



DARTON COLLEGE OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Health and Human Performance Division

Masters of Science in Athletic Training Program Application Packet

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the (Masters of Science in Athletic Training Program (MSAT) at Albany State University. Please note the MSAT program has a selective admissions process, therefore due to the competitive nature, careful preparation of the application and all requirements is highly recommended.

The MSAT program admits one class of students per year that begins each summer semester. The deadline to apply for the MSAT program is **March 1** of the year the student wishes to enter the professional phase. This professional program is completed over a two-year time frame, which is the equivalent of 6-semester (summer, fall, spring, summer, and fall, spring) with the student graduating at the end of the Spring semester, of the second year. Once the program receives initial accreditation, after graduation, the student will be eligible to sit for the National Board of Certification (BOC) exam.

Understanding that the deadline of **March 1** occurs during the spring semester prior to the summer semester start date, a student may still apply to the program even though they have prerequisite coursework to be completed during the spring semester. This applies only to those that are enrolled or intend to enroll in coursework that will complete all requirements during the spring semester before the summer semester that the professional program begins.

Please note that due to the competitive nature of the application process and the high volume of applicants, taking the prerequisite coursework, as well as meeting all of the minimum requirements, does not guarantee acceptance into the professional phase of the program.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

To be considered for admission to the Masters of Science in Athletic Training program, the applicant must:

- **Apply and be fully admitted to the Albany State University Graduate program, before March 1st of each year.**
 - Please review the ASU Graduate Program Application policies and required documents at the following link: https://gafutures.xap.com/applications/usg/usg_albany_state_grad/apply.html?application_id=4327
 - You may apply online for the Graduate Program using [Albany State University's application portal](#).
 - Please do not send the Graduate application or \$25 fee to the MSAT Program. The two application processes are separate and no additional fee is required when submitting the MSAT Program application.
- Electronically submit your **FASFA** application for Financial Aid before April 1st of each year.
 - [Please click here for more information on completing your FASFA.](#)
- **Submit the completed MSAT application by the March 1 deadline.**

The student must complete a Masters of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all application material has been completed by utilizing the checklist at the end of the application.

 - Must include verification of a minimum of 40 observational hours.
 - Must include at least two **Recommendation Forms** completed by an ATC. One by a certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) and one from a professor or other professional, no recommendations from family members will be allowed.
 - Must include an essay explaining why you have chosen MSAT as a career. Minimum of 250 words, maximum of 1000 words.
 - Must include copies of all transcripts from previous colleges/universities or technical schools.
- **Must ensure the applicant meets the following minimum requirements.**
 1. Must complete a minimum of 40 observational hours of experience in one or more settings.
 - The hours must be documented and verified/signed by a certified Athletic Trainer (ATC).
 - An **Observational Hours Form** is located within the application packet; however, documentation from the facility or facilities may be submitted in lieu of the form.
 2. At least two recommendation forms must be completed and submitted with your application. One by a certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) and one from a professor or other professional, no recommendations from family members will be allowed. The required Recommendation Form is located within the application packet and may be photocopied for additional recommendations.
 3. A **minimum GPA of 2.8**
 4. **Prerequisite** coursework must be completed with no grade below a C (see required courses below)

Coursework to be completed prior to admission into the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

Course	Title	Hrs.
Completed	Bachelor's Degree with the completed courses	123
	Human Anatomy and Physiology I and II	8
	Biology	3-4
	Physics (Biomechanics may be substituted in some cases)	3-4
	Chemistry	3-4
	Statistics	3
	Psychology	3
	Exercise Philology - recommended	
	Kinesiology - recommended	

SELECTION PROCESS

After the March 1 deadline, the MSAT Selection Committee reviews and scores each application. Applications will be processed and **all** applicants will be contacted via email no later than April 1. The top applicants will be sent an invitation via email for a personal interview. Scoring is based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA, the number of hours observed in the athletic settings, the essay, the personal interview, and appropriate recommendations received.

After completion of interviews, the top-ranking applicants will be selected. Correspondence of acceptance or regret will be made through email and should be received no later than April 20th. The Albany State University MSAT program does not utilize a waiting list and those denied acceptance must reapply the following year.

MSAT PROGRAM

After acceptance into the program, the student will complete the following coursework as noted below.

