

## Athletic Training/Clinic Management

### at Bowling Green State University

**The Athletic Training/Clinic Management** (AT/CM) major, accredited by the **Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education** (CAATE), prepares students to enter the athletic training profession. AT/CM students in this undergraduate major are educated in all aspects of the professional practice of a certified athletic trainer (ATC). Through a combination of extensive classroom and clinical experiences in athletic training, this undergraduate major provides students the necessary competencies to challenge the Board of Certification Examination.

Due to the competitive admission criteria of the AT/CM major, students must apply separately for admission. Students are considered pre-professional students as they enroll in the introductory courses and begin their directed observation for the AT/CM major. The pre-professional phase is completed in their first three semesters on campus.

- Directed observation hour requirement

Freshman fall	3 hours per week ~ 14 weeks	Total = 40 hours
Freshman spring	5 hours per week ~ 14 weeks	Total = 70 hours
Sophomore fall	10 hours per week ~ 14 weeks	Total = 140 hours

As the students complete their pre-professional requirements, students will apply for admission to the professional phase of the curriculum that includes advanced courses, four semesters of clinical education, and a semester-long internship. Admitted students will typically begin the professional phase at the start of their fourth semester at BGSU. Five semesters are required to complete the professional phase of the AT/CM major.

### TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Technical standards establish essential qualities considered necessary for students to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of AT/CM education's accrediting agency - CAATE. Candidates for selection must demonstrate:

- Mental capacity to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments.
- Postural neuromuscular control to perform tasks and safely use equipment.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to function in a stressful environment.
- Flexibility and perseverance to adjust to changing situations.
- Affective skills related to professional behaviors in the health care field.

In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will not be admitted into the professional phase of the AT/CM major.

## **ADMISSION STANDARDS**

Students desiring admission to the professional phase of the AT/CM major must meet the following requirements:

1. Completion of all program application forms.
2. Completion of ATCM 202: Introduction to Athletic Training/Clinic Management and ATCM 210: Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries with a letter grade of “C” or better.
3. Completion of ATCM 212: Clinical Experience in AT 1 and ATCM 314: Clinical Experience in AT 2 with a letter grade of “C” or better.
4. Documentation of a minimum of 250 clinical observation hours.
5. Successful completion of Athletic Training modules associated with ATCM 202, ATCM 212, and ATCM 314.
6. Minimum overall BGSU GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
7. Objective evaluations from certified athletic training staff:
8. Personal interview with program selection committee.
9. Physical examination for health and the ability to perform athletic training duties is required. Required immunizations include measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria and Hepatitis B. Documentation is required on the health exam of the previous immunizations. Technical standards must be read, understood and signed.
10. First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer certification.

Candidates for the AT/CM major must meet all ten criteria listed above. The number of appointments may vary each. Limited admission will ensure that an appropriate student to clinical instructor ratio (approximately 8 to 1) is maintained. Admissions are approximately 18-20 students each year.

Application material should be returned to the AT/CM Curriculum Coordinator by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Candidates will be notified of their admission status no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.

After the requirements have been met, students will be ranked based upon their GPA, evaluation scores, and interview scores. Top ranked students will be admitted into the professional phase of the AT/CM major based on available space. It is essential that each student fully realize what is expected if they are admitted into the BGSU’s AT/CM major. All athletic training students who are formally admitted into the AT/CM major must complete the academic core of AT/CM courses and complete all modules. These requirements will take a minimum of five semesters to complete.

Students who are accepted into the AT/CM major will be required to purchase and maintain professional liability insurance. Other education costs might include transportation to off campus clinical sites, membership in professional associations, attendance at professional conferences, clothing and others.

Students who are not accepted into the AT/CM major may reapply the following year. Due to the extensive clinical component associated with this major, students may reapply only once. Students who are not selected for the professional phase of this major will work with the Curriculum Coordinator to identify alternate academic programs to pursue.

