ATHLETIC TRAINING, MS

Accreditation
The Department of Kinesiology & Military Science offers a program leading to the Master of Science degree in Athletic Training. The Athletic Training Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), 2001 K Street NW, 3rd Floor North, Washington, DC 20006.

Mission Statement
The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Athletic Training Program is devoted to excellence in instruction, research, and service. The Athletic Training Program provides a challenging, comprehensive and student-centered learning environment preparing students to excel at the professional level as a productive and engaged athletic trainer. The program incorporates the values of a supportive academic and clinical community, which promotes professional leadership, and ethical conduct through an abundance of active learning opportunities. Students are prepared for employment in high schools, colleges, professional sports, medical clinics, advanced scientific study and for successful collaboration with other allied health practitioners and in diverse patient populations.

Program Description
The Athletic Training Program is a selective and competitive admissions program. This graduate program is nationally accredited at the graduate level by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The AT Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is a two-year, 57 credit hour program consisting of formal classroom instruction and a wide variety of hands-on experiences. This includes clinical time with the institution’s NCAA Division I intercollegiate sports teams as well as several other activity organizations such as cheer, dance, ROTC and the campus recreation center. In addition to on-campus experiences, students get hands-on clinical experience at affiliate sites including physical therapy clinics, orthopedic clinics, family practice clinics, and local high schools. Upon completing the degree program, students will have met the CAATE educational requirements and are eligible to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) national examination to practice Athletic Training. Students would also be eligible for Texas Licensure for Athletic Training, or other state licensure programs outside of Texas.

Students will be held to the standards provided by the CAATE. New requirements/standards from CAATE may result in programmatic changes that will not be reflected in the current catalog. All updates will be posted on the website and in the student handbook and will be reflected in the catalog as soon as possible. The AT Program will do their best to implement these changes in a timely fashion in the least disruptive method possible for students.

Student Learning Outcomes
Graduates of the Athletic Training Program will:

- Apply appropriate preventative techniques, bracing, or taping to reduce the frequency or severity of athletic injuries.
- Perform a clinical evaluation of an athletic injury, formulate a clinical impression of the diagnosis, and make appropriate referral to physicians or other healthcare professionals as needed to assist the patient.
- Provide immediate care to athletic injuries, including the use of standard emergency procedures.
- Administer a therapeutic treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning program in order to facilitate the recovery, function, and performance of the patient.
- Establish and manage policies and procedures for the delivery of healthcare services while following accepted guidelines to promote safe participation, timely care, and legal compliance.

Academic Standards – Progression, Retention, & Dismissal
Students will progress through the Athletic Training curriculum in a cohort model. Courses are designed in a specific sequence and students are required to progress through the course curriculum with specific requirements. Please see the course syllabi for individual course requirements. Please see the MSAT Handbook posted on the MSAT Program website regarding programmatic progression, retention, and dismissal policies (https://gradcollege.tamucc.edu/degrees/education/athletic_training.html).

All students must meet the ethical and professional guidelines set forth by the program. Students who violate the ethical or professional standards will be dismissed from the program. Please see the MS in AT Handbook.

Students pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training must maintain a (A&M Corpus Christi) cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 or better. If a student’s cumulative GPA is less than a 3.0, the student will be dismissed from the AT Program.

Students can earn a maximum of two (2) C’s to be eligible to remain in good standing and/or graduate from the AT Program. If a student earns more than two (2) C’s at any time during the program, the student will be dismissed from the AT Program.

All requirements, including coursework at Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, must be completed within seven (7) calendar years from the date of initial enrollment in coursework. No transfer credit will be accepted towards the Athletic Training degree.

Advising
Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. Students are advised; however, that such information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students should consult with appointed academic advisors each semester prior to registration. Students should be aware that courses are offered in a specific sequence in a cohort model.

Fitness to Practice
In addition to meeting or exceeding academic standards, students pursuing a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training must meet fitness to practice standards that are assessed by faculty and/or preceptors throughout the program.

These standards include demonstration of physical skills, competencies, and assessments in their interaction with others as well as proficiencies for the CAATE competencies and standards as well as the requirements to practice as an Athletic Trainer in the State of Texas.