Curriculum Pattern – MSAT Program

Semester 1	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 5100 – Emergency Medicine	3
ATTR 5120 – Functional Anatomy	3
ATTR 5200 – Introduction to Athletic Training	3
Total	9
Semester 2	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 5310 – Lower Extremity Evaluation	3
ATTR 5410 – Therapeutic Exercise	3
ATTR 5500 – Nutrition	2
ATTR 5610 – Athletic Training Clinical I	3
Total	11
Semester 3	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 5320 – Upper Extremity Evaluation	3
ATTR 5420 – Therapeutic Modalities	3
ATTR 5620 – Athletic Training Clinical II	3
ATTR 6130 – General Medical	3
Total	12
Semester 4	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 5330 – Injury Prevention and Risk Management	2
ATTR 5630 – Athletic Training Clinical III	2
ATTR 6120 – Psychological Aspects of Health	2
Total	6
Semester 5	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 5700 – Clinical Professionalism	1
ATTR 6200 – Organization and Administration	3
ATTR 6400 – Comprehensive Examination (pass / fail)	0
ATTR 6610 – Athletic Training Clinical IV	4
Total	8
Semester 6	
Course:	Credit Hours
ATTR 6300 – Athletic Training Seminar	3
ATTR 6500 – Professional Preparation	2
ATTR 6620 – Athletic Training Clinical V	4
Total	9
Total Program Credit Hours	55

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Mission: The mission of the Masters of Athletic Training (MSAT) Program at Albany State University is an all-inclusive approach to preparing students for a successful career in athletic training providing students equal opportunity to develop their skills in both the classroom and clinical settings while promoting professional and ethical standards.

Degree: Upon successful completion of the program, students will earn a Master's of Science degree and will be academically eligible to sit for certification by examination.

Accreditation: Albany State University is currently seeking accreditation for the new Athletic Training program and is not accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The institution will be submitting a self-study to begin the accreditation process on July 1, 2024. Submission of the self-study and completion of a site visit does not guarantee that the program will become accredited. Students that graduate from the program prior to accreditation WILL NOT be eligible to sit for the credentialing examination for athletic trainers and will not be eligible for licensure in most states.

Career Outlook: Starting salaries for certified Athletic Trainers in Southwest Georgia range from \$40,000 to \$58,000. Earning potential is higher, depending on clinical setting and career advancement.

Professional Scope of Service: Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC's) are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals who render service or treatment, under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their education, training and the state's statutes, rules and regulations. As a part of the health care team, services provided by athletic trainers include primary care, injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Settings include but are not limited to secondary, professional, industrial, hospital and outpatient clinics.

Grading Policy: The minimum passing score for all MSAT courses is 75. Anything below a 75 is considered failing, although the grade will be reported as follows.

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	75 - 79
D	60 - 74
F	59 or less

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Albany State University, in compliance with Federal law, does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, handicap, sex, religion, or age in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services.

The faculty of the MSAT program acknowledges Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and PL 103-336, The **Americans with Disabilities Act** and will consider for admission, progression, and graduation candidates who demonstrate the ability to perform the essential abilities listed below. These standards are admission guidelines and are subject to continuing revision and improvement.

LEGAL LIMITATIONS

Individuals who have a criminal record may not be eligible for licensure. Therefore, it is recommended that he or she contact the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Board of Certification, in the state where he or she plans to seek licensure to verify eligibility for licensure. All students will be required to complete a national criminal background check prior to placement in clinical externships. Some clinical facilities may also require a drug screen prior to placement (student may be responsible for payment). The clinical affiliate determines whether a student can participate in the clinical rotation based upon the results of the background check and drug screen. Should the student be denied clinical placement, he or she cannot progress through the program and will be dismissed. Careful consideration of any questionable record should be carefully scrutinized prior to application, as eligibility for licensure is at the discretion of the State Board

PROGRAM COSTS

NOTE: Program costs are subject to change. Please refer to Albany State University's current tuition and fee schedule for questions regarding these institutional costs.

MSAT CURRICULUM (PER CREDIT HOUR)

Hours	In-State Tuition/Fees	Out of State Tuition/Fees	Online Tuition/Fees	Program Fees	Textbooks
1	\$191.00	\$762.00	<u>ASU 100% Online Tuition and Fees</u> \$300 per credit hour + \$65.00 Technology fee		\$ variable
2	\$382.00	\$1524.00		Course Fees and Equipment \$250	\$ variable
3	\$573.00	\$2286.00		Background Check \$50	\$ variable
4	\$764.00	\$3048.00		Testing Fee \$200	\$ variable
5	\$955.00	\$3810.00		Liability Insurance \$15/year	\$ variable
6	\$1146.00	\$4572.00		ATrack \$45 - \$90	\$ variable
7	\$1337.00	\$5334.00		ACEMapp Clinical Fee - \$50	\$ variable
8	\$1528.00	\$6096.00		Immunizations as needed (TB and Flu annually)	\$ variable
9	\$1719.00	\$6858.00		Drug Screen for clinical placement \$35 - \$50	\$ variable
10	\$1910.00	\$7620.00		CPR (AHA – BLS) \$7	\$ variable
11	\$2101.00	\$8382.00			\$ variable
12	\$2287.00	\$9144.00			\$ variable
13	\$2287.00	\$9144.00			\$ variable
14	\$2287.00	\$9144.00			\$ variable
15	\$2287.00	\$9144.00			\$ variable

