

Contact: Rachel Boon

**REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAM AT THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY:
MASTER OF ATHLETIC TRAINING**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University for a Masters of Athletic Training from the College of Human Sciences.

The Council of Provosts and Board office support approval of this program.

Background:

Description of proposed program. Athletic trainers are allied health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, treatment, therapeutic rehabilitation and intervention of injuries and medical conditions. Athletic training programs prepare individuals to work with and under the supervision of physicians to prevent and treat sports injuries and associated conditions. The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) is the national accrediting organization that establishes professional standards and regulations for athletic training programs. Students who want to become certified athletic trainers must earn a degree from a nationally accredited program.

The athletic training education program at Iowa State University is not a new program. The Department of Kinesiology currently offers the bachelor of science in Athletic Training. The program has been in existence since the early 1980s, was initially accredited in April 2001, and has since had two successful reaccreditations. Recently, CAATE mandated athletic training education programs must transition to professional master programs to sustain accreditation. Quoting from CAATE:

“CAATE accredited professional athletic training programs must result in the granting of a master’s degree in Athletic Training. The program must be identified as an academic athletic training degree in institutional academic publications. The degree must appear on the official transcript similar to normal designations for other degrees at the institution. Baccalaureate programs may not admit, enroll, or matriculate students into the athletic training program after the start of the fall term 2022” (<https://caate.net/becoming-an-athletic-trainer/>).

Graduating students cannot become a candidate to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) examination and become a certified athletic trainer and licensed in the profession unless they complete an accredited athletic training education program. This proposal for a new graduate degree program in Athletic Training is in direct response to the CAATE requirement.

The proposed program is a year-round, 24-month, 58-credit professional master’s degree in Athletic Training, for which we will seek accreditation from CAATE. Based on a 2018 review of 78 existing professional master’s programs in Athletic Training nationally, credit requirements ranged from 39 to 86 semester credits (mean = 58.3 credits, median = 59 credits) Thus, the 58- credit requirement of the proposed program is consistent with national trends. The overall academic goal is to prepare students for successful completion of the BOC examination and to enter the athletic training profession as skilled and prepared clinicians. Students will be taught essential athletic training didactic knowledge and clinical skills based on the Athletic Training Education Competencies established by CAATE.

Students will be exposed to higher level graduate coursework and experiences including evidence-based practice and research, critical analysis of evidence and common clinical conditions seen in varying areas of physically active patients. A strong inter-professional collaboration within the medical community will be part of the curriculum and immersive clinical experiences. The students will gain clinical experiences in several areas, on and off campus.

Academic objectives. Specific objectives of the program are to: 1) prepare athletic training students for the BOC certification examination; 2) produce high quality athletic trainers prepared for employment in educational, clinical, and professional settings; 3) promote professional and ethical conduct; 4) provide students equal opportunity to develop their skills both in the classroom and in the clinical settings; 5) continually update the curricular offerings to provide the athletic training student current evidence-based knowledge in the profession; 6) provide high quality instruction in the classroom and clinical experiences; 7) assist students in gaining employment upon graduation; 8) promote development of professional networking through attendance at professional and educational meetings; 9) foster appreciation of athletic training as a component of sports medicine; and 10) foster the affective, caring side of athletic training.

Learning outcomes reflect specific educational competencies and clinical proficiencies established by CAATE programmatic accreditation standards. Currently, accredited professional master's degree programs are to abide by the 2020 accreditation standards. There are 105 standards organized into the following five categories: 1) program design and quality, 2) program delivery, 3) curricular content, 4) institutional organization and administration, and 5) program resources.

Outcomes will be assessed and measured by several methods including written examinations, clinical practicum examinations and other hands-on clinical proficiencies, laboratory projects and completion of the required coursework. Accreditation standards require program-specific outcomes and include measures such as student learning, quality of instruction and overall program effectiveness. Programs must measure program graduation rate, retention rate and graduate placement rate. Board of Certification pass rate must meet or exceed a three-year aggregate of 70% first-time pass rate on the BOC examination. The ISU Athletic Training Program has an 88% first-time pass rate on the BOC certification for the most recent three-year period.

Relationship to existing programs at the institution. The Athletic Training Education Program has benefited from a well-established, strong and collaborative relationship between the Department of Kinesiology and ISU Athletics. The Department of Kinesiology will serve as the academic home for the new degree program. Although the MATR will be the department's only professional master's program, it will fit well with other graduate program specializations in the Department of Kinesiology. Athletic training graduate students will take several common graduate courses within the department while also completing highly specialized athletic training coursework to meet program requirements. Outside the academic program, athletic training graduate students will gain clinical experience by providing first aid services in a structured educational setting for other departments, academic clubs, social organizations, intramural and club activities and other groups. The students also participate in various outreach activities within the university, community and state (e.g., Special Olympics) to develop their management, leadership, interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Relationship to existing programs at other colleges and universities. The University of Northern Iowa has a professional master's athletic training program (effective summer 2018). Loras College has a 3+2 dual degree program in athletic training and are (fall 2018) accepting applications for a Master of Athletic Training. Grand View University and Drake University are seeking accreditation by CAATE for professional master's programs. The University of Iowa, Northwestern College, and Upper Iowa University have indicated their intent to establish professional master's programs and are at various stages of the program development, approval and accreditation process.

