

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC
Athletic Training Education Program
Policies and Procedures for Admission into Clinical Education

The Department of Sport Sciences at PACIFIC offers an undergraduate major in Athletic Training designed to provide the theoretical and practical experiences required to become a Certified Athletic Trainer. Athletic Training is an exciting field for those concerned with the health care of the physically active. Employment settings for students who successfully complete the undergraduate program in athletic training and pass the BOC exam include secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional teams, sports medicine clinics, industrial establishments, and within hospitals and physicians offices.

Students who select the Athletic Training Major must complete a series of courses within the department, adjunct courses from the natural sciences, and four semesters of clinical education.

CLINICAL COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM

In addition to required course work, Athletic Training Students must complete at least four consecutive semesters of clinical education under the direct supervision of a certified athletic trainer at PACIFIC designated facilities. While completing the clinical education, students are exposed to a wide variety of injury scenarios and general medical conditions and are taught to handle situations ranging from emergency care to record keeping.

During the four semesters of clinical education, athletic training students must accumulate a minimum of 800 hours (200 hours/semester) of experience under the direct supervision of a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) or other allied health care professional. Students must also demonstrate proficiency in entry-level athletic training skills in the presence of an Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI). Most athletic training students allocate 15 hours per week to their clinical education in addition to time spent in the classroom. Thus, the time commitment for the clinical education portion of the Athletic Training Track is quite demanding.

Once admitted to the clinical component of the Athletic Training Education Program, Athletic Training Students must take four clinical education courses (SPTS 89b, 89k, 189b, 189k). Students participate in clinical education for a minimum period of two academic years. During clinical education, students will be exposed to upper extremity (e.g. swimming), lower extremity (e.g. soccer), equipment intensive (e.g. football), and general medical (physicians) experiences of both genders.

As a student in a professional program in the Department of Sport Sciences you may be asked to undergo drug testing and/or have a criminal background check in order to participate in clinical experiences at certain facilities. All costs associated with drug testing and background checks are the responsibility of the student.

Students are assigned to a clinical instructor each semester for the purpose of supervision. Supervised clinical experiences involve daily personal contact and supervision between the clinical instructor and student.

Program Admission Policies:

There are certain requirements that must be fulfilled in order to enter the clinical component of the Athletic Training Education Program. These requirements are listed below.

Requirements for Admission into the Clinical Education Portion of the Athletic Training Education Program

1. **Completed Application Form:** Priority consideration is given to qualified students who submit their application by April 1st. Applications submitted after April 1st will be considered if the maximum enrollment of 15 students has not been met. Applications will not be accepted after August 1st of each year. The application is available at the end of this document or may be obtained from the Program Director.
2. **Coursework:** The following course must be completed prior to admission. Students may apply to the program while course are in-progress but must complete courses before beginning the clinical education program.
 - **BIOL 71 Human Anatomy** or equivalent college level course (see Program Director for approval of equivalency). Equivalent course must be at least 4 semester units and contain a laboratory experience. If Anatomy and Physiology are taken as a combined course, student must take a two-semester sequence of that course.
3. **Observation Hours:** Students must complete 50 observation hours under the supervision of a BOC certified athletic trainer prior to the beginning of the students clinical education experience. Students at Pacific will complete these hours under the direction of the Athletic Training Education Program Director. For transfer students, these hours must be verified by the supervising certified athletic trainer in the form of a letter to the Program Director.
4. **College-level work:** Students must complete at least two semesters (or three quarters) of full-time study at the college level before being admitted into the clinical education program.
5. **Grade Point Average:** Cumulative GPA should be 2.0 or higher. Transcripts must be submitted with your application.
6. **First Aid Certification:** Applicants must possess current First Aid certification at the time of admission. First aid certification can be obtained through the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or equivalent agency. A copy of the front and back of your certification card must be submitted prior to admission into the program.
7. **CPR Certification:** Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) certification will be required prior to the beginning of the academic year. This course may be taken through the University offered by the Athletic Training Education Program prior to the beginning of the academic year for a nominal fee. If the student is not able to complete the course through the University and the ATEP the student will need to acquire and pay for certification from an outside source prior to the beginning of the academic year. Please see the Program Director for acceptable ECC certifications.
8. **Evidence of Health Evaluation:** Provide documentation that a complete health history and physical examination and current immunization records (i.e. tuberculosis clearance, MMR, tetanus, Hepatitis B, and chicken pox) are on file at the Cowell Wellness Center. Documentation forms are available at the end of this document or may be obtained from the Program Director.

