



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
ATHLETIC TRAINING**

**Prospective Student
Information**



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

Program Overview

Program Description

The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program is a CAATE-accredited two-year professional degree program that prepares students for a career as an athletic trainer. The program includes a rigorous combination of classroom, clinical, and research experiences that expose students to the continuum of care of the athletic training profession. Students who earn an M.S. in Athletic Training degree are prepared to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) examination.

Program Website: www.go.iu.edu/MSAT



Job Outlook

According to the National Bureau of Labor Statistics, is projected to grow 14 percent from 2022 to 2032, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 2,700 openings for athletic trainers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force, such as to retire. The median annual wage for athletic trainers was \$57,930 in May 2023

- Professional and Olympic sports
- Collegiate and High School sports
- Physician offices, Hospitals and Clinics
- The Military, Police and Fire Departments
- The Performing Arts
- Industrial Settings

Coursework

Students complete a progressive graduate curriculum over two years including extensive study in:

- Human Anatomy
- Musculoskeletal Assessment
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Critical Inquiry

Clinical Education

Students complete a progressive sequence of clinical education assignments, including immersive clinical experiences, designed to lead to autonomous patient care as an athletic trainer. The program provides opportunities with various patient populations across multiple practice settings including:

- Indiana University Football
- Indiana University Athletics
- High Schools
- The Performing Arts
- The Military
- Physician Offices

For more information contact:

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MSAT Program Director

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MSAT Admission Requirements

Bachelor's degree

Students must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution prior to enrolling in the MSAT program. Applicants with a degree in health-related field will be given priority consideration. Undergraduate students at Indiana University-Bloomington planning to apply to the MSAT program are encouraged to major in Exercise Science in the Department of Kinesiology within the School of Public Health.

Prerequisite coursework

Coursework in the following in areas, with a minimum grade of "C" is required.

- Human Anatomy (with lab)
- Human Physiology (with lab)
- Chemistry
- Exercise Physiology
- Biology
- Physics
- Biomechanics
- Human Nutrition
- Psychology
- Statistics

Completed SOPHAS and Bloomington Online Graduate Admissions Application

Applications are open from September 1st through April 1st. Applications completed by December 15th will be given priority consideration. The following items are required to be submitted with the application:

- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
- Resume/CV
- First Aid & CPR certification

International Students: TOEFL or IELTS exam

Interview with MSAT faculty

Qualified candidates will be invited to interview with MSAT program faculty via Zoom once the application is submitted and verified by the School of Public Health. Interviews occur on a rolling basis throughout the application period.



MSAT Application Process

Applying to the MSAT Program

1. Prospective students should thoroughly review all program admission requirements via the MSAT website: www.go.iu.edu/MSAT. Applicants are encouraged to contact the MSAT program director, Dr. Bradley Sage at sageb@indiana.edu to ensure all admission requirements have been met or are on track to be met prior to enrollment.
2. Complete the applications.
 - a. Applications can be completed through the School of Public Health website at <https://publichealth.indiana.edu/masters/apply>
 - b. The application process consists of two parts, the School of Public Health Application Services (SOPHAS) application, and the supplemental Indiana University Bloomington Online Graduate and Professional Admissions Application.
 - c. Program requirements, e.g., prerequisite coursework, do not have to be met at the time of application, but must be met prior to enrollment.
 - d. Applications are accepted from September 1st to April 1st. Applications received prior to December 15th will receive priority consideration.