Students who have transferred to BGSU must complete the required pre-professional period at BGSU and apply for admission into the professional phase of the AT/CM major. Prompt commencement of the directed observation period is necessary to complete the clinical courses and clinical experiences in a minimum of six semesters at BGSU. All core courses must be taken at BGSU to ensure competency mastery. The Curriculum

Coordinator and College Office will evaluate other courses in the major on an individual basis to determine transfer of credits

## **RETENTION POLICY**

After official acceptance into the AT/CM Program the athletic training students should make continued progress towards mastery of all competencies. To achieve this mastery, the following guidelines have been instituted.

1. All students must maintain at least an overall grade point average of 2.50.
2. Once a student is admitted into the professional phase of the AT/CM major, the student must earn a letter grade of “C” or better in all AT/CM Curriculum courses.
3. Prerequisites for SM 489 – Internship in Sport Management: 52 hours in major field, letter grade of “C” or better in SM 387, overall GPA of 2.50 and major GPA of 2.70.
4. All students must progress through the modules and competency matrix at a satisfactory rate. Each module is to be completed in specific semesters and is outlined in the course syllabi.
5. All students must abide by all policies and procedures that are detailed in the BGSU Athletic Training/Clinic Management Handbook.
6. Mock written and oral examinations will be given at the end of each academic year to those students in the professional phase of the AT/CM major. Students will be encouraged to achieve a score of 40% for a Level 2 student, 50% for a Level 3 student and 60% for a Level 4 student.

Failure to complete the above guidelines will result in the following:

1. Conditional Status - Failure to maintain a 2.50 cumulative grade point average will result in the student being placed on Conditional Status. Students will not be assigned to clinical sites during this period, and therefore will not be able to enroll in ATCM 318, 391, 412 and SM 387. This will likely delay the students’ projected graduation date. Students on Conditional Status must return their cumulative grade point average to the appropriate 2.50 within the next TWO consecutive semesters of enrollment at BGSU. If this is not acquired or if the cumulative GPA falls below a 2.50 a second time, the student will be permanently suspended from the AT/CM major with no allowance for re-entry.
2. Clinical Probation-a trial period in which a student is given time to try to redeem poor conduct. A student is placed on clinical probation for the following:
  - A. failure to progress through the modules
  - B. inappropriate behavior at the clinical site
  - C. late or unexcused absence to clinical site
  - D. failure to abide by policies and procedures of the BGSU Athletic Training/Clinic Management Handbook

Clinical probation will occur at the discretion of the supervising Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor and Clinical Education Coordinator as well as the Curriculum Coordinator. Probation length will be determined by the Curriculum Coordinator.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

To complete the Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Athletic Training/Clinic Management, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. Achieve a minimum of a “C” or higher in all AT/CM required courses.

2. Completion and mastery of all competencies listed in the competency matrix developed by the NATA Educational Council. The Curriculum Coordinator will have final approval on this completion.
3. Completion of the Mock Oral/Practical/Written Examination.

For additional information please contact the Curriculum Coordinator at 419-372-6810.

## **CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Following admission to the professional phase of the AT/CM major, students will be provided with a clinical progression that allows them to gradually develop clinical competence and confidence in a structured manner over time. Additionally, identified clinical proficiencies are specified within each clinical course and are consistent with the expected level of classroom experiences. Students are encouraged to follow the provided sample plans of study as closely as possible because these plans have been designed to allow classroom and clinical experiences to be synthesized within each semester. Although it may be possible to deviate slightly from these suggested plans of study, students are strongly discouraged from deviating significantly due to a loss of continuity between classroom setting and clinical setting learning.

Clinical experience is an essential component of any accredited athletic training education program. In order to be an effective athletic trainer, a student must not only master pertinent content knowledge but also learn to use that knowledge in the clinical setting. Just as students are expected to learn more advanced concepts, skills, and techniques in the classroom over time, AT/CM students are also provided with clinical experiences that encourage the application of that knowledge and the assumption of increased professional responsibilities. Each athletic training student admitted to the professional phase of BGSU AT/CM major will work closely with BGSU Approved Clinical Instructors and Clinical Instructors, on campus in caring for Falcon student-athletes through a series of clinical assignments. By rotating clinical assignments among BGSU Approved Clinical Instructors and Clinical Instructors, AT/CM students gain exposure to different approaches to professional practice, and a wide variety of intercollegiate sports with their unique demands and requirements, and the personalities of athletes from those different sports. In addition, students will have off-campus clinical assignments with Approved Clinical Instructors and Clinical Instructors, who may be working in medical clinics, rehabilitation clinics, high schools, etc.