Transfer Students: The above documentation will need to be provided upon arrival on Pacific's campus.

9. **Technical Standards:** Applicants must read and sign the Technical Standards for Admission Contract prior to admission into the clinical education program. Technical standards are available on the website or may be obtained from the Program Director.
10. **Admission Essay:** Submit an admission essay that answers the following questions:
 - What is the role of an athletic trainer?
 - Why do you want to be in the clinical education program at Pacific?
 - What are your goals for the future?
 - How will the clinical education program at Pacific help you achieve your goals?
11. **Letters of Recommendation:** Two letters of recommendation; one letter must be from a Certified Athletic Trainer.
12. **Interview:** Applicants will interview with the Program Director and Clinical Coordinator prior to admission. The interview will consist of a series of questions to assess the applicants' background, knowledge, communication skills, and career goals.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Transfer students are encouraged to apply to the clinical education program and will receive equal consideration for admission provided they meet the pre-requisite criteria at the time of application and/or admission. Transfer students must also meet University requirements for admission.

ATHLETIC COMPETITION POLICY

Intercollegiate athletes who wish to participate in the clinical education program are permitted to do so provided they meet pre-requisite criteria and the potential quantity and quality of their educational experiences are sufficient to meet the goals and objectives of the program. Intercollegiate athletes should meet with the Program Director to determine the potential for a quality experience. In most cases, student-athletes are encouraged to delay their participation in the program until their inter-collegiate athletics career is over or pursue the profession through an entry-level master's degree program.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION

Applicants will be selected to the clinical education program based on the following essential requirements we feel will help you be successful in our program and the field of athletic training:

- Completed application form (April 1st for priority consideration)
- Completed pre-requisite coursework:
 - BIOL 71 Human Anatomy (or equivalent college level course)
- 50 Observation Hours with proper verification from a Certified Athletic Trainer
- Two semesters of college-level work completed (or equivalent)
- Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Current first aid certification through the American Red Cross or American Heart Association
- Emergency Cardiac Care (ECC) **or** higher level course prior to the beginning of the academic year
- Evidence of Health Evaluation form completed by Cowell Wellness Center official

- Signed Technical Standard Contract
- Letter of application
- Two letters of recommendation (one from an ATC)
- Sincere interest and commitment to the athletic training profession (based on application letter and interview)

RETENTION CRITERIA FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION

1. **University Honor Code:** Students must abide by the University Honor Code to remain in the clinical education program.
2. **First Aid and CPR:** Students must maintain current First Aid and CPR certifications.
3. **Athletic Training Proficiencies:** Students must satisfactorily complete Athletic Training Practicum courses (SPTS 89b, 89k, 189b, and 189k) and demonstrate proficiency in specific entry-level athletic training skills each semester.
4. **Grade Point Average:** Students must maintain minimum GPA standards under the following rules:
 - If your semester and cumulative GPA are above 2.0, you are in **good standing** and are eligible for full participation in the clinical education program including first responder opportunities.
 - If your semester or cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you will be placed on **clinical probation**. Students on clinical probation are restricted to experiences that occur at your assigned clinical site only. Travel to off-site events and participation in elective first responder opportunities are prohibited. Reinstatement to good standing will occur when your semester and cumulative GPA are above 2.0.
 - If your semester and cumulative GPA fall below 2.0, you will be subject to **disqualification** from participation in the clinical education component of the ATEP.