Application Review Process

1. Applications are received and processed by the graduate admissions office in the School of Public Health. Once both the SOPHAS and IU Bloomington Online Graduate and Professional Admissions Application are completed the office of graduate admissions will verify the application and pass it along to the MSAT faculty for review.
2. MSAT faculty will review each verified application.
3. Qualified candidates will be invited by MSAT program faculty to an interview via Zoom.
 - a. Interviews are scheduled on a rolling basis throughout the application period. Typically, interviews begin in late fall and continue through mid-spring as verified applications are received.
4. Applications are evaluated and weighted according to the following:
 - a. Cumulative GPA (30%)
 - b. Resume/Personal Statement (25%)
 - c. Interview (25%)
 - d. Letters of Recommendation (20%)



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5. Applicants are scored based on the aforementioned criteria with a maximum possible score of 100. The top applicants will be offered a seat in the MSAT program contingent upon completion the of all admission requirements.
 - a. The MSAT program does not cap the number of students per cohort. Typically, the MSAT program will attempt to fill 12-16 seats on average.
 - b. MSAT program faculty reserve the right to deny an applicant for severe deficiencies in any of the evaluative areas regardless of raw score.

6. Qualified applicants who are granted an interview with MSAT faculty will be notified via email of their admission status by MSAT program faculty within 30 days after the interview. Admission decisions made by MSAT program faculty are contingent upon completion of all application materials and review by the School of Public Health.

7. Applicants who are offered a seat in the MSAT program must respond in writing to MSAT program faculty on their decision to accept or decline the offer within 30 days. Applicants who are not offered a seat in the program will be given an opportunity to speak with MSAT program faculty to discuss deficiencies in their application should they choose to re-apply the following year.

8. MSAT faculty will notify the graduate admissions office in the School of Public Health of the applicants' admission status. Once all application requirements have been completed, applicants will then receive an official letter of acceptance from the School of Public Health.



Course Sequence

52 Credit Hours

| Year 1 | Year 2 |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Summer</p> <p>A588 Anatomical Basis of Athletic Injury (4) A501 Introduction to Clinical Practice in Athletic Training (2) A695 AT Practicum (1)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Summer</p> <p>A695 AT Practicum C.I. (1)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Fall</p> <p>A540 Orthopedic Principles of Musculoskeletal Injuries I (4) A510 Emergency Response for the A.T (4) A511 Applied Clinical Practice in AT I (1) A512 Critical Inquiry in Athletic Healthcare I (1) A695 AT Practicum I (1)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Fall</p> <p>A581 Athletic Training Principles for the Spine (4) A530 Principles & Techniques of Therapeutic Intervention II (4) A531 Applied Clinical Practice in AT III (1) A532 Critical Inquiry in Athletic Healthcare III (1) A695 AT Practicum III (1)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Spring</p> <p>A550 Orthopedic Principles of Musculoskeletal Injuries II (4) A520 Principles & Techniques of Therapeutic Intervention I (4) A521 Applied Clinical Practice in AT II (1) A522 Critical Inquiry in Athletic Healthcare II (1) A695 AT Practicum II (1)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Spring</p> <p>A560 General Medical Conditions in Athletic Healthcare (4) A570 Healthcare Organization & Administration (4) A541 Applied Clinical Practice in AT IV (1) A542 Critical Inquiry in Athletic Healthcare IV (1) A695 AT Practicum IV (1)</p> |



Clinical Education

Overview

The development of clinical skill is a core component of the mission of the MSAT program. The goal of clinical education is to place students in environments conducive to their development of clinical skills in order to become a proficient athletic trainer. The diversity of clinical settings, and patient populations, along with the expertise of preceptors allow students to matriculate through a progressive sequence of clinical experiences leading to autonomous clinical practice.