At regular intervals throughout the program, students will be evaluated regarding their clinical knowledge and professionalism by preceptors.
and/or faculty. Students who fail to demonstrate competency and/or professionalism may receive a program violation and/or may be asked to enter a remediation plan in order to remain in the program. If a remediation plan is developed, students must demonstrate satisfactory remediation prior to being allowed to continue towards graduation. Specific information concerning fitness to practice and codes in which students are expected to conform may be found in the MS in AT Handbook.

Experiential Learning

Students in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program will participate in didactic and clinical educational experience. During the clinical educational experiences, students will adhere to the NATA Code of Ethics. Students will be engaging with athletes within the community and should conduct themselves as an allied health care professional. Students will be evaluated on their clinical behavior and knowledge by preceptors. If a student receives unsatisfactory evaluations, the student will be placed on a mediation plan.

Admission Requirements

The Athletic Training Program is a selective and competitive admissions program due to CAATE accreditation standards. To be considered for admission to the Athletic Training Program, all applicants must:

1. Complete an application to the University for admission to graduate school and the MS Athletic Training Program for degree seeking student status. The Application should be made through https://www.applytexas.org. See the Admissions section of the catalog.
   a. Graduate requirements for the College of Education and Human Development are specified in the Graduate Policies and Regulations (http://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/education-human-development/) section of this catalog.
   b. International students must meet the criteria as determined by the College of Graduate Studies (International Students).
2. Additionally, during the Graduate Application students should be prepared to provide additional documentation per Program and accreditation requirements. Applicants are required to complete prerequisite courses. The applicant’s pre-requisite GPA may be utilized to evaluate competitive admission. Please see the MSAT website for further details (https://gradcollege.tamucc.edu/degrees/education/athletic_training.html). Specific pre-requisite courses are required.
3. Students who meet the required criteria will be considered for selection by the Athletic Training Program Admissions Committee. Qualified applicants will be granted an interview by the admissions committee.

The Admissions Committee will consider all professional and personal qualifications in determining applicants for formal admission to the program. The Athletic Training Program is competitive and only a limited number of students will be admitted each year. The number of students accepted will be determined by the number of faculty and space available to facilitate learning, and by the number of clinical preceptors available for adequate supervision. Students must demonstrate at least a 3.0 Overall Cumulative GPA at the time of application. Students may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the admission selection committee. Individuals who are denied admission twice are ineligible to re-apply.

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¹ Course will be taken twice (summer of 1st year and repeated again summer of 2nd year).

National Certification for Athletic Trainers

Students in their last semester of completing their degree are permitted to apply to take the certification exam prior to graduation provided all academic and clinical requirements of the CAATE Accredited Program have been satisfied or will be satisfied during their last semester, and students have successfully complete the program exit exam. Students can apply to the Board of Certification (BOC) electronically at http://www.bocatc.org.

Texas Licensure for Athletic Trainers

Students may apply for the licensure examination prior to their graduation if they are within two semesters of completion of their degree. Eligible students can apply to the Texas Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers electronically at https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/at/at.htm.
**Courses**

**SMED 5100**  
CPR and Basic Life Support  
1 Semester Credit Hour (1 Lecture Hour)  
SMED 5100 provides the skills needed by health care professionals who are trained to respond to breathing, cardiac, and other first aid emergencies. This includes the use of automated external defibrillation (AED), oxygen, suctioning, and airway management devices to care for a victim of breathing or cardiac emergencies. This course will be taken twice; once in the summer of first year in the program for initial certification and then again in the summer of the second year in the program for recertification.

**SMED 5101**  
Athletic Training Clinical Experience I  
1 Semester Credit Hour  
SMED 5101 offers a field-based professional experience to provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge and theory related to the philosophy, principles, and competencies in the field of athletic training.

**SMED 5102**  
Athletic Training Clinical Experience II  
1 Semester Credit Hour  
SMED 5102 offers a field-based professional experience to provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge and theory related to the philosophy, principles, and competencies in the field of athletic training.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5101 and 5323 or SMED 5323.

**SMED 5103**  
Athletic Training Clinical Experience III  
1 Semester Credit Hour  
SMED 5103 offers a field-based professional experience to provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge and theory related to the philosophy, principles, and competencies in the field of athletic training.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5102 and 5334 or SMED 5334.

**SMED 5104**  
Athletic Training Clinical Experience IV  
1 Semester Credit Hour  
SMED 5104 offers a field-based professional experience to provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge and theory related to the philosophy, principles, and competencies in the field of athletic training.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5103 and 5343 or SMED 5343.

