

TOWSON UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS

Towson University Mission Statement

Towson University is a premier, metropolitan comprehensive institution, nationally recognized for quality and value, focused on teaching and committed to providing a broad range of opportunities for undergraduate and graduate education.

The undergraduate curriculum will enable students to acquire the intellectual skills essential to effectively communicate in speaking and writing, the gathering and evaluation of information, critical analysis, competence in the use of technology and an appreciation of diverse points of view.

The University offers post-baccalaureate education including certificate programs for advanced education and workforce training, masters degrees in traditional and applied disciplines, and doctoral programs.

The University will continue to respond to the Baltimore metropolitan area educational and workforce needs.

Athletic Training Education Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Athletic Training Education Program is to create, incorporate and apply knowledge of human movement as it relates to athletic training. The ATEP program of study is grounded in the University's commitment to liberal arts and sciences. Students are given the opportunity to examine the process and effect of human movement from an anatomical, physiological, and biomechanical perspective as well as a philosophical, psychological, sociological and historical perspective so they can develop the skills necessary to become certified athletic trainers.

In pursuit of its mission, the ATEP provides opportunities for its students to have a variety of clinical experiences. These include both on- and off-site intercollegiate clinical experiences as well as public and private secondary schools. Through participation in student practicum and internships, the student is afforded the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge of athletic training as it relates to clinical practice.

Athletic Training as a Major

In today's health care system, the profession of athletic training is recognized as an allied health profession. In the delivery of health care to athletes, certified athletic trainers are visible in a variety of settings including high schools, colleges/universities, professional sports, sports medicine clinics, wellness centers, corporate industries and hospitals. The Department of Kinesiology offers a program of study in Athletic Training designed to provide a liberal arts education and develop professional competence. Specifically, the major is intended for students interested in pursuing professional certification as an athletic trainer and graduate study.

The major of athletic training was developed based on guidelines established by the Education Council of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Accordingly, the core of the major involves instruction in the 12 educational domains. The domains are as follows:

- 1) Risk management and injury prevention

- 2) Pathology of injuries, illnesses, and diseases
- 3) Orthopedic Assessment and Evaluation
- 4) Acute care of injury and illness
- 5) Pharmacology
- 6) Therapeutic Modalities
- 7) Therapeutic Exercise
- 8) Medical conditions and disabilities
- 9) Nutritional aspects of injuries and illnesses
- 10) Psychosocial intervention and referral
- 11) Health care administration
- 12) Professional development and responsibilities

Description of the Program

The program of study in athletic training is designed for students who are interested in an allied health care profession specializing in the health care of athletes and physically active individuals. Athletic trainers function as integral members of the athletic health care team in secondary schools, colleges and universities, sports medicine clinics, professional sports programs, and other athletic health care settings. The athletic trainer specializes in the prevention, assessment, management, and rehabilitation of athletic injuries.

The Board of Certification (BOC) is responsible for the certification of athletic trainers. In order to attain the ATC® credential, an individual must complete an entry level athletic training education program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education Programs (CAATE) and pass the BOC certification examination.

The ATEP @ TU is designed to provide an effective blend of theoretical and practical learning experiences in athletic training by incorporating extensive academic and clinical education programs. The ATEP is accredited by CAATE and successful completion of the program qualifies the individual as a candidate for the BOC certification examination.

Completion of the academic experience requires 7 regular semesters over a 4 year period. This timeline is due to a variety of reasons, including obtaining prerequisite courses, sequencing of courses, coordinating academic courses with clinical experiences, and the inability to offer athletic training courses during the summer semester. Transfer students are advised that regardless of the number of credits transferred, it will still take six/seven semesters to complete the program.

Goals of the Program

- To provide a student with a quality, well rounded undergraduate education
- To provide all necessary cognitive, psychomotor and affective skills in a formalized multi dimensional academic and clinical setting in order to be successful in the field of athletic training
- To prepare students to become certified Athletic Trainers

- To provide opportunities for students to participate in community events and professional activities that will instill a sense of active participation in their communities and chosen profession after graduation
- To provide assistance to each student seeking employment or opportunities to further their education through graduate programs after receiving their Bachelor of Science degree

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that students in the Athletic Training major will achieve identifiable learning outcomes subsequent to the successful completion of the program.

The specific learning outcomes are as follows:

- Demonstrate professional behaviors, clinical skills, and decision-making capabilities that allow for the effective implementation of athletic training care.
- Apply knowledge of principles, concepts, and theories in the practice of athletic training.
- Demonstrate skill in conducting an initial assessment of injuries / illnesses common to physically active individuals in making objective and accurate observations and by selecting, administering, and interpreting evaluative tests.
- Demonstrate skills in providing appropriate first aid and emergency care for acute injuries and sudden illnesses.
- Use assessment data, knowledge, and rehabilitation principles in the formulation of injury prevention and rehabilitation programs for musculoskeletal injuries sustained by physically active individuals.
- Demonstrate skills in analyzing, adapting, and applying therapeutic exercises, therapeutic modalities, and pharmacological agents in injury prevention and rehabilitation programs for physically active individuals.
- Use effective verbal and non-verbal communication skills in working with physically active individuals and sports medicine team personnel in providing athletic training care.
- Promote athletic training in accordance with guidelines identified in the NATA code of ethics.
- Document information pertaining to athletic training care using appropriate written expression.
- Use knowledge of health care systems, organizations, and management principles to function effectively in the role of an athletic trainer.