

ATHLETIC TRAINING

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO | Teach. Learn. Heal.

Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Policies Manual

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Mission & Program Goals

It is the mission of the Master of Science Athletic Training Program at Minnesota State University to provide inclusive, dedicated, effective teaching, scholarship, and service to our students and the athletic and physically active populations of the university, the community, the state, the region, and the global community. We strive to develop healthcare professionals who consider racial, ethnic, socio-economic, sexual, gender and religious diversity while providing equitable, patient centered care based on current best practices.

Program Goals

1. To facilitate student knowledge and clinical skill development as the foundation for sound practice in the profession of Athletic Training and related fields.
2. To develop proficiency in the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary in the following content areas necessary for the practice of Athletic Training:
 - 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
3. To recognize the need for the support of clinical practice through the use of education, research, and service to the profession.
4. Students will pass the athletic training Board of Certification (BOC) examination at a rate that exceeds the accreditation requirement for both first attempt and overall, i.e., regardless of number of attempts.
5. To respect and treat patients as individuals, and without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, political or religious affiliation, or athletic ability.
6. Students will practice cultural humility while interacting with patients, preceptors, and others.
7. The program demonstrates systematic diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice efforts in its development, design, and delivery.

Roles & Responsibilities

A successful athletic training program requires that educational staff, preceptors, and students know their respective roles and work together to continually improve the quality of student education.

Responsibilities of the Athletic Training Student

Each student officially accepted into the athletic training program is expected to follow all policies and procedures established by the University, the College of Allied Health and Nursing, the Department of Human Performance, all affiliated clinical sites, and the athletic training program. In addition, each student is expected to maintain academic excellence, the highest professional and ethical standards, and to take an active role in their classroom and clinical education.

Failure to abide by these policies, procedures and guidelines may result in probation and/or dismissal from the program.

Responsibilities of the Athletic Training Faculty

Faculty in the athletic training program are responsible for classroom education, clinical instruction, student assessment, and academic advising for students enrolled in this program. It is the responsibility of faculty to provide the athletic training student with the highest possible level of instruction, and to help prepare the student to function in the clinical environment. These efforts should culminate in the development of clinical skills and knowledge sufficient to become a certified and licensed athletic trainer.

Responsibilities of the Program Director

The Program Director is responsible for the day-to-day operation, coordination, supervision, admissions, maintenance of accreditation, and evaluation of all aspects of the athletic training program. Additionally, like all program faculty, the program director performs classroom instruction, clinical instruction, student assessment and academic advising. These efforts, on the students' behalf, should culminate in the development of clinical skills and knowledge sufficient to become a certified and licensed athletic trainer. The Program Director is responsible to the Department Chair and the Dean of the College of Allied Health and Nursing.

Responsibilities of the Clinical Education Coordinator

The Clinical Education Coordinator is responsible for coordinating athletic training student clinical experiences, including the maintenance and development of varied clinical settings both on and off campus; classroom and clinical instruction and student assessment; assessment of program preceptors and to a limited degree to supervise students in a clinical setting. These efforts, on the students' behalf, should culminate in the development of clinical skills and knowledge sufficient to become a certified and licensed athletic trainer. For the purposes of program coordination, the Clinical Coordinator is responsible to the Program Director and the Department Chair.

Responsibilities of the Preceptors

A Preceptor is a faculty or affiliated site staff member who provides direct supervision and instruction of students in the clinical aspect of the athletic training program. A preceptor shall have a current license in their profession, and if an athletic trainer, BOC recognition as a Certified Athletic Trainer. Additionally, the preceptor shall possess a NPI number with the appropriate healthcare field designator. The preceptor should also possess a strong academic orientation, demonstrated clinical teaching skills, and a sincere interest in the professional preparation of athletic training students.

Demonstrated involvement in athletic training and sports medicine through publications, public speaking, research, and membership in related professional organizations is highly desirable.

Preceptors are responsible for a large portion of the student's educational experience. Students learn, in part, by doing. Experience is a rich resource, yet experience needs to be individualized and guided. Allowing the student to develop their experiences through "guided self-direction" will be a key for a successful clinical experience. Every setting, from the athletic training facility to the practice field/court/track/arena, to game situations, is a learning environment.

The Preceptor should:

- 1) provide the student with an orientation for each setting;
- 2) provide adequate and equitable opportunities for clinical instruction, including cognitive and psychomotor skills;
- 3) report any student misconduct, policy/procedure violations, or gross clinical deficiencies to the program director and/or clinical education coordinator;
- 4) provide continuous and ongoing evaluation of student performance remembering that student performance should be consistent with their current coursework;
- 5) only allow the student to perform skills for which they have been evaluated both clinically and didactically;

6) since all ATs are taught, and utilize techniques in slightly different ways, the preceptor should explain any differences in technique by using sound empirical evidence. Variety in clinical experience is a valuable resource; however, the student must understand the logic behind the differences. The preceptor should refrain from making statements such as "that's wrong, this is the right way," or "you were taught wrong." Instead, try to use phrases such as "have you thought about doing it this way," or "here is a method that I like to use because..."

Additional recommendations to the preceptor for the enhancement of the student's clinical experience:

- 1) conduct discussions or "rounds" regarding patient injury/illness status and progress;
- 2) review material on a thematic basis (in addition, the program director and faculty will periodically let you know what the students are currently covering in class so you may coordinate);
- 3) review case studies;
- 4) require the student to present cases to, and assist the team physician;
- 5) present the student with scenarios;
- 6) require the student to demonstrate proficiency in various skills and with various equipment;
- 7) require the students to teach/review with each other;
- 8) allow the student to discuss athlete status and progress with the coaching staff;
- 9) help students to think critically, and to understand your thought process and philosophy regarding decision making;
- 10) allow the students to travel whenever possible.

