Athletic Training, M.S.

The Master of Science in Athletic Training degree is a 45-hour, entry-level athletic training degree which provides graduate students with the knowledge, skills and clinical education necessary to meet the Board of Certification Inc. (BOC), certification exam. The program is designed for students who have completed an undergraduate degree but are seeking entry into the athletic training profession through a graduate education program which meets Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) standards. This program is not intended for students who already have an undergraduate athletic training degree from a CAATE accredited institution or are currently eligible for the BOC Certification Examination.

According to the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, www.nata.org, “Athletic trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize physical activity and participation of patients and clients.” Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and/or chronic medical conditions which may lead to impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. To become a certified athletic trainer, a student must graduate with a bachelor’s or master’s degree from an accredited professional athletic training education program and pass a certification examination. More than 70 percent of certified athletic trainers hold at least a master’s degree. Certified Athletic Trainers must meet ongoing continuing education requirements established by the Board of Certification Inc., www.bocatc.org. Although not yet a universal requirement, more and more athletic organizations and insurance companies are requiring the presence of Certified Athletic Trainers due to concerns about participant safety and organizational liability.

An athletic trainer is not the same as a personal trainer, who is not usually considered a health care professional and whose vocation is exercise management. A personal trainer may or may not be certified.

The mission of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program (GATEP) is to provide transformative educational opportunities for students to achieve intellectual, professional, personal and creative growth within a nationally accredited curriculum in the field of athletic training to service the health care needs of Oklahoma.

The goals of the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program are:

1. To provide students the opportunity to complete an accredited program of study that will provide them with the knowledge and clinical skills to become Certified Athletic Trainers.
2. To provide students the opportunity to learn, develop and apply critical thinking, decision-making skills necessary to become an allied-health care provider.
3. To provide students the opportunity to learn, develop and demonstrate ethical leadership and professional behaviors as they relate to health care in a global society.

Detailed information about the program can be found on the Graduate Athletic Training Education program web page, https://www.uco.edu/programs/jcgs/ceps/master-of-science-in-athletic-training or in the application materials under Documents > Application Packet on the same page. Contact the program director regarding information and requirements. All applications are incomplete until official transcripts are received by the Jackson College of Graduate Studies that indicate the completion of an undergraduate degree.

Graduate Admissions: Carlie Wellington
Email: cwellington@uco.edu
Office: BOX 106, EDU 225
Phone: (405) 974 - 5105
Coordinator/Advisor: Mr. Ed Sunderland
Email: jsunderland@uco.edu
Office: WAH 15
Phone: (405) 974 - 5239

Admission Requirements
Admission to the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program is competitive. (See: https://www.uco.edu/programs/jcgs/ceps/master-of-science-in-athletic-training.) Applicants will not be admitted to the Jackson College of Graduate Studies (JCGS) until they have been accepted to the Graduate Athletic Training Education Program. International students must first meet the university’s international admission requirements before applying for program admission. These students should first talk with an advisor in the International Services Office.

Applicants may obtain application forms and instructions from the program’s web page at https://www.uco.edu/programs/jcgs/ceps/master-of-science-in-athletic-training or the program director. Students wishing to transfer into the program from other graduate programs must be aware of the program’s transfer policies.

Application deadlines:
• December 15 for early summer admissions
• March 1 for regular summer admissions.

Submit the following directly to the Program Director in one envelope to:
Graduate Athletic Training Education Program
Box 189 100 N. University Dr.
Edmond, OK 73034
(Fax: 405.974.3805)

• A Graduate Athletic Training Education Program application by advertised date.
• A Jackson College of Graduate Studies online application for admission. (www.uco.edu/graduate/)
• Official copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts in sealed envelopes from each institution attended with all degrees posted. All transcripts must be from accredited institutions. Transcripts must show:
  - A minimum 2.75 GPA overall or 2.75 GPA in the last 60 hours attempted.
  - Completion of at least 19 hours from the following: HLTH 3493, BIO 2504, BIO 2604, PHED 3503, PHED 3333, and HLTH 3412. Applicants must have completed these courses within the last 10 years and must have earned a grade of “C” or better for course.
  - A candidate with a deficient prerequisite course may still gain provisional admission, if otherwise qualified. See Admission to Graduate Studies section.
• A completed application reviewed by the selection committee and meeting competitive admission requirements.
• Two letters of recommendation: One letter each from: professor/
instructor and one from an athletic trainer, physician or allied-health provider,
• A Statement of Goals regarding your athletic training future or philosophy
• A signed Technical Standards document verifying that the student can meet or exceed the minimum mental, physical, emotional, communicative and intellectual abilities necessary for athletic training
• A completed GATEP Physical Form, which requires a signed report from a physical examination by a licensed medical physician (or designee) and a signed release form.
• Immunization records with HBV information
• Professional Rescuer CPR and First Aid certification or equivalent (submit copies of both sides of cards)

Once all application materials are received and reviewed by the program, the program director will notify the candidates and invite the successful ones to interviews. Selected applicants must then complete an on-campus or phone interview with the selection committee.

Only after being accepted and admitted to Graduate Athletic Training Education Program will the Jackson College of Graduate Studies consider the student for admission as a graduate student. This step completes the admission process.