**SMED 5105**  
Athletic Training Clinical Experience V  
1 Semester Credit Hour  
SMED 5105 offers a field-based professional experience to provide students the opportunity to apply knowledge and theory related to the philosophy, principles, and competencies in the field of athletic training.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5104 and 5335 or SMED 5335.

**SMED 5200**  
Taping, Bracing, and Preventative Care in Athletic Training  
2 Semester Credit Hours (2 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5200 provides students with lab-based instructions and experiences to introduce the various products and equipment used in the development and construction of pads and braces for injury prevention during sport and physical activity. Students will learn how to apply taping, bracing, bandaging and padding techniques that are common practice in athletic training.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5321 or 5321.

**SMED 5310**  
Evidence Based Practice  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5310 prepares students with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to make independent judgments about the validity, results, and application of clinical research and to implement evidence-based clinical practice in their careers.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5311 or 5311.

**SMED 5311**  
Research Methods I  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5311 provides students with an intellectual opportunity to explore the methods and designs associated with research. This course explores the process and methods of scientific inquiry and interpretation of research findings in athletic training. Students will gain familiarity with the major elements of research including literature review, quantitative and qualitative methodology, design, evaluation of research, statistical analysis, presentation of data, and ethical considerations.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5101 or 5101.

**SMED 5312**  
Research Methods II  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5312 provides students with an intellectual opportunity to integrate their knowledge of research basics and clinical skills, with a possibility for publication.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5311, 5313 and 5105 or SMED 5105.

**SMED 5313**  
Biological Statistics for Athletic Training  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5313 presents a study of the basic biological statistical concepts and their application to research problems in athletic training. Knowledge of biological statistics is imperative as students are required to participate in a case study, critically appraised topic, and/ or research project. Students are encouraged to publish thus adding to the body of knowledge within athletic training. Topics will include issues related to descriptive and inferential statistics.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5311 and 5102 or SMED 5102.

**SMED 5321**  
Lower Extremity Assessment, Evaluation and Management  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5321 provides students with general knowledge of evaluation techniques of athletic injuries to the lower extremities including history taking, observation, palpation, neurologic and orthopedic testing as well as its acute management and documentation. Students will learn to utilize critical thinking skills to evaluate differential diagnosis and analyze the patient’s signs and symptoms to defend a clinical diagnosis.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5341, 5310 and 5200 or SMED 5200.

**SMED 5322**  
Upper Extremity Assessment, Evaluation and Management  
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)  
SMED 5322 provides students with general knowledge of evaluation techniques of athletic injuries to the upper extremities including history taking, observation, palpation, neurologic and orthopedic testing as well as its acute management and documentation. Students will learn to utilize critical thinking skills to evaluate differential diagnosis and analyze the patient’s signs and symptoms to defend a clinical diagnosis.  
**Prerequisite:** SMED 5321 and 5311 or SMED 5311.
SMED 5323 Head, Neck & Spine Extremity Assessment, Evaluation and Management
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5323 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF EVALUATION TECHNIQUES OF ATHLETIC INJURIES TO THE HEAD, NECK AND SPINE INCLUDING HISTORY TAKING, OBSERVATION, PALPATION, NEUROLOGIC AND ORTHOPEDIC TESTING AS WELL AS ITS ACUTE MANAGEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION. STUDENTS WILL LEARN TO UTILIZE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS TO EVALUATE DIFFERENTIATION DIAGNOSIS AND ANALYZE THE PATIENT’S SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO DEFEND A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS.
Prerequisite: SMED 5322 and 5332 or SMED 5332.

SMED 5324 General Medical Conditions in the Athlete
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5324 WILL PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AND LABORATORY ACTIVITIES CONCERNING GENERAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS, EVALUATION TECHNIQUES, AND ATHLETIC INJURIES TO INTERNAL ORGANS. IN ADDITION, INTER-PROFESSIONAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND THE ROLE OF AN ATHLETIC TRAINER WITHIN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AND EXPLORED.
Prerequisite: SMED 5323 and 5103 or SMED 5103 and 5333 or SMED 5333.

SMED 5331 Therapeutic Intervention I
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5331 PROVIDES THE STUDENT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT THEORY AND APPLICATION OF THERAPEUTIC MODALITIES USED IN THE TREATMENT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES.
Prerequisite: SMED 5200 and 5341 and (SMED 5101 or 5101 and SMED 5322 or 5322).