Clinical Education Settings and Sites

Indiana University Sports Medicine (IU SPMD)

There are 3 primary IU SPMD sites, and associated preceptors, that students may be assigned to:

Memorial Stadium – Rink Center:

- Men's Soccer
- Women's Soccer
- Field Hockey
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's Tennis
- Women's Tennis
- Rowing
- Track & Field / Cross Country
- Baseball
- Softball
- Wrestling

SRSC:

- Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving
- Women's Water Polo

Cook Hall

- Men's & Women's Basketball

Indiana University Football (IU FB)

The primary site for IU FB is the John Miller Athletic Training facility in Memorial Stadium

School of Public Health Clinic (SPH Clinic)

The SPH clinic is located within the Doster Athletic Training Suite in the School of Public Health. There are four patient populations, and associated preceptors, that students may be assigned to within the clinic:

- IU ROTC (Army & Air Force)
- IU Modern Dance
- IU Ballet
- Jacobs School of Music



High School (HS)

There are several local high schools that students may be assigned to:

- Bloomington High School North
- Bloomington High School South
- Edgewood High School
- Owen Valley High School
- Avon High School

IU Health (IUH)

The primary site for IUH is Indiana University Health Southern Indiana Physicians in the office of the program's medical director, Dr. Michael LaGrange

Clinical Immersion Sites

The following sites have been used by the MSAT program for clinical immersion experiences:

- Madison Mallards - Minor League Baseball
- Indianapolis Colts – NFL Football
- Clarkson University – DI NCAA Hockey
- Loyola Academy – High School
- University of Minnesota – Gymnastics
- University of Minnesota – Football
- Clemson University – Football & Olympic Sports
- Avon High School
- Dean College of Dance – Performing Arts in MA
- Green Bay Packers – NFL Football
- Chicago Bears – NFL Football
- Buffalo Bills – NFL Football
- University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA)
- Penn State – Football & Olympic Sports
- Seattle Sounders – MLS
- Florida Gators – Football & Olympic Sports
- Texas A&M University Football
- University of Georgia Football
- Pro Team Tactical
- Bradley University
- Cleveland Browns – NFL Football
- University of Tennessee Football

Types of Clinical Assignments

There are three types of clinical assignments throughout the program: traditional clinical assignments, clinical immersion experiences, and supplemental clinical experiences.

Clinical Assignments

Traditional clinical assignments take place during the fall and spring academic semester at affiliated clinical sites and under the supervision of program-trained preceptors. Students complete four 8-week clinical assignments in year one, and two 16-week clinical assignments in year two. All clinical assignments are course requirements for SPH A695 AT Practicum. This course is taken repeatedly each semester.



Clinical Immersion Experiences

Clinical immersion experiences are intended to be a time in which ATS are completely immersed in the day to day, and week to week experience of an athletic trainer while not concurrently enrolled in didactic coursework. The MSAT program requires one clinical immersion experiences, lasting no less than four weeks in length. This assignment occurs in the summer semester of year two. Students have the option of completing this experience at a traditional affiliated clinical site used by the program or by establishing a new affiliation in a setting of their choosing with an athletic trainer or physician. Students who wish to do a clinical immersion experience at a non-traditional affiliated site must work with MSAT faculty to ensure the clinical site meets all CAATE requirements for clinical education. ATS are not permitted to participate in an “internship” or other clinical experience that is not associated with the MSAT program. This experience can occur anytime between May and the beginning of the fall semester. The clinical immersion experience is a course requirement for SPH A695 for which students will register for during the summer semester of year 2.

Supplemental Clinical Experiences

Supplemental clinical experiences are clinical experiences that fall outside of the traditional clinical assignments or immersion experiences. There are two types of supplemental clinical experiences students complete throughout the program. The first is a 3-week observation experience occurring during summer semester of year one. During this experience students are assigned to a preceptor at an in-season affiliated clinical site. Typically, this experience begins on or around August 1st, and concludes prior to the 1st of day classes for fall semester. The second supplemental clinical experience is completed with the MSAT medical director, Dr. LaGrange, at IU Health Southern Indiana Physicians during spring semester of year two. Students are required to complete 10-20 hours during this experience.

