3+2 EXERCISE SCIENCE/PRE-PROFESSIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINING TO MASTER OF SCIENCE OF ATHLETIC TRAINING

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Athletic Training provides a unique experience of professionalism and interaction with athletes, athletic injuries, and the interdisciplinary healthcare team. Athletic Trainers specialize in the prevention, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. Athletic Trainers may encounter a variety of scenarios throughout the workday. Making decisions, devising treatment protocols, serving as a liaison to the physician, documentation of daily notes, and emergency first aid care are just a few of the scenarios one may encounter on a daily basis. The responsibilities extend to management of an athletic training facility, patient education on health topics such as nutrition, exercise, injury prevention and rehabilitation, and communication with other colleagues in the healthcare team that may include other athletic trainers, coaches, physicians, nurses, insurance companies, physical therapists, etc.

The Athletic Training field requires a certain individual who possesses a love for working with the physically active. Students seeking a career in Athletic Training will be enrolled in the Exercise Science major with a focus on the Pre-Professional Athletic Training curriculum for the first three (3) years of study. Courses in the Pre-Professional Athletic Training track will prepare students for the Professional phase of study in the Master of Science of Athletic Training (MSAT) Program.

Accepted students are required to follow the Athletic Training Student Handbook which defines rules, regulations, and standards for the student’s continued progression in the major. In addition to the University’s core curriculum requirements defined in this handbook, the Athletic Training Student must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA, 3.0 pre-requisite GPA, and earn a minimum grade of “C” in all of the pre-requisite courses listed below:

* + One semester of Biology with lab
  + One semester of Chemistry with lab
  + One semester of Physics with lab
  + One semester of Human Anatomy with lab\*
  + One semester of Human Physiology with lab\*
  + One semester of Statistics
  + One semester of Introduction of Psychology
  + One semester of Exercise Physiology

*\* Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 may substitute for these pre-requisites.*

As part of the requirements for the MSAT Program and national certification eligibility, students are required to complete two (2) terms of clinical education experiences as well as an Immersive Athletic Training Practicum Experience under the supervision of a BOC Certified Athletic Trainer. To fulfill this requirement, the student will have the opportunity to work with Wheeling University student-athletes as well as a variety of other settings in the area or across the country including high schools, other colleges, clinics, and professional teams.

Upon completion of the MSAT Program at Wheeling University, students will be able to take the national Board of Certification (BOC) Exam to become a nationally Certified Athletic Trainer. Upon successful completion of the BOC Examination, the individual is able to enter the job force in a variety of settings including but not limited to high schools, colleges, professional athletics, clinics, hospitals, military services, Olympic training centers, and industry. Students will also be well prepared to pursue graduate school for other healthcare professions including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and physician assistant, among others.

Accreditation: The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) is the accrediting agency for all Athletic Training Education Programs. Wheeling University is an official CAATE accredited program.