Immediate Post-Admission Requirements
Once accepted to both the program and the Jackson College of Graduate Studies, students must participate in the July semester academic program and complete clinical requirements of the GATEP between the first summer and fall semester. Pre-professional level requirement completion is mandatory for participation in the professional level clinical program. Students will be required to participate in the July semester academic program as well as completing a clinical orientation between the second summer session and fall semester. Students that have been accepted, admitted and enrolled in the July semester but fails to complete the pre-professional requirements because of some unforeseeable circumstance, will be placed on probation for one semester or until the requirements are met. (See Probation Procedure) There are costs involved to complete these requirements as well as the need for transportation to and from clinical sites

Requirements:
1. Pass KINS 5313 and KINS 5623 with a “B” or better.
   ◦ Bloodborne Pathogen Training completed in KINS 5623
2. Complete all psychomotor skill proficiencies. If all proficiencies are not completed, a grade of “I” – Incomplete will be given and the students will not be allowed to enroll in the professional level courses.
3. Reviewed with program director the program’s policy and procedure manual, academic advisement and graduation requirements.
4. Pay $150.00 annual clinical program fee
   ◦ Uniform and program badge
   ◦ Personal clinical equipment
5. Submit application for Apprentice Athletic Trainer License with the Oklahoma State Board of Medical License and Supervision, $25.00-$35.00
   ◦ www.okmedicalboard.org
   ◦ Criminal background check, $15.00 - 35.00

6. Purchase Student Liability Insurance through the University’s Bursar Office - $15.00 - 25.00 and provide receipt to the program director
7. TB Test - $20.00
8. Drug testing that may be required for certain clinical sites, approximately $40.00

It is the student’s responsibility to provide transportation to off-campus clinical sites, doctor offices, hospitals, outreach, observations and educational seminars related to the clinical education. Access to transportation is required to complete the clinical courses. Transportation costs are estimated at approximately $150.00 per semester.

The above requirements must be met during the July semester. Each student will then be required to complete approximately two weeks of Clinical Orientation during fall preseason sports as a program requirement. This clinical field experience is tied to KINS 5413, Clinical Education – Assessment of Athletic Injuries. A grade will be given upon completion. Transportation and travel costs will be the responsibility of the student. The following must be completed. See clinical coordinator for details.

a. Clinical Site Orientation
b. Clinical Observation - two weeks in early August – fall pre-season sports
   ◦ A minimum of four hours per day, five days per week, approximately 20 hours per week
   ◦ Hours, days and weeks will vary depending on the pre-season schedule of the high schools and college. See clinical coordinator for schedule details
c. Clinical rotations to the high school and college athletic training facilities
d. Foundational Behaviors of Professional Practice evaluation

Retention/Progression Requirements
1. Must be in “Good Standing” with the GATEP, Graduate College and University.
2. Must meet all GATEP clinical requirements.
3. Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in athletic training major courses.
4. Must earn a “B” or better in major courses.
5. Must take required courses in sequence to ensure “Learning Over Time.”
6. Must be enrolled in nine semester hours during fall and spring semesters.
7. Must demonstrate ability to continue to meet Technical Standards.

Graduation Requirements
Required Courses...........................................................................45 Hours
Taken in the Following Sequence

continued...
Clinical Program Requirements

The Graduate Athletic Training Education Program’s philosophy is that each student must be continually and actively involved in every aspect of the clinical program in order to learn, apply and appreciate the art and science of athletic training.

The standards are rigorous. Students must attend all clinical field experience and rotations assignments in order to observe and demonstrate the NATA Education Council Foundational Behaviors of Professional Practice, including the application of psychomotor and clinical proficiency skills, when interacting with patients, coaches, parents and medical personnel. Supervisors record clinical participation information as part of the student’s progression/retention and graduation requirement documentation.

Clinical Standards: Students must meet the following standards:

a. Attendance at all clinical field experience and rotations assignments. Attendance will be measured by hours, days, weeks and semesters completed as well as clinical site rotations, sports and events participation. Clinical participation information will be recorded on the program’s forms which will be used for retention/progression and graduation requirement documentation.

b. Adherence to the GATEP and each clinical site’s dress code, behavior and facility protocols. Failure to do so may result in removal from the clinical site. Travel costs and transportation are the responsibility of the student and will be needed to complete clinical requirements.

Note. It is imperative that the student understands that only directly supervised clinical experiences by an ACI/CI will count towards the clinical education requirements. The student must be in both visual and auditory contact with the ACI/CI during all clinical courses/labs and field experiences. At no time should it be the responsibility of the student to cover teams or facilities, if unsupervised. (Complete clinical program requirements can be found at https://www.uco.edu/programs/jcgs/ceps/master-of-science-in-athletic-training.

Note: The amounts of all fees are subject to change. In preparation for graduation, students must obtain correct fee amounts from their graduate program advisor.

Graduation Requirements

1. Meet all University and Graduate College requirements.
2. Complete all Graduate Athletic Training Education Program academic requirements.
3. Earn a “B” or better in each Graduate Athletic Training Education Program major course.
4. Overall GPA of 3.00 or higher with no more than six hours of “C” and no more than six advisor-approved hours from traditional correspondence courses.
5. Meet all clinical program requirements of Graduate Athletic Training Education Program.

Other Requirements

1. Plan of Study. Each student must file a plan of study with his/her graduate program advisor and the Jackson College of Graduate Studies by the end of the first semester of Graduate work. The plan must be signed and dated by the student and the graduate program advisor before it can be considered official.
2. Final Requirements. Apply for graduation through the JCGS by advertised deadline.