INTRODUCTION

This handbook outlines the requirements and expectations for students enrolled in the MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) Athletic Training Program (ATP). This handbook is revised annually and each new edition supersedes all previous editions.

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the MidAmerica Nazarene University Athletic Training Program is to engage all students in providing the highest level of educational instruction in a Christian environment while developing Christ-centered learners. Our program is devoted to producing morally, academically, spiritually and professionally qualified individuals for a career in Athletic Training, an Allied Health Profession recognized by the American Medical Association (AMA).

GOAL

The goal of the MNU ATP is to develop quality athletic training students that will contribute to and be active in the health care profession of Athletic Training and to promote a positive attitude of healthful living and health care to the physically active.
• Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical foundations of human movement, and the assessment, rehabilitation and treatment of athletic injuries.
• Students will acquire knowledge in proper prevention, management and rehabilitation of injuries and illness to physically active individuals in a variety of settings.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ATEP are to:

Provide a basis for education, clinical experience and research for the undergraduate student that is interested in pursuing and entering the allied health profession of athletic training

Provide experiences in a variety of clinical settings, under supervision, to ensure the athletic training student meets the entry-level standards of a certified athletic trainer
Develop professionalism, confidence and appropriate decision making skills through a combination of clinical course work and varied athletic field experiences with emphasis on evidence based methods both in education and clinical practice

Demonstrate positive outcomes in a highly competitive educational program that prepares the athletic training student to successfully pass the BOC Examination for Athletic Training and work with and provide care to the physically active in traditional and non-traditional settings

Develop in the student at desire for a career of service to God and humanity

**Academic Program Overview**

The MNU ATP is recognized as a major in the Department of Health and Exercise Science in the School of Nursing and Exercise Science culminating in the awarding of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training. Entry into the clinical phase of the ATP is selective and competitive. Declaration of Athletic Training as a major does not assure admission into the clinical phase of the ATP. The ATP is comprehensive and includes didactic (classroom), laboratory and clinical education elements. These elements should not be considered separate entities. They should be viewed as intimately linked and essential to the overall goal of the best Athletic Training education possible. The didactic element of the ATP focuses on the theory and knowledge behind the practice of athletic training. The laboratory element allows the student to develop necessary skills to practice the art and science of athletic training. The clinical element focuses on the “real-world” application of didactic knowledge and laboratory skills. Without the clinical element, the classroom and laboratory elements have little value because there is no correlation or application possible. Likewise, without the didactic knowledge the clinical element is of little value because application without background knowledge is ineffective.

Students should place equal priority on success in all elements of the ATP. To this end, students should understand that their supervised clinical experiences are part of their educational curriculum. Likewise, students should never think of themselves as “working” or covering a sport or being the assigned athletic training provider for a sport. Instead, they should think of themselves as Athletic Training Students assigned to a specific preceptor who will supervise and mentor the clinical experiences within a specific clinical setting or settings. This clinical experience will involve some student autonomy in activities as well as some collaboration in decision-making between the ATS and preceptor, but students should never be the primary person responsible for the care of an athlete or team. All student decisions must be supervised.

**ACCREDITATION STATUS**

The MNU ATP was established in the 1984 as an internship program with a strong didactic component. In 2004 the MNU program was accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The program maintains its accreditation to this day, although now by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The MNU ATP is currently accredited by the CAATE through 2018-19 academic year.
ADMISSION PROCEDURE AND REQUIREMENTS

During the first month of Semester I, all prospective ATP students are presented with the admission and retention policies that include specific technical standards. In addition, a list of requirements for the Athletic Training major is given to each student. The procedure is discussed at length, along with an opportunity for students to ask questions. This process assures that athletic training students understand the procedures and requirements for application and retention. The intent is to inform the students early in their college career so they can make decisions.

The formal ATP application process, with committee acceptance, is complete at the end of Semester I with the successful completion of the following courses and a 2.5 overall cumulative grade point average or better:

BIOL 1704 Human Anatomy – minimum grade of C-
HLEX 1312 Introduction to Athletic Training – minimum grade of B-
HLEX 1303 Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries – minimum grade of B-

Along with the formal classroom work, each student is required to complete 60 hours of observation under a staff certified athletic trainer prior to November 1.

The application and the criteria for admission are available to all prospective students in Semester I. Each student is required to complete the application and return it to the program director by November 1.

In early November all completed applications are forwarded to the Athletic Training Education Selection Committee. All necessary data and information is gathered by the program director and a date is established for a meeting of the Athletic Training Education Committee. The program director indicates to the committee the appropriate number of positions available for the upcoming academic year. This number depends upon the graduation rate from the previous year. The total number of students accepted into the program will fall within an 8 to 1 student to preceptor ratio. The Athletic Training Education Committee then determines who will be admitted into the program through a competitive selection process.