Iowa State University was the second institution in Iowa to achieve external accreditation for an undergraduate athletic training education program. Due to stringent accreditation standards, the degree programs at all three Regent institutions are similar in their didactic requirements. Nevertheless, differences exist in clinical experiences, student recruitment areas and program philosophies. Enrollment limitations exist in all programs because of CAATE policies regarding supervision of athletic training students in the clinical settings and in their clinical experiences. CAATE recommends a ratio of no more than eight students per clinical preceptor.

ISU has a collegial relationship with the other athletic training programs in the state. Most of our graduating students seek employment as an athletic trainer in the collegiate setting, whereas other schools in the state have a stronger emphasis on placing students in physical therapy school or in the high school setting following graduation.

Unique features. Iowa State University is the land grant institution in Iowa and is one of a few institutions to provide athletic training students extensive hands-on clinical experience early in their academic preparation. A clear strength of the current undergraduate program and proposed MATR is the strong relationship between the Department of Kinesiology and ISU Athletics. This relationship results in numerous opportunities for clinical experiences with collegiate athletes under the supervision of full-time clinical athletic trainers who have 20 or more years of clinical experience and have served as didactic instructors and clinical preceptors for our students. While many students come from Iowa and surrounding states (e.g. Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin), the program also draws students from around the country (e.g., Washington, California, Virginia, Arizona, Tennessee, Michigan, Colorado) and occasionally international students (e.g., Malaysia, Sweden, Kazakhstan). ISU is unique in that the program has eight former students or staff who are in the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame, which is reflection of the long and successful history of the program in preparing highly competent athletic training clinicians and individuals who are committed to leadership and service to the profession on a national scale.

Resources to establish a high-quality program. Through the partnership between the Department of Kinesiology and ISU Athletics, the students are educated in well-equipped clinical and teaching facilities. The Department of Kinesiology currently has two full-time athletic training faculty and has a plan for the addition of a third faculty member dedicated to the didactic portion of the program. Once the third faculty member is recruited, program resources will exceed minimum CAATE requirements. Four additional clinical athletic trainers in ISU Athletics, each with more than 20 years of clinical experience, have been identified as potential graduate lecturers for the MATR program. These certified athletic trainers currently serve various athletic teams and are clinical preceptors for athletic training students. These clinical professionals have multiple certifications in a broad spectrum of specialty treatment techniques. Clinical preceptors from Ames High School, McFarland Clinic, and Mary Greeley Medical Center further broaden and strengthen the clinical experiences of the athletic training students.

Eight athletic training clinical facilities, including a newly renovated athletic training space in Forker Building (home of the Department of Kinesiology), are located on and in close proximity to campus and provide state of the art equipment and facilities for the clinical experiences of the

students. Clinical facilities at McFarland Clinic and Ames High School also support clinical experiences for the athletic training students. Thus, students are exposed to the latest technologies and therapeutic techniques. Academic advising, administrative staff support, and teaching supplies are also available to support the program.

Student demand. Interest by prospective students in the athletic training program has exceeded program capacity for many years. Students currently matriculate into a pre-athletic training option in the B.S. in Kinesiology and Health and then must apply for formal admission into the B.S. in Athletic Training at the conclusion of their first year after completing required preliminary coursework. In fall 2018, the B.S. in Athletic Training had 42 students formally enrolled in B.S. in Athletic Training; approximately 50 students were in the pre-athletic training option. Typically less than 50% of pre-athletic training students are admitted into the B.S. in Athletic Training each year through a highly selective process. While these numbers reflect healthy enrollments, there has been a modest decline in student numbers in the past few years, likely due to the impending program transition and some uncertainty as to the timing of the transition to a professional master's. Nevertheless, there has been much interest in the program's future. Prospective students have been contacting the Department of Kinesiology with questions and interest.

Workforce need/demand. Occupational employment statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics provides national estimates for the Athletic Training profession (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes299091.htm#nat>). The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a favorable job market for athletic training: "Employment of athletic trainers is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations" (<https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes299091.htm#tab-6>).

Graduates from the program seek employment in numerous settings, including:

- **Secondary schools:** Public and private secondary schools offer abundant job opportunities for certified athletic trainers (ATCs). Many ATCs teach classes at the high school level. The American Medical Association recognizes athletic training as an allied health care profession, and recommends certified athletic trainers be in every high school.
- **Colleges and universities:** Certified athletic training jobs in colleges and universities generally fall into two categories: athletic department staff and combination teacher/athletic trainer.
- **Professional sports:** ATCs work year-round conditioning, evaluating, treating, and rehabilitating professional athletes in a wide variety of professional sports.
- **Sports medicine clinics:** This continually growing setting provides ATCs the opportunity to work with a number of different health care professionals and a diverse patient population. In addition to athletic injury rehabilitation, many clinics provide athletic training services for secondary schools, club sports and tournaments via outreach programs.
- **Military:** Each branch of the U.S. military is increasing its use of athletic trainers. ATCs can be found as part of the health care team for active-duty injured service people, on-and offbase fitness and wellness centers, new-recruit readiness programs and pre-enlistment readiness programs, in addition to established military school sports teams.
- **Industrial and commercial:** These settings include both outreach clinical and full-time ATC employees to deliver services. Athletic trainers are a key component to the health care team and work with physicians and other allied health personnel. ATCs are first-responder medical personal who are experts in injury assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation, particularly for orthopedic and musculoskeletal injuries.

