

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Master of Science in Athletic Training, in the Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies division in the College of Education, effective spring/summer term, 2018.

### **Background**

Athletic Training is an allied health profession that has been formally recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA), Health Resources Services Association (HRSA), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Athletic Training encompasses the prevention, examination and diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of emergent, acute, subacute, and chronic neuromuscular conditions and certain medical conditions in order to minimize subsequent impairments, functional limitations, disability, and performance.

According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>), Athletic Training is projected to grow 21 percent between now and 2024 when compared to other allied health professions, which is much faster than average for all occupations. Athletic Trainers treat a wide range of patients and can work in a variety of practice settings. Common settings in which athletic trainers are employed include public and private secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional and Olympic sports, youth leagues and sports facilities, physician offices, sports medicine and rehabilitation clinics, industrial and occupational health, public safety departments, performing arts companies, and the military.

The entry-level master's education of Athletic Training is accredited nationally and available in 39 institutions. Wayne State University would draw students from current undergraduate programs and students in the Detroit metropolitan region. Additionally, students from other areas in the state, as well as adjacent states, will be drawn to the program. Graduates of the program will be prepared to fulfill the national need for certified athletic trainers who are knowledgeable, clinically proficient, and critical thinkers. Graduates will be competently prepared to assume any and all of the various employment settings.

Currently, athletic training is offered as an entry-level master's degree in 19 states nationally. As the curricular content is mandated by the accrediting agency, the curricula of programs will be similar. What will differ is the delivery of the program content.

### **Program Description**

The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) will be an entry-level graduate program for students interested in becoming a certified athletic trainer. Certified athletic trainers are unique health care providers who provide comprehensive patient care in five domains of clinical practice. These include prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate and emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation, and organization and professional health and well-being. Typical undergraduate backgrounds include exercise science, kinesiology, and the life sciences. Other degrees will be considered provided prerequisite courses have been completed. Students who

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

successfully complete the program are required to pass an entry-level examination administered by the Board of Certification, Inc. to practice as an athletic trainer.

### **Admission Requirements**

Enrollment in the MSAT is contingent upon admission to the WSU Graduate School. A minimum bachelor's degree GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required, with prerequisite coursework completed with a grade C or better. Additionally, applicants must submit a statement of professional goals; provide three professional references, with at least one from a certified athletic trainer; provide documentation validating 30 hours of observation under a certified athletic trainer; provide documentation of a current emergency cardiac care certification (CPR/AED) or basic life support (BLS); complete a criminal background check; provide proof of a physical examination that verifies the student can safely meet the physical and technical skills required by an athletic training student and provide evidence of hepatitis B immunization before placement at a clinical site.

### **Curriculum Requirements**

The program requires a total of fifty-six (56) credits. The course of study will be a 24-month program beginning during the summer semester. Students will complete a total of four semesters and two summer sessions, integrating a competency-based approach in both the classroom and clinical settings. Students are required to complete each semester sequentially, with full-time enrollment.

### **Graduation Requirements**

All coursework must be completed in accordance with Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. Fifty-six credits are required for this degree. The MSAT program will follow Plan C (coursework only) as the program will be a combination of didactic coursework with corresponding clinical fieldwork. Full-time enrollment is expected for students in the MSAT program and requirements must be completed within six years of admission. The coursework and sequencing are prescribed. Coursework must be completed in the prior semester before progress to the next semester can occur.

### **Program Administration**

The program will be coordinated by the Program Director. The Clinical Education Coordinator will be responsible for the clinical education components of the program. The program will be overseen and monitored by the Assistant Dean of the Kinesiology, Health and Sport Studies division in the College of Education.

The program director will oversee all aspects of the program, develop curriculum, liaise with the administration, prepare accreditation reports, teach specific classes, advise students, mentor students, develop preceptors, engage in scholarly activity, and be involved in service. The Clinical Education Coordinator will oversee the clinical sites, train preceptors, initiate and execute affiliation agreements, identify and establish clinical placement sites, evaluate clinical sites and preceptors, advise students, mentor students, teach specific classes, engage in scholarly activity, and be involved in service.

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**Budget and Resource Requirements**

As this is a new program, three faculty lines have been committed to this program. The expenses needed to run this program will come from reorganization of existing resources within the College of Education.

**Accreditation**

Athletic Training education is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). CAATE sets the educational standards and it is the responsibility of the individual institutions to ensure the standards are met.

**Approvals**

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Kinesiology, Health and Sports Studies division, the College of Education Assembly, the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School and the Provost.