****Important note for Preceptors and Students:** Remember that all preceptors' primary responsibility is the provision of health care services to patients/student-athletes, while the Athletic Training Program Director is responsible for all aspects of the educational program. Any questions regarding student-athlete health care should be directed to the preceptors. All questions regarding the educational program, the students, and their clinical and didactic education should be directed to the Program Director or Clinical Education Coordinator. Any questions or concerns involving both aspects, i.e., patient health care and athletic training student education, should be brought to the attention of the preceptor and the Program Director or the preceptor and the Clinical Education Coordinator.

Academic Policies

****Important note: University policies supersede program policies and all current University policies can be found on the University website.**

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Minnesota State University, Mankato is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and education opportunity. No person shall be discriminated against in the terms and conditions of employment, personnel practices, or access to and participation in programs, services, and activities with regard to race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or membership or activity in a local commission as defined by law.

University Policy

The activities of the University are administered in accordance with a variety of federal and state laws, MnSCU Board policies, assorted rules and regulations, and staff and student rights and responsibilities. Individuals may consult the following university publications for detailed descriptions of applicable policies and procedures: "The Student Policy Handbook," "The Faculty and Staff Handbook," and the "MnSCU Manual of Policies and Procedures." University policies can also be found online in the bulletin the student came into the program under. For more information concerning applicable university policy, contact the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

University Probation/Suspension Policies

The University Policies governing "satisfactory Academic Progress, Probation, Probationary Status, Academic Misconduct, Suspension, Suspension Status" as stated in the University Bulletin are in effect. The student should refer to the bulletin for complete review of these policies.

Academic Misconduct Policy

Academic misconduct includes copying, plagiarism, or other forms of cheating consistent with the student policy handbook. Academic misconduct may result in probation, or dismissal from the program, and may carry additional penalties regarding university policy.

Note: For these and other policies the ATP always refers to the most current version of the applicable University policy.

College of Graduate Studies & Research Scholastic Standards

All graduate studies policies available at: <https://grad.mnsu.edu/graduate-college-policy/scholastic-standards/> The accumulation of grades below 3.0 in more than two courses of three or more credits each or Incomplete/In-Progress in more than three courses of two or more credits, or a combination of the above in four courses excluding thesis/alternate plan paper credits removes the student from degree status.

The Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research will monitor the academic standing of all graduate students each semester and take action based on the review of the graduate students' semester ending grade reports. A student who fails to meet academic standards may be required by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research to withdraw from the university. Individual academic programs may have published retention and dismissal policies that differ from those noted below. In these cases, the departmental policy will supersede the general university policy.

Students receiving financial aid (excluding non-federally funded University graduate assistantships) must abide by federal, state, and institutional policies, including but not limited to satisfactory academic progress standards. For additional information please see the web page of the Student Financial Services Office.

Academic warning letters will be sent to graduate students who receive a grade of less than 3.0, an In-Progress (IP), or Incomplete (I) in any graduate course of 2 credits or more, or who have a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0.

Probation letters will be sent to students who received an academic warning letter the previous term and who have subsequently failed to demonstrate significant improvement in their academic record. While under Academic Warning status, students who receive a grade of less than 3.0, a grade point average for the term of less than 3.0, a cumulative grade point average of less than 3.0, or an In-Progress or Incomplete in excess of four graduate courses of 2 credits or more will be placed on probation.

Dismissal letters will be sent to all students who were placed on probation the previous term and who failed to demonstrate a significant improvement in their academic record and received a grade point average for the term less than 3.0, or a grade of less than 3.0, IP, or I in excess of four graduate courses of 2 credits or more.

No grade lower than a "C" is counted for graduation credit, but all grades earned (including Ds and Fs) are counted in determining the grade point average. Graduate courses may be repeated but credit for the course is applicable toward the degree only once. However, all grades earned for that course shall be used in calculating the grade point average.

A student's work in any course will be evaluated in accordance with the following system of letter grades: A, B, C, D, F, NC, and P.

"A" represents work of definitely superior quality.

"B" represents a level of performance that is above average.

"C" represents a below-average level of performance.

"D" represents unacceptable performance.

"F" represents unacceptable performance.

"AU" represents that a course has been audited. Audit courses do not satisfy program requirements, are not used in determining the grade point average, and cannot be applied to a degree. Tuition and fees, however, are paid.

Academic progress is monitored by the CGSR Director of Graduate Studies and Research and by program faculty. Program faculty will monitor academic progress each semester both via instructing athletic training courses but also at the end of each semester by obtaining an unofficial transcript for each student and maintaining that unofficial transcript in each student's file folder which is kept online with password protected access only.'

Clinical Experience Expectations

The Athletic Training Student must:

1. Fulfill all program requirements for clinical hours/experiences,
2. Must participate in all scheduled hours/experiences as assigned by the CEC and preceptor(s),
3. Academics (athletic training classes) take priority over clinical experiences
4. Clinical hours and scheduled events must take priority over outside activities or work, staff will schedule around (within reason) personal needs such as weddings, family engagements, teaching assistantships, work, etc. (*see "Clinical Experience Requirements"*)
5. Appropriate dress, as required by program faculty and preceptor(s) will include uniform shirts, name tags, MSU Athletic Training apparel purchased by staff or students, or other apparel for special events.
 - Inappropriate dress includes torn or dirty clothing, tights, clothing advertising alcohol, bars or otherwise questionable taste. MSU Athletic Training apparel must be worn while in clinic during open hours. All clothing must be functional. The student should be able to perform all duties without restriction. (*see "Student Dress Code"*)
6. Athletic Training jackets and clothing should not be worn for outside activities that may be considered unprofessional, such as parties and bars, etc.
7. All athletic training students are expected to participate and to conduct themselves within the NATA and BOC Codes of Professional Conduct, Refer to "NATA Code of Ethics" (Appendix A) and BOC Standards of Professional Practice (Appendix B).