The following items must be present in the application process:

a. Student’s successful completion of HLEX 1303 with a grade of B- or better
b. Student’s successful completion of HLEX 1312 with a grade of B- or better
c. Student’s successful completion of BIOL 1704 with a grade of C- or better
d. A cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better
e. 60 clinical observation hours completed (a requirement of HLE/X 1312
f. Punctual submission of completed application
g. Student self-evaluation
h. Preceptor evaluations
i. Completed recommendation forms (2)
j. Copy of CPR card for the Health Care Professional
k. Signed formal Blood Borne Pathogen instruction form

The committee for program admission selection will analyze applicants based on the following:
a. Application materials
b. Interviews with the committee
c. Grades in required coursework
d. GPA
e. Recommendations

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

The Athletic Training Program at MidAmerica Nazarene University is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. The technical standards set forth by the Athletic Training Educational Program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program’s accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs [CAAHEP]). All students admitted to the Athletic Training Educational Program must meet the following abilities and expectations. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program.

Compliance with the program’s technical standards does not guarantee a student’s eligibility for the NATABOC certification exam.

Candidates for selection to the Athletic Training Program must demonstrate:

1. The mental capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm;
2. Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients;
3. The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice;
4. The ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately;
5. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress;
6. The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the Athletic Training Program as outline and sequenced;
7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations;
8. Affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the MidAmerica Nazarene University's Athletic Training Program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean will evaluate a student who states he/she could meet the program’s technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If a student states he/she can meet the technical standards with accommodation, then the University will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation; this includes a review of whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

Students who have been denied acceptance can appeal the decision of the Athletic Training Education Committee in writing using the guidelines stated in the grievance policy.

GRIEVANCE POLICY

Any student who has been denied admission into the ATP has the right to appeal the decision made by the athletic training education selection committee. The student must submit a letter to the program director within 10 days after receiving notification. The letter should contain the reasons that the student is appealing the decision and why the decision should be reversed. A conference will be held with program director, clinical education coordinator, staff athletic trainers, HLEX Department Chair, and the student to discuss the decision and student appeal.

Notice of non-discrimination: MidAmerica Nazarene University policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, marital status or disability in the recruitment and admission of students and in the operation of all University programs, activities and services. Any concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of gender or disability should be directed to Dr. Mark Ford, Associate Academic Vice President, Coordinator of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in the Office of Academic Affairs, Lunn Hall, (913) 971-3573.
RETENTION POLICY

The following policy will be used to retain students in the Athletic Training Program.

1. Admission to the MidAmerica Nazarene University Athletic Training Program.
2. The Student is expected to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 in each semester. In addition, beginning in the sophomore year, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to remain eligible for clinical experiences. Athletic Training Students must receive a 2.7 GPA in the core Athletic Training courses. The Athletic Training Student will be required to re-take any course in which a grade of “D+” or below is earned.
3. Athletic Training Students will be evaluated each semester by the program director and clinical education coordinator. These evaluations will be based on academic and clinical performance including assessments regarding satisfactory progress toward the completion of his/her clinical competencies checklist.
4. If, in any semester, a student’s GPA falls below the minimums stated above, he/she shall be placed on probationary status. The purpose for this is to allow the student to concentrate on improving grades. While on probation, clinical experiences will be limited to no more than 10 hours per week. Students shall not be allowed to complete the ATP or be endorsed for the BOC examination for certification in athletic training while on probation.
5. If, at the end of one semester on athletic training probation the student’s GPA remains below the established minimums, the student shall be placed on suspension. The purpose for this is to allow him/her to concentrate on improving grades. While on suspension, he/she will not be allowed to participate in clinical experiences. Suspension lasts until the student’s GPA is above the minimum(s).
6. Students must retain “full-time” status (minimum of 12 hours) unless they are in their final semester or obtain permission from the ATP director.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
Specific Athletic Training Program major requirements as well as graduation requirements can be found in the University Bulletin.