SMED 5332 Therapeutic Intervention II
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5332 PROVIDES THE STUDENT WITH KNOWLEDGE OF CURRENT THEORY AND APPLICATION OF THERAPEUTIC EXERCISES AND MANUAL THERAPY USED IN THE TREATMENT OF MUSCULOSKELETAL INJURIES.
Prerequisite: SMED 5323, 5331 and 5102 or SMED 5102.

SMED 5333 Pharmacology for the Athlete
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5333 WILL INCLUDE LECTURES AND DISCUSSION OF SELECTED SPORTS MEDICINE TOPICS FOCUSING ON PHARMACOLOGY IN ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITY. STUDENTS WILL EXAMINE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF MEDICATION AND THEIR IMPACT ON SPORTS AND EXERCISE. IN ADDITION, INTER-PROFESSIONAL WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND THE ROLE OF AN ATHLETIC TRAINER WITHIN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL BE DISCUSSED AND EXPLORED. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE STUDENT WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LIBRARY RESEARCH AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS.
Prerequisite: SMED 5332 and 5324 or SMED 5324.

SMED 5334 Emerging Practices in Athletic Training
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5334 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH CREATIVE, FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES ON KEY EMERGING CONCEPTS AND TECHNIQUES THAT ARE NEWLY ARISING WITHIN THE FIELD OF ATHLETIC TRAINING. CONTENT AND INSTRUCTION WILL EXAMINE NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE FIELD, EMERGING THEORIES, LEGAL/ETHICAL CHALLENGES AND CHANGES, AS WELL AS OTHER EVOLVING ISSUES WITHIN THE PROFESSION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING.
Prerequisite: SMED 5333 and (SMED 5104 or 5104 and SMED 5342 or 5342).

SMED 5335 Athletic Training Seminar
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5335 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH AN ORGANIZED STUDY SESSION TO PREPARE STUDENTS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO SIT FOR THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION (BOC) NATIONAL EXAMINATION. THIS COURSE IS IN LINE WITH THE 6TH ROLE DELINEATION STUDY FROM THE BOC.
Prerequisite: SMED 5343 and 5105 or SMED 5105.

SMED 5341 Law & Ethics in Athletic Training
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5341 PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRACTICE OF ATHLETIC TRAINING AND OTHER HEALTH CARE FIELDS. THIS COURSE EXAMINES THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE, TORT, AND LIABILITY AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING THOSE PRACTICING ATHLETIC TRAINING. IN ADDITION, THIS COURSE WILL EXAMINE MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE FIELD WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT ALIGN WITH THE LEGAL ISSUES IN THE FIELD. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN CRITICAL THINKING AND TO CHALLENGE THEM TO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT THEIR LIVES FROM A LEGAL AND ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE.
Prerequisite: SMED 5310 or 5310.

SMED 5342 Sports Psychology in Athletic Training
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5342 INCLUDES ASPECTS OF PSYCHOLOGY FOR UNDERSTANDING AND EXPLAINING BEHAVIORS IN THE CONTEXT OF EXERCISE AND SPORT. DISCUSSIONS OF IDENTIFYING HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS, COUNSELING AND REFERRING INDIVIDUALS FOR HELP ARE EMPHASIZED. THIS COURSE WILL ALSO EXAMINE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS AND HUMAN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHILE OBTAINING PEAK PERFORMANCE. EVALUATING PUBLISHED RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY THEORY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY PRACTICES WILL BE REQUIRED. MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING AND BEHAVIORAL CHANGE THEORY WILL BE BRIEFLY DISCUSSED.
Prerequisite: SMED 5334 or 5334.

SMED 5343 Administration, Leadership, & Professional Development in Athletic Training
3 Semester Credit Hours (3 Lecture Hours)
SMED 5343 PROVIDES THE GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING FACILITY DESIGN, INSURANCE CLAIMS, LIABILITY ISSUES, AND INJURY AND TREATMENT RECORDS. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN CRITICAL THINKING AND TO CHALLENGE THEM TO BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT THEIR LIVES FROM A PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE. THIS COURSE IS IN LINE WITH THE 5TH ROLE DELINEATION STUDY FROM THE BOC.
Prerequisite: SMED 5333 and 5104 or SMED 5104.