Programmatic Probation

All students are expected to follow programmatic requirements. Failure to do so will, after the first violation, result in a written warning to be kept as a part of the student's record. A second violation will result in five (5) weeks of probation. A third failure to meet programmatic requirements may result in dismissal from the Athletic Training Program. Since the clinical experiences are a requirement of clinical coursework (AT 671, 672, 673, 674), any probation will adversely affect the student's grade. Thus, the student may receive a lower grade, an incomplete, or a failing/no credit grade, see Academic Progress above.

NOTE: A student who violates program or University policies, or the law, may be placed directly on probation or dismissed from the program.

General Program Policies

Class Attendance

Although faculty may establish their own attendance policies, students are expected to prepare for, attend, and participate in scheduled classroom, laboratory, and clinical sessions. Athletic training students will not be excused for team travel from any athletic training courses where educational competencies/proficiencies are being introduced.

Professionalism

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to act professionally in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings, and in accordance with the professional ethics and standards of practice established by the National Athletic Trainer's Association (see Appendix A), the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice MN Statutes 147.091 to 147.162. and the BOC (See Appendix B). This includes appropriate and consistent action with regard to all settings and policy enforcement, dress, and conduct. Athletic training students are viewed as an extension of and representative of the University; therefore, the highest professional standards are expected.

Ethical Conduct

All Athletic Training Students are expected to act professionally and ethically at all times, strictly adhering to the NATA's Code of Ethics (see Appendix A) and the BOC Standards of Professional Practice (see Appendix B).

Medical Information Confidentiality Policy

“**Confidential Health Care Information**” is defined as all information (verbal, written, digital) relating to a patient's health care history, diagnosis, condition, treatment, or evaluation obtained from a health care provider or staff person in contact with a patient. It is the responsibility of Athletic Training Program and the athletic training students , to safeguard the medical information on each patient, whatever form the information may come to knowledge (i.e., medical records, billing slips, appointment schedules, verbal, etc.).

All information regarding a patient's medical conditions and treatments is confidential. This privileged information shared between them represents the essence of the special relationship between the patient and the health care provider, and as such, the information in the patient's records, appointment logs, billing office, etc., must be protected from unauthorized disclosure.

As an athletic training student whose clinical experiences require working with confidential health care information, the following shall apply:

- **The student shall read a medical record only as their position requires it.**
- **The student shall use this information only as their position requires it.**
- **The student may discuss the information only as their position requires it.**
- **The student must treat all such information impersonally as part of the day's work.**

As a student working directly with confidential health care information, I have been made aware by my supervisor that there are regulations pertaining to the confidentiality of health care information, and under no circumstances shall any information leave the premises either written or verbally, concerning any patient without that patient's written informed consent.

Students will complete documentation that asks them to attest to the following statement regarding

medical confidentiality:

“I understand and agree that in the performance of my duties as a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato I will hold all health care information in confidence and that violation of this confidentiality will result in disciplinary action (in accordance with program policy), as well as outside civil and/or criminal penalties, up to and including a fine and/or imprisonment.”

Communicable Disease Transmission Policy

This policy protects the health and safety of students enrolled in the Athletic Training (ATP) Program as they participate in the didactic and clinical education experiences required by the M.S. in Athletic Training degree program. It is designed to provide students, preceptors, and faculty with a plan to assist in the management of students with infectious diseases as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This policy was developed using the recommendations established by the CDC for health care workers and has been adopted, with permission, from the Duquesne University Department of Athletic Training; the recommendations were established on the basis of “existing scientific data, theoretic rationale, applicability and potential economic impact.”

Guidelines for Prevention of Exposure and Infection

1. All students must attend/participate in required OSHA and Blood-borne pathogen training annually to learn, practice, and be evaluated as successfully performing all skills and tasks that will assist them in limiting their exposure in health care settings.
2. To limit exposure, students must use proper hand washing techniques and practice good hygiene.
3. Students must use Universal Precautions AT ALL TIMES when functioning as health care professional students in health care settings and/or working with potential sources of infectious disease.

Guidelines for Managing Potential Infection

1. A student exposed to a potential infection before, during, or after a clinical experience should report that exposure to their preceptor, the CEC and PD.
2. A student who demonstrates signs of infection or disease that may place them and/or their patients at risk, should report that potential infection or disease immediately to Health Service (21 Carkowski Commons, 389-6276). If a student is in doubt of their health risk, that student should immediately report to Health Service for evaluation by a qualified health professional. *A student may utilize their family physician; however, the same requirements and notifications yielded from the Health Service will be required of the personal physician.*
3. If a student feels ill enough (e.g., fever, diarrhea, other acute symptoms) to miss more than one day of class or clinical experience, that student should be evaluated by the Health Service or family physician.
4. Upon review by Health Service or the personal physician, the student must make it known that they are an Athletic Training student and that they are required to furnish the Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator with notification of their health status and ability to participate in the required academic and clinical activities of the educational program.
5. Upon receipt of the health status notification from Health Service or the family physician, the student must present that notification to the Program Director or the Clinical Education Coordinator who will inform the other appropriate Athletic Training faculty who (in compliance with HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act)) are required to know the student’s health status. The health notification will be placed in the student’s file kept online with password-protected access only.
6. The student must notify their preceptor of missed clinical experiences; this need to miss

clinical time will be confirmed by the Clinical Education Coordinator with the designated preceptor. The student will assume responsibility for the Student Affairs office notification (389-1819) so that office may officially notify the student's professors if they miss further class time.