**Clinical Education Sequence**

| Semester | Length | Clinical Sites |
|----------|----------|--|
| | | Year 1 |
| Summer | 3 weeks | IU SPMD, HS, or IU FB <i>Supplemental Clinical Experience</i> |
| Fall | 8 weeks | IU SPMD, HS, IU FB, or SPH Clinic |
| | 8 weeks | IU SPMD, HS, IU FB, or SPH Clinic |
| Spring | 8 weeks | IU SPMD, HS, IU FB, or SPH Clinic |
| | 8 weeks | IU SPMD, HS, IU FB, or SPH Clinic |
| Semester | Length | Year 2 |
| Summer | 4 weeks | Clinical Immersion Experience |
| Fall | 16 weeks | IUSPMD, HS, IU FB, <i>or</i> SPH Clinic <i>and</i> IUH |
| Spring | 16 weeks | IUSPMD, HS, IU FB, <i>or</i> SPH Clinic <i>and</i> IUH |

Sample Student Clinical Education Experience

| Semester | Length | Clinical Sites |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| | | Year 1 |
| Summer | 3 weeks | IU Men's Soccer |
| Fall | 8 weeks | IU Football |
| | 8 weeks | SPH Clinic |
| Spring | 8 weeks | Bloomington South HS |
| | 8 weeks | IU Softball |
| Semester | Length | Year 2 |
| Summer | 4 weeks | Clemson University Athletics |
| Fall | 16 weeks | IU Women's Volleyball |
| Spring | 16 weeks | Bloomington North HS <i>and</i> IUH |



Tuition and Fees

| Semester | In-State | Out-of-State |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Summer I | 3,630.95 | 10,101.36 |
| Fall I | 5,664.16 | 16,035.18 |
| Spring I | 5,664.16 | 16,035.18 |
| Summer II | 664.13 | 1,588.46 |
| Fall II | 5,664.16 | 16,035.18 |
| Spring II | 5,664.16 | 16,035.18 |
| Total | 26,951.72 | 75,830.54 |

Figures are based on tuition and mandatory fees for academic year 2024-2025.

Prospective and current students can estimate tuition and fees through studentcentral.iu.edu

MSAT Program-Specific Costs

- Books and associated course materials \$100 - \$500 per semester
- A588 Cadaver Anatomy Course Fee - \$150
- A532 IPE Fee - \$150
- A695 Course Fee (each semester including summer) - \$450
 - NATA student membership
 - Professional liability insurance
 - BOC exam preparation materials
 - Clinical education support
 - ATrack subscription
 - Conference travel
 - Standardized patient encounters
- BOC certification examination - \$330 (one-time fee at the end of the program of study)



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Frequently Asked Questions

I have an undergraduate degree in athletic training from a CAATE accredited program, and I want a master's degree in athletic training. Is this the right program for me?

No. This program is an entry-level professional master's program for students who do not have an undergraduate degree in athletic training and have not taken the BOC exam.

I am a High School student, and I want to come to IU to be an athletic trainer. What should I major in?

The best path to becoming an athletic trainer is to major in Exercise Science in the Kinesiology Department within the School of Public Health. Completing this degree, along with the athletic training track, provides you with all of the necessary coursework and experiences to apply to the MSAT program.

My undergraduate degree is not in exercise science or a related field. Can I still apply to the program?

Yes, you can still apply to program provided all of the admission criteria have been met. Most importantly, all of the required prerequisite coursework must be completed. However, students who have a degree in exercise science, or a related field, are often more prepared to be successful in the program, and therefore will be given priority consideration.

Is there a minimum GPA requirement?

No. However, students with a cumulative GPA above 3.0 will be given priority consideration. Also, the GPA accounts for 30% of the admission criteria. Students with higher GPA's will therefore score better on their application. The average GPA for students accepted into the MSAT program is 3.38

Do I have to take the GRE?

No, the GRE is optional. Scores on the GRE will not affect admission decisions by MSAT faculty.

Do I need to do any observation or shadowing of an athletic trainer prior to applying?

No, the program does not formally require observation or shadowing hours. However, students who have done observation with an athletic trainer or have worked as a student aid in an athletic training environment are often better prepared for success in the program. Students are encouraged to seek such opportunities to strengthen their application.