Industries with the highest concentration of employment in athletic training are: 1) colleges and universities, 2) general medical and surgical hospitals, 3) offices of physicians and other health practitioners, 4) elementary and secondary schools, and 5) other recreation industries including spectator sports.

Cost.

	COSTS (year 1 & year 2)	TOTAL COSTS
Total Yearly Cost (Year 1) Restructure current faculty to Clinical Education Coordinator	\$41,500	\$41,500
Total Yearly Cost (Year 2)		\$0,000
Total Yearly Cost (Year 3) new Faculty salary & benefits	\$50,000	\$91,500
Total Yearly Cost (Year 4)		\$0,000
Total Yearly Cost (Year 5)		\$0,000
Total Yearly Cost (Year 6)		\$0,000
Total Yearly Cost (Year 7)		\$0,000

Projected student enrollment.

	Y 1	Y 2	Y 3	Y 4	Y 5	Y 6	Y 7
Graduate	5	10	20	25	30	30	30

Accreditation. ISU will complete a Substantive Change Level of Degree application to CAATE which will trigger a review of our proposed program. Application for a substantive change (<https://caate.net/substantive-documents/>) does not guarantee the change will be accepted. After review of materials, the CAATE may deem that an on-site visit is necessary to ensure compliance with required standards. The program must be approved by the Board of Regents prior to submitting the request to CAATE. Pending Board approval, submission to CAATE is tentatively planned for September 2019.

Evaluation plan. CAATE external accreditation will require the athletic training program to continually evaluate the program mission, curriculum, professional preparation of students, recruitment and retention of students and program outcomes. The specific program goals and related outcomes that guide program design and delivery are regularly evaluated and will include measures of student learning, quality of instruction, and overall program effectiveness in preparing students for certification. The standards for external accreditation require annual publication of student achievement measures, including graduation rate, retention rate, graduate placement rate and Board of Certification pass rate. Internal review of the program to determine if it is meeting the intended objectives, student enrollment target numbers and funding objectives will be done by the Program Director of the Athletic Training program and Chair of the Department of Kinesiology in conjunction with the Dean of the College of Human Sciences.

Date of implementation. May 2020

Letters of Support

College of Education
Office of the Dean



DATE: October 18, 2018

TO: Laura D. Jolly, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Human Services
Dean's Chair and Professor of Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management

FROM: Gaëtane Jean-Marie, Ph.D. *Gaëtane Jean-Marie*
Dean, College of Education
Richard O. Jacobson Endowed Chair of Leadership in Education

Oksana Grybovych Hafemann, Ed.D.
Head, Department of Health, Recreation and Community Services (HRCS)

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Establishing a Master of Athletic Training at ISU

Dear Dean Jolly,

Thank you for sharing your proposal to develop a professional Master of Athletic Training program within the Department of Kinesiology at Iowa State University. We recognize that the new CAATE accreditation standards require athletic training education to occur at the master's level. As you are aware, we launched the first accredited professional Master of Athletic Training Program in the state of Iowa in the summer of 2018. We greatly appreciate your continuous support of our program, and would like to offer you our support.

The Council of Provosts among the regent institutions has asked for an era of collaboration, one in which we can work together on so that new efforts can complement existing programs. We have a shared understanding of the nature and value of collaboration, and are eager to collaborate with our fellow Regent's programs.

In the College of Education, we welcome the opportunity to work with Iowa State University faculty to explore opportunities for collaboration. Again, thank you for reaching out to us for support, and we look forward to future collaboration.

cc: Dr. Patrick Pease, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs



GRADUATE COLLEGE
Office of the Dean

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June 15, 2018

Laura D. Jolly, PhD
Dean, College of Human Sciences Iowa State University

Dear Dean Jolly,

Thank you for reaching out to the University of Iowa regarding the Iowa State University proposed program, Master of Athletic Training. After consulting with vested individuals on campus, I am pleased to report no concerns regarding your proposal were raised by our program director, departmental chair, or curricular college dean. It is without reservation that the University of Iowa Graduate College supports your proposal.

Sincerely,

John C. Keller
Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education Dean, the Graduate College

cc: Susan Curry, Interim Provost, University of Iowa
Brooks Jackson, VP for Medical Affairs and Dean, Carver College of Medicine.
Philip E. Martin, ISU, Professor and Chair, Department of Kinesiology
Warren Darling, Chair, UI Department of Health and Human Physiology
Megan Lundstrom, UI Athletic Training Program Director