## **PROTOCOL FOR PROGRESSION**

To enhance the athletic training students' clinical education, every attempt is made to place students in a variety of athletic training situations. All students accepted into the professional phase of the AT/CM major are assigned to Approved Clinical Instructors, Clinical Instructors, and clinical experiences based on their individual needs, skill level, maturity, and level of responsibility. The student will be exposed to a mixture of high and low risk sports, an equipment intensive sport, male and female teams, as well as one sport that may include travel to away games. While in the AT/CM program, each student will have experiences with female and male physically active patients, and general medical experiences. Students can expect to return to campus approximately two weeks before fall semester classes begin to participate in preseason football camp.

All clinical assignments will be determined on an individual basis by the Clinical Education Coordinator upon consultation with the Curriculum Coordinator and clinical instructors. Clinical assignments following admission to the professional phase typically follow this progression:

**Level 2 – Spring Semester** - Athletic training students will be assigned 2 rotations at BGSU with an Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor. Rotations will likely include experience with one male and one female sport. Students will also be exposed to the general medical duties of an athletic trainer. This may include

working with team physicians, dentist and other members of the health care team and may include observation at an off-campus health care facility. Required time at the clinical site does not exceed 20 hours on average per week.

**Level 3 – Fall Semester** - All students are encouraged to return for preseason football camp (equipment-intensive). Students will be assigned 2 rotations each semester under the supervision of an Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor. One of these rotations will likely include experience with a lower extremity high-risk sport that will coincide with their academic class work. Students will attend practices and home events. Travel opportunity as available. Students may have clinical assignments at area clinics and high schools. Required time at the clinical site does not exceed 20 hours per week.

**Level 3 – Spring Semester** - Each athletic training student will be assigned 1 rotation that will likely include experience with an upper extremity high-risk sport under the supervision of an Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor. This includes attendance at practices, home events and may include travel. The upper extremity rotation coincides with their academic class work. Students may have clinical assignments at area physician offices or medical facilities. Required time at the clinical site does not exceed 20 hours per week.

**Level 4 – Fall Semester** - All students are encouraged to return for preseason football camp (equipment-intensive). Each athletic training student will be assigned to an Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor and intercollegiate sport for the entire season. This will include practices, home events, and the availability for travel. The Level 4 student will be directly involved in contact with physicians/doctors. Required time at the clinical site does not exceed 20 hours per week.

**Level 4 – Spring Semester** - Each athletic training student will complete a 15 week 600 hour Academic internship at a sports medicine clinic or related health care setting where an ATC is employed. Interns receive advanced exposure to the sports medicine team. Academic interns experience first hand the full scope of sports medicine, and benefit from this culminating capstone event. Academic internships are typically completed in the fall, spring or summer semester of the final year. Prior to the beginning of an academic internship, all designated clinical proficiencies in Knight 2001 must be mastered and verified by an Approved Clinical Instructor/Clinical Instructor and approved by the Curriculum Coordinator.

As stated in the CAATE Standards for athletic training education programs and clarified in the winter 2006 update, volume 5, issue 1 ([www.jrc-at.org](http://www.jrc-at.org), to become [www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net)), all student clinical experiences must be directly supervised by a health care professional. The AT/CM major does not require students to perform or accept unsupervised clinical experiences. Students should not be offered these opportunities as a replacement for qualified staff. If unsupervised opportunities are presented to students, the following restrictions must apply:

- it must be clearly delineated and enforced that those unsupervised opportunities are non-compulsory and voluntary,
- students cannot identify themselves as athletic training students,
- students cannot perform athletic training skills, and
- students can only function as first responders (with appropriate certification).

In addition, as full-time students, athletic training students are not assigned to or expected to exceed 20 hours on average of clinical experience per week, and must have a day off each week. Athletic training students may choose to participate in more hours, but do so voluntarily and must be mindful of their individual needs to ensure their academic success.