7. The student should follow the Missed Class Policy as defined in the Athletic Training Handbook when any class or clinical assignment is missed and should contact the Office of Accessibility Resources to coordinate accommodations for students with an extended absence or an extenuating circumstance.

Accessibility Resources Office
Minnesota State University
132 Memorial Library
Mankato, MN 56001
FAX: 507-389-1199
Phone: 507-389-2825 (Voice/TTY)

Note that the student, regardless of the situation, will be required to complete all program requirements (didactic and clinical) in order to complete the program.

8. The student is responsible for keeping the Program Director and the Clinical Education Coordinator informed of conditions that require extended care and/or missed class/clinical time. Additional health status notifications will be required until such time as the student is cleared to return to full participation in all academic and clinical requirements of the academic program.
9. If a student is required to miss more than 20% of didactic, laboratory, or clinical time during a semester, the course instructor in conjunction with the Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator will determine the students' status.

Note: See the Program Director or Clinical Education Coordinator for a copy of the full policy which includes "TABLE 1. Work restrictions for health care personnel exposed to or infected with infectious diseases in health care settings. Note: that the clinical judgment of the provider may supersede these guidelines."

Immunization Policy & Record Verification

Minnesota Law (M.S. 135A.14) requires that all students born after 1956 and enrolled in a public or private post-secondary school in Minnesota be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, and rubella, allowing for certain specified exemptions. However, the athletic training program requires all athletic training students to maintain a program of yearly health examinations and immunizations.

Documentation of vaccinations is required for final program admission and all athletic training students must provide documentation prior to starting required clinical experiences.

Required Immunizations:

MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) #Most recent dose required at or after 12 months of age.

Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) Most recent dose required within past 10 years.

TB screening/Mantoux

Or evidence of recent chest x-ray or serologic testing indicating the presence of antibodies.

Varicella (chicken pox)

Or evidence of serologic testing indicating the presence of antibodies.

Hepatitis B 3 doses

*Health care professionals and students who perform tasks that may involve exposure to blood or body fluids obtain anti-HBs serologic testing 1-2 months after dose 3

Influenza (annually)

Optional Immunization:

SARS-COV-2 (COVID)

**At this time, the University and the program do not require a COVID-19 vaccine, but there is potential that could change at any time. Certain clinical sites DO require documentation of up to date COVID-19 vaccination. Students are strongly encouraged to be up to date in their COVID-19 vaccination status so their clinical placements are not restricted. .

Medical Exemption documentation may be provided to the program in leu of immunization records.

Note that conscious exemption may preclude students from obtaining some required clinical experiences, which will negatively impact the student's ability to complete all program requirements.

Additional Fees

Students pay the following differential tuition for the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program:

\$47 per credit (total base + differential per credit = \$519.50) for 48 credits = \$24,936.00.

In addition, students pay the following liability insurance fees for associated clinical courses:

AT 671 – University Liability Insurance Fee of \$8
 AT 672 - University Liability Insurance Fee of \$8
 AT 607 - University Liability Insurance Fee of \$12
 AT 680– University Liability Insurance Fee of \$12
 AT 673 - University Liability Insurance Fee of \$8
 AT 674 - University Liability Insurance Fee of \$8

Athletic Training Classroom/Laboratory (CSB 250, 251, & HC 1702) Use Policy

The Athletic Training classroom/laboratories (ATCL) are in the Clinical Sciences Building (250 and 251) and Highland Center (1702). They provide the athletic training faculty and students with various resources related to the education and practice of athletic training. These rooms may be used by the following individuals only: *AT Faculty and current AT students only* (intercollegiate AT staff with prior approval from AT faculty only).

Athletic training students may use the ATCL to study or to complete video projects using the VALT system during the business day (8-4 PM) or after hours IF they have a current MavCard and are on the approved list the program director provides to campus security, otherwise security may ask anyone without a MavCard and permission to leave the room.

Non-AT students are not permitted to use the room. Please refer to the specific rules below that detail the use of the ATCL. Any athletic training student who violates the following rules will be subject to the disciplinary policies of the athletic training program, the college, and the university.

1. The room is to be locked when not in use. The use of the student's MavCard to open may not be shared with anyone other than the student to whom the MavCard belongs. The system records each MavCard swipe, therefore the student whose MavCard opens the door is responsible for the room, all equipment/supplies, and actions within the room. Always make sure it is locked when you leave.
2. The ATCLs are not lounges and must not be treated as such. Athletic training faculty and students will always conduct themselves in the highest professional manner while using the ATCLs.
3. Those individuals who use the ATCLs will keep the room clean and organized at all times, if you get it out then you put it away; if you make it dirty then clean it.
4. Athletic training students will keep all personal items in their locker unless the item is needed for academic or clinical lab purposes. Once the item is no longer needed for these purposes, it must be removed from the ATCL to preserve space.
5. The ATCL is not to be used for patient care unless designated as such by AT faculty/administration.
6. NOTHING, neither equipment nor supplies, may be removed from the ATCL without the prior permission of AT faculty.
7. No equipment or supplies should be removed from any clinical site without permission from the site preceptor(s).
8. While completing an MSU clinical experience, the athletic training student may not use the ATCL to complete class work or other activities. If your clinical experience is the MSU ATF, then you need to be in your clinical in the ATF and not in the ATCL. The athletic training students may use the ATCL to conduct academically related work when they are not scheduled to be at their clinical experience.
9. When the ATCL is needed for a private meeting, or similar functions, the group requiring the room (i.e., the athletic training faculty, staff, or student club) must schedule with the AT faculty.

