrial/occupational sites, civic service/military, and performing arts.

You are required to make your own arrangements for observation/volunteer hours, and coordinate your schedule with the supervising ATC. You may not portray yourself as an athletic training student, or a student in the UWM MS-Athletic Training program. The supervising ATC will be evaluating your responsibility, communication, professional appearance and behavior, and overall suitability to be a health care provider. The supervising ATC should also be one of your letter of recommendation writers.

You should log your observation hours on the second page of this document, which the supervising ATC should review and sign. Then you will upload to the ATCAS application Program Materials section.

To Supervising Athletic Trainer:

_____ (Name) is planning to apply to the MS Athletic Training program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. We require applicants to have completed a minimum of 20 hours of observation of a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) in their work setting to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day work of an ATC. The applicants are responsible for coordinating these observation hours with you with a mutually agreed upon schedule. They should follow any rules and procedures of your facility, including professional appearance expectations. Should your facility rules or policies be violated you are encouraged to notify the student and ask them to leave.

This is an observation only experience. The observers must be with you at all times when any patient is in your facility. The observer must never be left alone with a patient, and they may not provide ANY sort of care.

After the observation hours are complete, the student will include your name in the list of recommenders for his/her application. You will then receive an email link from the Athletic Training Centralized Application Service (ATCAS) with the evaluation form and details. You will be asked to comment on general strengths, weakness, and other personal qualities, as well as the applicant's suitability for the athletic training profession. Thank you very much for supporting our profession by allowing students to observe and providing feedback to assist in our admissions decisions.