LICENSURE EXPENSES (*costs are subject to change*)

Upon graduation, and initial accreditation of the ASU MSAT program, the student will be eligible to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) examination to become a certified Athletic Trainer. Only graduates from a CAATE-accredited program are eligible to apply for certification. Licensing fees vary depending on the state in which the individual intends to work. Prices are subject to change and are not part of Albany State University. **All fees related to licensure are the student's responsibility.**

Fees for National certification can be found at the following link: <https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training/obtain-certification>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

“How do I go about getting the required observational hours?”

All applicants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of clinical observation by March 1 in any type of athletic setting such as a hospital, out-patient facility, high school, industrial, etc. This requirement is designed to give the applicant a better understanding of the role of the Athletic Trainer.

This is not a service performed by the college; the applicant must independently seek out an athletic setting and speak with the appropriate staff/personnel regarding observational hours.

“Can I work and still go thru the program?”

It is rarely possible for a student to work part-time while in the program and it is definitely not advised due to the intense nature of the program. Each semester, the student will have a full load of coursework and a grade of 75 or higher must be achieved in order to pass each class. This along with the clinical work that is off-campus (possibly out of town) will not be changed to accommodate a work schedule and a work excuse will not be acceptable for any absence.

“What are the typical hours while in the program?”

The MSAT program classes are offered in a hybrid format and vary in days and times each semester. During the first semester of the program, students will be required to complete a one-week boot camp at the end of the semester. Students will be required to be on campus from 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday during this week. During the second and third semesters of the program, students will be required to attend labs two days per week from 8 am – 12 pm. The last three semesters of the program will be fully online and will include invasive clinical experiences of campus.

“Can I be guaranteed that all of my clinical rotation sites will be in my hometown?”

Unfortunately, the answer is no. Each student will have 5 clinical rotations. The first clinical experience will occur during the Fall Semester. The last two clinical rotations are immersible experiences and will be completed during the last fall and spring semester of the program prior to graduation. Students will be required to travel up to 90 miles from the ASU east campus, for clinical rotation experiences.

“Are the costs incurred during clinical rotations covered in our tuition?”

Again, the answer is no. Each student is obligated to cover the expenses out of pocket. However, the clinical coordinator will work with each student on an individual basis to try to place the student in an area that will require the least expense.

“How long is the program?”

The degree is designed to be completed in 2 years in a hybrid format. This is the equivalent of 6-semesters (summer, fall, spring, summer, and fall, spring) with the student graduating at the end of the Spring semester, of the second year. A new co-hort of student will begin the MSAT program each summer semester.

“I already have a degree; do I have to complete all of the prerequisites?”

Yes, all of the prerequisites must be completed. Chances are that you may have already completed most of the prerequisites when completing your degree and those classes may be transferred into Albany State University. You may transfer credits from other institutions, but suitability for transfer will only be decided by the Registrar of Albany State University. In order to determine if your previous college coursework is eligible for transfer, it is recommended that you complete an application to become a student at Albany State University and have all of your previous coursework in the form of a transcript/s sent from the other institution/s to the Albany State University Registrar. The registrar will evaluate your transcripts and send you a letter indicating what is eligible and what is not.

When is the deadline for application?

March 1st of every year with a new class beginning each Summer Semester.

Where can I learn more about the field of Athletic Training?

National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) : <https://www.nata.org>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Preferred Name (if different)	Date of Birth
Current Street Address or Apartment Number or P.O. Box			City, State	Zip Code
Permanent Street Address or Apartment Number or P.O. Box (if different)			City, State	Zip Code
E-mail (please give the one you most frequently check)			Cell #	ASU Student ID#

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

High School Name	City, State	Date of Graduation or GED
(1) College / University Name*	City, State	Was a degree completed? Please Circle: Yes No
Dates Attended	Major & Degree earned (if applicable)	
(2) College / University Name*	City, State	Was a degree completed? Please Circle: Yes No
Dates Attended	Major & Degree earned (if applicable)	

*If you attended a College/University other than Albany State University, please include an unofficial transcript (for each) with this application. If additional space is needed, please write additional College/University information on the back of this sheet.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES (G.P.A. must be a minimum of a 2.8)

1.	Please list your cumulative GPA from your transcript.	Cumulative G.P.A. =
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OBSERVATIONAL HOURS (A minimum of 40 hours must be completed before March 1)

Please summarize your observational hours as indicated below. Be sure to include the verified/signed documentation of hours with the application.