10. Only software programs approved by the athletic training faculty or staff may be installed on the computers in the ATCL. Also, the athletic training student may not save personal electronic files (e.g., class papers) on the computers in the ATCL. Save files to a flash drive or to your Mavdisk or OneDrive or another source. Any unapproved programs, files, or similar items found on these computers will be removed by the athletic training faculty or staff without notifying the athletic training student.
11. Unless given specific permission by the athletic training faculty, neither friends nor student-athletes may use the ATCL for personal or educational purposes.
12. Please treat these rooms, including all the equipment and supplies, within them with respect and remain professional at all times.
13. Outside of the 8-12 PM time frame NEVER leave the room unlocked and unattended.

Cell Phone Policy

The use of cellular phones during the classroom and clinical education settings for personal use is prohibited. These devices must be turned to the “off” mode and put away while you are in class or laboratory. During your assigned clinical experience, preceptors may want you to have a cell phone available for emergency purposes only, otherwise the phone must be off or turned to silent. **No personal phone calls, text messaging, email, or internet use, etc. should occur while the student is in class or at clinical experience.** Use of these devices during class and/or your clinical experience is disruptive to student learning and clinical experience. It is unprofessional, and it is considered a violation of program policies.

Weather Cancellation Policy

If MSU's classes are cancelled or the University is closed, classes and therefore your clinical experiences are also cancelled. Students should remain home and not risk their health or safety by attempting to travel to campus, the University is closed for a reason. Listen to or watch local radio and television stations: AM radio KYSM 1230, KTOE 1420; FM radio KMSU 89.7, KXLP 93.3, KDOG 96.7, KEEZ 99.1, KYSM 103.5; and television WCCO Ch. 4, KEYC Ch. 12 (10 on cable), KARE Ch. 11, KSTP Ch. 5, and KMSP Ch. 9, to find out if the weather has caused a cancellation of Minnesota State, Mankato classes. You may also call Minnesota State Information at (507) 389-2463. Should a student decide to attend a clinical site during a cancellation this is purely voluntary, and the student may not be coerced into attending.

Criminal Background Policy

Duty to Report Criminal Charge:

An applicant or current student who is charged with a “serious crime” as defined below, shall notify the Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) Athletic Training Program (ATP) of such charge within 10 calendar days after the date on which the Respondent is notified of the charge.

Duty to Report Criminal Conviction or Professional Discipline:

An athletic training student or applicant who is convicted of any crime (except for misdemeanor traffic offenses or traffic ordinance violations that do not involve the use of alcohol or drugs), or who becomes subject to any professional discipline, shall notify the MSU ATP in writing of such conviction or professional discipline within 10 calendar days after the date on which the Respondent is notified of the conviction or professional discipline. Should an applicant be found to have a “serious crime” on their background check or fail to report serious crime that is not found on a required criminal background check the applicant/student forfeits their right to continue in the MSU ATP. All violations will be referred to appropriate University officials based on violation of and remediation for University policies and procedures.

Commencement of Disciplinary Proceedings Upon Notice of Charge, Conviction or Professional Discipline:

Upon receiving notice that an athletic training student or applicant has been charged with a serious crime or convicted of a crime, other than a serious crime, the MSU ATP shall commence an investigation. If the conviction is for a serious crime or if a Respondent has received a professional suspension, the MSU ATP shall obtain the record of conviction or proof of suspension and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the Respondent based on applicable University policies and procedures. The MSU ATP reserves the right to refuse admission to the applicant based on the results of the applicant's criminal background check.

Conviction of Serious Crime or Professional Suspension – Immediate Suspension or Non-

Admission: Upon receiving notification of a candidate or current student’s conviction of a serious crime the MSU ATP may, at its discretion, issue a notice to the applicant or current athletic training student directing that the Respondent show cause why the Respondent’s right to be admitted to or remain in the ATP be continued. The term “serious crime” shall include:

- 1) any felony;
- 2) a misdemeanor related to public health, patient care, athletics, or education.
- 3) a crime that includes actual or threatened physical violence;
- 4) a crime that is motivated by hate or bias.

This includes, but is not limited to: rape; sexual or physical abuse of another person; actual or threatened use of a weapon of violence; the prohibited sale or distribution of controlled substance, or its possession with the intent to distribute; or the use of the position of an athletic training student to improperly influence the outcome or score of an athletic contest or event or in connection with any gambling activity; and/or an attempt, conspiracy, aiding and abetting, or solicitation of another to commit such an offense.

The above policy is consistent with the Board of Certification (BOC) for the Athletic Trainer requirements for candidates for the BOC credentialing examination. Since this examination is the end goal for graduates of the MSU ATP, these policies are consistent.

Board of Certification, Inc. Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines

<https://online.flowpaper.com/7f6907b2/2020PPDGuidelinesProcedures/#page=1> Retrieved 27 June 2023 .

Clery Act, (1990) federal statute codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f), with implementing regulations in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations at 34 C.F.R. 668.46.

Clinical Education

Clinical Experience Requirements

According to the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) the student must complete an academic program, and clinical experiences in “no less than two years.” The BOC no longer maintains a minimal clinical hour requirement; however, four program courses (AT 671, 672, 673, 674) have a clinical hour requirement and preceptor evaluation as part of the course grade. In effect, directly supervised clinical hours, where the student integrates knowledge, skills, and abilities into the practical setting, must be accumulated each semester during the first and second years. The supervised clinical experiences of those graduating from an accredited program **MUST** be obtained in athletic training and clinical settings formally affiliated with this accredited program.