RECOMMENDED DEGREE SEQUENCE

FALL Year 1: Freshman

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<td>ENGL 1503</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 1704</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Lab</td>
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<td>HLEX 1303</td>
<td>Care &amp; Prevention of Athletic Injuries &amp; Lab</td>
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<td>HLEX 1402</td>
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<td>HLEX 2302</td>
<td>*Medical Terminology</td>
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**Total Credits** 16

**SPRING Year 1: Freshman**

**Course #** | **Course Name**                                      | **Credits** |
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<td>PHED 1202</td>
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**Total Credits** 17

**FALL Year 2: Sophomore**

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<td>HLEX 3333</td>
<td>Injury Eval &amp; Rec. of Injuries-Upper Ext &amp; Lab</td>
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**Total Credits** 14

**SPRING Year 2: Sophomore**

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<td>MATH 1223</td>
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**Total Credits** 15

**FALL Year 3: Junior**

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<td>MATH 1223</td>
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<td>HLEX 4303</td>
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**Total Credits** 15

**SPRING Year 3: Junior**

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**Total Credits**
HLEX 3412       Clinical Ed in AT V               2
HLEX 4314       Therapeutic Rehab & Lab      4
MATH 3503       Probability and Statistics       3
HLEX 3503       General Med Conditions        3
GNSC 3703       Human Nutrition                    3
                      Total Credits  15

FALL   Year 4: Senior
Course #  Course Name  Credits
HLEX 4402       Clinical Ed in AT VI      2
HLEX 3303      AT Administration      3
COMM 1303       Public Speaking       3
HLEX 4523      Senior Seminar       3
HLEX 4403      Research       3
                      Total Credits          14

SPRING Year 4: Senior
Course #  Course Name  Credits
SOCI 1003       General Sociology       3
HLEX 3533       Spt & Exercise Nutrition       3
PHIL 2003       Ethics         3
HLEX 4533       Internship                  3
                      Total Credits     12

NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

MidAmerica Nazarene University and the Athletic Training Program policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, marital status, or disability in the recruitment and admission of students and in the operation of all university programs, activities, and services.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AT STUDENTS

Athletic Training Students at MidAmerica Nazarene University are also afforded the opportunity to apply for the “Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Dance Scholarship” once they are admitted into the program. Students are given the opportunity to apply during the spring semester based on the criteria stated on the application form. When all of the applications are received, the full-time certified athletic trainers review the material, make their recommendation, and forward the information to Jeff Dance, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Dance. He reviews all the submitted material, taking into consideration the certified athletic trainers’ recommendation, and the winner is selected. At an athletic training staff meeting, the winner is announced, given the award and presented with a congratulatory letter from
Mr. Dance. The recipient’s name is then placed on a plaque located in the Cook Center Athletic Training Room acknowledging this accomplishment.

INCIDENTALS

Athletic Training Students are required to purchase personal liability insurance through Healthcare Providers Service Organization (HPSO). The annual expense of this insurance is approximately $35.

Athletic Training Students are highly encouraged to join the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) as a “Student Member”. Membership in the NATA automatically makes one a member of the Mid-America Athletic Trainers’ Association (MAATA) as well as the Kansas Athletic Trainers’ Society (KATS). Membership in professional organizations is an important obligation of all professionals and brings with it benefits of educational opportunities at reduced rates, newsletters that inform about the AT profession as well as professional journals. Membership dues are approximately $80 annually.

Acquisition of a communicable disease is to be reported promptly and directly to the Head Athletic Trainer or Program Director. The Athletic Training Student will not be allowed to perform clinical duties until he/she is cleared by a physician as being non-communicable. This must be documented in the form of a prescription and given to the Head Athletic Trainer or Program Director for safe keeping in the Athletic Training Students file. In many cases, Athletic Training Students who are active in the program are challenged to be able to meet the technical standards in full when under these circumstances. In order to guarantee that an Athletic Training Student who is carrying an infectious disease is in no way infringing upon the rights of all those involved in the Athletic Training Program, this policy is stringent.

The same policy holds true for infectious diseases.

Universal Precautions Policy

As a member of the MidAmerica Nazarene University Athletic Training Program, you are required to practice Universal precautions under the strict guidelines set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Annually, the Athletic Training Student will receive training in these during fall orientation. Every precaution must be taken to ensure the health and safety of yourself and the athletes. These are the guidelines you are expected to follow while you are associated with the MNU ATP:

1. Wear vinyl or latex examination gloves whenever touching open skin, blood, body fluids, or mucous membranes. Do NOT reuse gloves.
2. Place all used sharps in their special container.
3. Place all used waste in “biohazard waste” container.
4. Wash your hands with soap and water immediately after they have been exposed, even if you wore gloves.
5. Clean ALL surfaces thoroughly after being soiled. Use 10% bleach solution or commercially available disinfectant.
6. Discard any towels or clothing that have been contaminated.
7. Do NOT allow any materials to be reused or shared.
8. Avoid providing first aid care if you have an open wound on your hands. If you must, be sure to wear gloves at ALL times.
9. Make sure that all wounds are well covered before beginning or returning to competition.
10. Hepatitis B vaccinations are REQUIRED. A waiver must be signed if a student does not choose to procure the vaccinations.