I am a student-athlete. Can I enroll in the program while still competing in my sport?

We strongly encourage student-athletes to apply to the program, however we cannot enroll a student-athlete who is still competing. The rigor of the program, especially the time commitments associated with clinical education, make it impossible for a student-athlete to do both. However, we strongly value the experiences athletes can bring to the program. Athletic Training is an exciting option for former athletes who wish to pursue a rewarding career that combines health care and sport.

Are there graduate assistantships available?

Unfortunately, no. The MSAT program is a professional degree program that prepares students to become certified and licensed athletic trainers. Students must be available for clinical experiences, and thus are not eligible for graduate assistantships.

Am I permitted to have a part-time job?

On average, students will be enrolled in 11 hours of coursework per semester and spend 20-25 hours per week in their clinical assignment. There may be times throughout the program where student's schedules permit part-time work, however, students must always be available for classes and clinical assignments. Students will not be precluded from seeking part-time work, but the requirements of the program must always take priority.

How many students do you accept into the program?

The MSAT program does not cap the number of students per cohort. Typically, the MSAT program will attempt to fill 12-16 seats on average.

When does the program begin?

The program enrolls one new cohort of students each summer. Orientation for new students occurs on the first Monday in June. Students then take two courses, A588 and A501 over the course of 8 weeks through June and July. Additionally, students enroll in A695 during August of year one to complete a supplemental clinical experience.

Can I begin the program in the fall or spring?

No. The MSAT program is a highly structured program that must be completed in the designed sequence. The program only enrolls one cohort of students per year beginning in June.

Do I have to do research?

Research is an integral part of being a proficient athletic trainer. Being able to locate, appraise, and use the literature of the field is essential in providing effective patient-centered health care. The goal of the program is to provide students with the knowledge and experiences to use research to inform clinical practice. Students will not be required to collect data, or produce new research, however, through the critical inquiry component of the curriculum, students will become component in the skills necessary to use research to inform clinical practice.

When does the application open?

The application for the MSAT program opens each year near the end of August.

What are the admission requirements?

A full list of admission requirements can be found on the program website at www.go.iu.edu/MSAT



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How can I determine if my undergraduate coursework meets the admission requirements for the program?

The best thing to do is email the MSAT program director, Dr. Sage, and provide him with an unofficial transcript. He will conduct an unofficial review of your coursework and offer guidance on what requirements are likely to be met, and which ones are still needed.

When is the application deadline?

The deadline for applications is April 1st and the priority deadline is December 15th. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early.

Do I have to have all requirements met before applying to the program?

No. Applicants can complete the application prior to fulfilling all program requirements. However, all program requirements must be completed in full prior to enrollment.

Do I have to interview?

Yes. MSAT program faculty will review all applications that are received and verified by the School of Public Health. Qualified applicants will be invited to a 30-minute interview via Zoom. The interview is meant to provide faculty with deeper insight in each applicant's potential for success in the program, and to provide an opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the program. The interview accounts for 25% of the admission criteria.

Are there scholarships available?

There are several types of scholarships available to MSAT students. Professional organizations including the NCAA, Big Ten Conference, NFL, NATA, GLATA and IATA all award student-scholarships on an annual basis. Students are encouraged to visit the website of each organization to identify deadlines for scholarship applications. Additionally, MSAT faculty notify students of these and other scholarships via email frequently throughout the program.

The School of Public Health offers five scholarships specifically for athletic training students:

- Frank Family Scholarship
- Schrader Family Fellowship
- Spike Dixon Scholarship
- Joseph Willis Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. John Miller Memorial Scholarship

More information on scholarships can be found on the School of Public Health Website:

www.publichealth.indiana.edu

How much does the program cost?

Tuition fees and program-specific cost can be calculated at www.go.iu.edu/MSAT