To be eligible to take the board examination, the BOC requires candidates to have graduated from a CAATE accredited athletic training program. As such, students are required to complete all didactic and clinical requirements of the program. This includes the four clinical experience courses (AT 671, 672, 673, 674) which must be completed in progressive sequence. Requirements for these courses include clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a program preceptor while gaining clinical experience with a variety of patients throughout the lifespan (for example, pediatric, adult, elderly), of different sexes, with different socioeconomic statuses, of varying levels of activity and athletic ability (for example, competitive and recreational, individual and team activities, high-and-low-intensity activities), who participate in non-sport activities (for example, participants in the military, industrial,

occupational, leisure activities, performing arts) and with patients with a variety of health conditions commonly seen in athletic training practice. In addition, the student may gain clinical experience at a local high school, medical clinics, emergency room and/or ambulance service, and student health center, among others. These clinical experiences will be evaluated by the assigned preceptor and constitute a portion of the grade for each clinical course. Any course required for the program that is not completed, or passed with a grade of C or higher, must be repeated or the student will not graduate. In addition, athletic training students may not perform clinical tasks for which they have not received formal instruction and assessment and fully passed that assessment. The student's preceptors will be directly notified as students pass each initial proficiency assessment, thus enabling the student to practice that set of skills on patients.

During the first year of clinical experience, following formal admission into the program, the student will attend weekly clinical experiences, supervised by, and scheduled with, a preceptor as assigned by the program. This experience may include evening and weekend assignments but is limited to an **average of 20 hours per week** (minimum of 15 per week) during the academic year. The student will be assigned three ten-week rotations per academic year (1.5 per semester) with various preceptors involving a variety of settings. The student will be assigned to a preceptor for each rotation, and not to a specific sport or facility. The students will be assigned both practice and game/event coverage where applicable. The anticipated experiences obtained by the students should include cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills in the prevention, recognition/evaluation, management/treatment, rehabilitation, organization/administration, and education/counseling of patients with human ailments related to physical activity. It is during this year that the student will learn skills, be evaluated in class with video/oral-practical examinations and begin utilizing these skills in the clinical setting under the direct supervision of their preceptors.

During the second year of formal clinical experience, the student will attend weekly clinical experiences, supervised by, and scheduled with, a preceptor as assigned by the program. This experience may include evening and weekend assignments but is limited to **an average of 25 hours per week** (minimum of 15 per week) during the academic year. The student will be assigned up to three ten-week rotations per academic year (1.5 per semester) with various preceptors involving a variety of settings, including general medical. The students will be assigned both practice and game/event coverage where applicable. The student will be assigned to a preceptor each rotation, not a specific sport or facility. This will include evening and weekend assignments and is **limited to a maximum of 25 hours per week during the academic year for non-immersive rotations**. In turn, the student will gain experience, under direct supervision, with patients that are involved in high-risk physical activity including equipment intensive, upper extremity and lower extremity intensive injury sports, and general medical patients of varying genders across the lifespan. These clinical experiences will include practice and game coverage, prevent preparation, athletic training facility coverage, clinical rotations (general medical), and a variety of clinical experiences. The second-year clinical experience will involve a general medical clinical experience. The experiences obtained by each student will include cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills in the prevention, recognition/evaluation, management/treatment, rehabilitation, organization/administration, and education/counseling of human ailments related to athletics or physical activity.

In addition, the second-year clinical experience will culminate with an immersive clinical experience which will involve a practice-intensive experience that allows the student to experience the totality of care provided by athletic trainers. Students must participate in the day-to-day and week-to-week role of an athletic trainer for a period of time identified by the program (but minimally one continuous four-week period). During this experience, students are expected to obtain 30-40 hours of clinical experience per week.

During this second year of clinical experiences, in conjunction with the clinical experience courses, the student will be provided a clinical proficiencies assessment, and must have each of the clinical skills evaluated and verified by a Preceptor, if satisfactorily completed, prior to the completion of the academic year.

Clinical experiences in athletic training are a required component of the athletic training students' education and are the scheduling priority; outside work, outside activities, or obligations (other than personal or family related emergencies) will not be prioritized during the clinical scheduling process. Preceptors will attempt to work with students to develop an appropriate and acceptable schedule if the student is participating in a teaching or graduate assistantship.

Clinical experiences will take place during weekday mornings, afternoons, evenings, and weekends as required by the assigned preceptor based on the schedule for that clinical site. The required immersive experience may take place at any time. **The student is to have at least one day per week (Monday - Sunday) where no clinical experiences are assigned or obtained.**

The student bears the cost and responsibility of transportation to and from assigned clinical settings (e.g., travel to local clinics and high schools) and appropriate clothing as per program dress code. See “Costs Associated with Clinical Experiences.”

***Any clinical experiences obtained outside of the normal academic year (i.e., when students are required to be on campus) are voluntary but must still be directly supervised by a program preceptor.

Athletic Training Student Hour Policy

The clinical experience time commitment of the Athletic Training Student (ATS) must be carefully monitored (by the preceptor and by the ATS) and must be realistic for students who also are completing very rigorous course requirements. ATS clinical experiences must be consistent with campus student worker policies. **MSU 1st year graduate students are limited to a minimum of 15 hours/20 hours maximum per week on average during their 1st academic year; while the 2nd year graduate students are limited to a minimum average of 20 hours per week and a maximum average of 25 hours per week during the academic year, outside of the that (e.g. winter break, when classes are not in session) the student may obtain beyond 40 hours. In addition, 2nd year graduate students completing their immersive experiences may complete 30-40 hours per week.** These policies are consistent with federal and state work-study guidelines, as per the MSU financial aid office. When establishing the ATS's schedule for the clinical experience, consideration must be given to the student's academic schedule and teaching/graduate assistantship requirements to allow adequate time off and “days off” from the clinical experiences for study.

