



MERRIMACK COLLEGE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING





The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program prepares students to meet the growing demand for athletic trainers in college, universities, physicians' offices, rehabilitation clinics, and community and commercial settings. Degree candidates combine passion for healthcare with the rewards of assisting patients in recovering from injuries and medical conditions. To enhance learning, Merrimack's program courses are taught by expert faculty who bring real-world experience from the front lines of athletic training to each discussion.



What is an Athletic Trainer?

Athletic trainers (ATs) are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians. The services provided by ATs comprise prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injured and medical conditions. Athletic Training is recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA) as a healthcare profession. [1]

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The rising population of active, injury-prone older individuals, coupled with employers' concerns regarding on-the-job injuries and liability, are building demand in a wider range of settings than ever before, including:

- Physician offices, where athletic trainers serve in clinical roles complementing physicians
- Rural and urban hospitals, hospital emergency departments, and urgent and ambulatory care centers
- Clinics with specialties in sports medicine, cardiac rehabilitation, medical fitness, wellness, and physical therapy
- Occupational health departments in commercial settings including manufacturing, distribution, and offices
- Police and fire departments, municipal departments, and military bases
- Colleges, universities, and community-based youth sports leagues
- Performing arts, such as dancers, musicians, and acrobats

The demand for skilled and qualified athletic trainers is projected to increase a full 21 percent for 2022—faster than the average of any other career [2]. As awareness of sports related injuries such as concussions continues to rise, community-based health awareness efforts are enhancing parents' and coaches' understanding of the risks of youth injury, which should continue to fuel demand for onsite athletic trainers.



TWO PATHWAY OPTIONS

Merrimack offers two pathways to earn your MSAT and become a certified athletic trainer.

- **Two Year Post-Baccalaureate Track**
80 credit hours

Our traditional, two-year-post-baccalaureate program for those with a bachelor's degree is ideal for experienced allied health professionals.

Those looking to change careers who have undergraduate degrees in unrelated fields may also pursue the MSAT as a pathway to a career in healthcare. These students will need to meet certain requirements to enter the program. See Admission Requirements.

- **Undergraduate To Graduate (3+2) Track**
174 credit hours

With our accelerated track, students entering Merrimack as an undergraduate can satisfy requirements for both a Bachelor of Science (in Health Science or Exercise Science) and an MSAT in five years.

PROGRAM FORMAT

This is a full-time master's degree program with classes offered during the day. Students enter into the program in the summer term only. The MSAT requires 80 credits (60 graduate credits + 20 clinical graduate credits) in athletic training.

DISCOVER THE BENEFITS

Prepare for an athletic training career with an exceptional program aligned with the standards and guidelines set forth from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (caATE).

- Build a strong basis of healthcare knowledge and expertise in athletic training through Merrimack's signature combination of rigorous coursework and clinical field work
- Develop an understanding of the National Athletic Trainers' Association's code of ethics
- Learn to effectively communicate with other professionals while providing the highest quality of care as part of a healthcare team
- Meet eligibility requirements for national certification and state licensure, in all states where it's required, upon graduation

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS YOU CAN PUT INTO PRACTICE

Through both degree tracks, our program curriculum balances the evidence-based knowledge and practical skill you need to provide the highest quality care through the infusion of the eight content Areas set forth by caATE.

- Evidence-based practice
- Prevention and health promotion
- Clinical examination and diagnosis
- Acute care of injury and illness
- Therapeutic interventions
- Psychosocial strategies and referral
- Healthcare administration
- Professional development and responsibility



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Classroom learning is complemented through clinical education experiences. Under the supervision of certified athletic trainers and other healthcare providers, students further develop their knowledge and skills in a wide range of settings to promote interprofessional collaboration. In addition, interactive lectures and group projects help you build a better understanding of the clinical skills needed to effectively care for athletes and other individuals as part of a healthcare team.

You'll complete the two years of clinical experience required by caATE standards for professional programs. Tapping our longstanding partnerships with a variety of organizations in surrounding communities, you'll receive hands-on training and sharpen your clinical skills at a practicum site that fits with your career goals.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Two Year Post-Baccalaureate Track

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- Pre-requisite courses with a C+ or better in the following courses: Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Chemistry I & II, Biology with lab, Statistics, Nutrition, one semester of Physics, Introduction to Psychology
- Additional coursework in either biomechanics/ kinesiology or exercise physiology is recommended

Undergraduate To Graduate (3+2) Track

Students in the 3+2 track will be required to achieve and maintain a minimum GPA in their undergraduate work and demonstrate:

- C+ or better in the following courses: Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Chemistry I & II, Biology with lab, Statistics, Nutrition, one semester of Physics, Introduction to Psychology
- Additional coursework in either biomechanics/ kinesiology or exercise physiology is recommended

FINANCIAL AID

Merit based scholarships are available and are awarded based on the overall strength of the application materials. Graduate students enrolled at least half-time (a minimum of four credits per semester) may also qualify for financial aid in the form of Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans. For additional information, visit www.merrimack.edu/financialaid.

[1] This definition is approved by the NATA's nomenclature work group and the NATA Board of Directors, January 2013.

[2] Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



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Merrimack College is a selective, independent college in the Catholic, Augustinian tradition whose mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. The College offers undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts, business, science and engineering, and education programs; it also offers master's programs and part-time degree completion programs.

At Merrimack, we live the Augustinian values of hospitality, truth, and social justice. By working together for the greater good, our students,

alumni, and faculty have made a measurable impact on our community and our world. At Merrimack, we believe there are many paths to success. That's why we empower our students to choose their own direction—and then give them the support they need to excel. By understanding their unique needs, interests, and aspirations, we enable them to grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT

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