MSU ATs must always have at least one day per week off from required clinical experience. On a ‘day off’ the ATS will not perform anything related to the clinical experience. Opportunity will be given to the ATs to gain clinical experiences, such as pre-season camps, winter break, etc., outside of the normal academic year; however, it must be recognized that these opportunities are purely voluntary and noncompulsory. Clinical education is an academic requirement; therefore, students are subject to all University standards for academic conduct and academic dishonesty.

Athletic Training Students Acting as a First Responder Policy

Team travel without direct visual and auditory supervision by a Minnesota State University, Mankato Athletic Training Program Preceptor is contrary to CAATE Standards and to Minnesota state law. Both state that a student is not to be considered an athletic training student when the student is not supervised by a program preceptor as required by the accredited academic institution. Therefore, the student will not travel with a team, or be at practices, events, or athletic training facilities without direct supervision by a program preceptor. It is important that the athletic training student understand that if they do function for very brief periods of time without direct supervision (e.g., the preceptor leaves the scene momentarily to use the restroom) they are doing so as an unsupervised first responder, may only provide first aid services, **and is purely voluntary and non-compulsory. A student may not be coerced into providing any unsupervised activity.**

A student is to be considered supervised only if a preceptor is **physically present** during team practices, competitions, open athletic training facility hours and while traveling with an athletic team. Where a preceptor is not available to provide “constant visual and auditory supervision with the ability to immediately intervene on behalf of the student and/or patient” the student is considered unsupervised.

Since unsupervised activity is not acceptable and is not a requirement of the program, the student is acting outside of the academic program and must be aware of this status. In addition, student liability insurance is only effective when the student is performing supervised functions as requirements of their clinical courses.

*An athletic training student is not allowed to travel to a practice or competition site where a preceptor will not be present. Should this occur, the student must notify program director and/or the clinical education coordinator immediately. There will be no exceptions; to be considered an athletic training student the student must be directly supervised.

Should a preceptor occasionally need to leave the scene momentarily (e.g., to use the rest room), the Athletic Training Student:

- Understands that remaining at the location is voluntary and non-compulsory.
- May apply only advanced first aid and lifesaving techniques, as well as basic athletic training techniques (*basic is defined as basic techniques that a qualified coach would obtain in required coaching related coursework*) such as preventative taping, wrapping and bracing, preventative stretching, superficial heat and cold applications, therapeutic massage, immediate primary injury assessment and first aid, and referral of injured patients to an appropriate medical authority, i.e. the AT, MD, dentist, or emergency room.

When Not DIRECTLY Supervised by a Preceptor the Athletic Training Student MUST NOT:

- Perform secondary assessment techniques or make injury/illness diagnosis
- Apply penetrating, or superficial electrical or acoustic modalities, to a patient (student-athlete)
- Apply mechanical modalities, such as traction, intermittent compression, to a patient
- Make return-to-play decisions, perform secondary assessment of injury, or provide any functions beyond that of a first responder
- Dispense or distribute prescription or over-the-counter medication.

Definition of Supervised Clinical Hours

Students may count supervised clinical hours obtained in the following settings:

- I. Primary Setting- The Primary Setting must be the athletic training facility that serves as the physical setting in which the minimum hours of direct supervision are accumulated. The MSU Athletic Training Facility meets the criteria to serve as our “Primary Setting.” (Minnesota State Athletic Training Facility)
- II. Secondary Setting - The Secondary Setting may include athletic practice and game coverage, and on-campus satellite athletic training facilities. (ALL practice settings used by MSU athletic teams)
- III. Affiliated/Allied Setting - The Allied Setting may include sports medicine clinic, summer sport camps, high school settings, etc. These settings MUST have a formal/contractual affiliation with the MSU Athletic Training Program.

Supervision by a BOC Certified/MN Licensed Athletic Trainer, a recognized Preceptor for the Athletic Training Program. Supervision is the **“constant visual and auditory interaction between the student and the Preceptor at the site of supervision who mentors, instructs, supervises and assesses the student’s clinical experience.”** The Preceptor MUST be recognized as a clinical preceptor for the Minnesota State University Athletic Training Program. The Preceptor MUST be on-site where the athletic training experience hours are being obtained and must be able to immediately intervene on the patient’s behalf. This is in accordance with the BOC, and with CAATE’s “Standards for an Accredited Educational Program for the Athletic Trainer,” and is a part of the student’s educational experience in accordance the “Minnesota Athletic Trainer’s Act.”

The following will NOT count as “supervised clinical experience” and should not be recorded as such by the athletic training student:

- I. Hours supervised by a healthcare provider who IS NOT recognized as a clinical preceptor of this program.
- II. Hours obtained in a setting NOT designated as either a Primary, Secondary, or Allied Setting of this program.
- III. Hours spent when a clinical preceptor is not “on-site.” In this case there should be no athletic training student on-site.
- IV. Students not formally accepted into the Athletic Training Program may not be supervised by the University preceptors for the purpose of accumulating clinical experience toward BOC requirements.
- V. Hours spent traveling with a team, lodging, etc. - only those spent in game, and game preparation may count and only if a preceptor is present.

Recording of Supervised Clinical Hours

It is the responsibility of the athletic training student to truthfully and properly record and, at the end of each week period, total clinical hours in eValue. Students may only record those hours that meet the above qualifications. Any discrepancies between hours reported and preceptor verified hours may subject the student to sanctions.

Recorded hours MUST be broken up into the specific clinical class and site categories when recording.

Failure to properly record may result in those hours NOT counting toward your grade. The Weekly Clinical hour eValue submissions are due no later than Monday of the following week.

Costs Associated with Clinical Experiences

Costs associated with student clinical experiences will be the responsibility of the student. These costs include but are not limited to transportation to off-campus clinical sites for regular daily rotations (Note: this does not pertain to travel with teams, MSU or high school, for events or practices), student liability insurance which will be paid by the student as a course fee each term. An additional University Liability Insurance Fee (\$8-12) will be charged for clinical courses AT 671, 672, 673, 674. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any clothing purchased to meet the program dress code.

Clinical Deficiencies

Clinical deficiencies will be weighted equally with academic infractions and therefore may affect the student's academic status. Students are expected to be punctual, to be in attendance for all scheduled times, take initiative in determining their own schedule, be responsible and take initiative regarding their own learning and experience, and to be professional. All clinical experience courses must be completed sequentially, and all requirements and proficiencies satisfied before a grade is submitted.

Proficiency Assessment Policy

Students must satisfactorily complete the assigned clinical proficiencies assigned to each clinical course, AT 671, 672, 673, 674) in sequence before progression. Completion of proficiencies, as assigned per course, must occur or the student will either receive a failing/no credit grade, a grade below a "C" (both will require the student to re-take the course), or the student will receive an "incomplete" for the course until each proficiency has been completed.

Athletic Training Student Dress Code

The athletic training student (ATS) dress code is to provide the minimum acceptable level of dress for the ATS during their assigned clinical experiences. This dress code represents the minimal acceptable level of dress for all clinical settings used by the Athletic Training Program. Please note that the preceptor or the clinical setting may require the ATS to dress at a level above this dress code but may not be less stringent. In addition, the ATS will not be required to purchase clothing which is specific to any given clinical setting or rotation.

Statement of Purpose:

The Athletic Training Program (ATP) at Minnesota State University, Mankato, believes that an environment in which all ATSS display the highest levels of respect and professionalism will foster an educational environment that is consistent with learning and with the development of professional practice in athletic training. This policy applies to conduct during and related to all assigned clinical experiences of the ATP. An ATS entering the field upon graduation must understand that professional appearance as a health care provider is crucial to the development of respect and patient confidence.

Dress Code and Personal Appearance:

1. The ATS must wear their nametag indicating that they are an "athletic training student" during all clinical experiences. The ATS will be provided a nametag upon admission to the program, however loss of the nametag or a name change will require the ATS to purchase a new nametag from the campus "Hub" at their expense.
2. The ATS must wear a polo style shirt, with collar, tucked into pants at all times unless the shirt is specifically tailored (Faculty and preceptor judgment) to be left untucked, then the student must not expose their midriff, navel, hips, or undergarments. The polo must be solid color white, black, purple, yellow/gold and must not contain the logo of any organization, institution, team,

etc. except for the company logo who manufactured the shirt (e.g., Nike swoosh, Adidas logo, Ralph Lauren logo, etc.). Minnesota State Athletic Training logo polo style shirts, tee-shirts, sweatshirts, and pullovers are also generally acceptable unless they are in poor condition, worn inappropriately (not tucked in), or the ATS's preceptor believes the shirt to be unprofessional. Finally, should the ATS purchase or be provided a shirt that is specific to an off-campus clinical setting they may wear that shirt, in that setting only, as long as the supervising preceptor approves.

3. The ATS must wear khaki style pants/slacks that are khaki, white, tan/brown, green, black, or blue and must be in good condition (i.e., clean, and free of holes, fraying, etc.). Khaki style shorts may also be worn during warm weather, with preceptor permission, and must be in good condition (i.e., see above and cutoffs are not acceptable). Leggings (i.e., yoga pants, running tights, sweatpants, etc.), as well as denim shorts or pants are not acceptable.
4. The ATS must wear footwear appropriate to the setting. Dress shoes or gym/tennis shoes are allowed; however, sandals, flip-flops, and high heels are not allowed.
5. The ATS may not wear any jewelry that does not convey a professional atmosphere. In addition, jewelry must not interfere with any functions that may be performed by an athletic trainer (e.g., lip piercing may interfere with rescue breathing, some types of earrings may interfere with auscultations)
6. The ATS may not wear hats of any kind inside of a building (i.e., athletic training facility or clinic). An appropriate hat may be worn outdoors, however, that hat must not contain any logo that is not specific to the institution and the hat must be worn correctly (e.g., baseball hats must be worn with the brim forward, etc.)
7. Beards and mustaches are permitted but must be trimmed; otherwise, male students must be clean shaven.
8. Dermal piercings and tattoos should be tastefully covered and not visible.
9. Fingernails should be reasonably short and groomed. Chipping or flaking nail polish and/or artificial fingernails are not allowed (for infection control purposes). WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care. World Health Organization & WHO Patient Safety. (2009) accessed online June 29, 2023 <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241597906>

The above represents the minimal acceptable level of dress/appearance for the ATS in their clinical experiences as a part of the athletic training program at Minnesota State, Mankato. The ATS must understand that the supervising preceptor or clinical site may require specific dress or uniform that exceeds the above dress code (e.g., dress slacks and blouse or a jacket and tie for a basketball game), however the ATS is not allowed to dress at a level below this code.

Enforcement:

The ATS is expected to always dress accordingly, thus "enforcement" should be a moot issue. However, program faculty and preceptors will enforce this dress code by

- 1) first violation will result in a verbal warning to the ATS and requiring the ATS to change into appropriate clothing and/or wear their nametag. It is the ATS's responsibility to assure the availability of clean, proper fitting clothing and nametag,
- 2) second violation will result in a written warning, this warning will be kept in the student's record,
- 3) third violation will result in programmatic probation, and a
- 4) fourth violation may result in dismissal from the program.

Appendix A

Appendix B