Name of Facility	Type of Setting/s (ie. Acute care, outpatient, rehab unit, nursing home, pediatrics, aquatic, home health, wound care, etc.)	Number of hours in each setting (be specific)
TOTAL =		

ESSAY (No specific length is required)

Please include an essay explaining why you have chosen Athletic Training as a career path and why you feel you deserve a seat in the class.

RECOMMENDATION

Please include at least two completed recommendation forms in a sealed & signed envelope. At least one from a certified Athletic Training (ATC) and one from a professor or other professional (not a family member). It is a requirement to use the MSAT Program **Letter of Recommendation Form**. The form may be included with the application or mailed separately.

SIGNATURE PAGES & CHECKLIST

Have you previously applied to the Albany State University MSAT program? Yes No

I hereby apply for admission to the MSAT Program for Summer Semester 20____ and certify this application is both correct and complete. I have read the application packet, including the essential abilities required and understand the application and selection processes. I further understand that any failure on my part to comply with these processes will result in the cancellation of my application. I am aware of the competitive nature of the application process for the MSAT program and understand that meeting all minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PLEASE NOTE: You will receive correspondence from the MSAT Program Director via email by April 1 which is 4 weeks past the deadline of March 1. Please do not call to inquire about the status of an application. The MSAT Program Director will not return calls or emails regarding the status of an application (with the exception being after April 1 and the applicant never received an email). Therefore, if you wish to know the application was received, please send the application as certified mail so that you receive a confirmation from the postal service that it was delivered. If you wish to know if your application was complete, please read all directions and utilize the checklist below.

- Be fully admitted to Albany State University Graduate Program by March 1**

- Cumulative G.P.A. (or last 40 hours of college credit earned)**
 - o Must be listed on the application

- Observational Hours Form/s**
 - o The Observational Hours Form within this packet is not required. Any form of documented hours is acceptable as long as it is signed by a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC)
 - o All hours must be completed prior to the application deadline of March 1

- Recommendation Form/s**
 - o The Recommendation Form within this packet **is required**.
 - o May be mailed separately from the application by the certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) completing the form

- Essay**
 - o Minimum length of 200 words, maximum of 100 words

- Copy of Unofficial Transcript/s**

- Completed application mailed before the deadline of March 1**
 - o Sent as certified mail

Please mail the completed application along with all required documents to the address below.

**Albany State University – East Campus
Health and Human Performance Division –
MSAT PROGRAM
504 College Drive
Albany, GA 31705**

RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Applicant:
(Print name legibly)

Applicant: Please print your name above and sign below to acknowledge the following statement:

I hereby waive my right to access this letter of recommendation. This letter will remain confidential to encourage the recommender to provide a candid assessment.

Signature of Applicant

Date

ATC or Other Professional: Please indicate in what capacity you have known the applicant by checking the appropriate box below.

- I do not know the applicant outside of the observational experience.
 I know the applicant outside of the observational experience.
 If checked, please indicate how long you have known the applicant and in what capacity: _____

Please rank the applicant in relation to the observational volunteer or work experience.

	Outstanding	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	N/A
Communication Skills						
Effective Use of Time						
Professionalism						
Responsibility						
Critical Thinking						
Stress Management						

***Please comment on the characteristics that will make the applicant a competitive candidate for the MSAT Program.*

Comments:

(Please check one of the boxes below)

Overall, I rate this applicant:

- Outstanding (Top 1%)
 Excellent (Next 5%)
 Good (Next 10%)
 Average (Next 25%)
 Poor (Remaining %)

Please circle: ATC or other Professional: How many years have you practiced? _____

Signature _____

Name (Printed)

Date

Name of Facility

This form must be **mailed no later than March 1.**
 Please place in an envelope, sign the seal, and mail to:

**Albany State University – East Campus
 Health and Human Performance Division –
 MSAT PROGRAM
 504 College Drive
 Albany, GA 31705**

Thank you for your contribution to the future of our profession and taking time out to assist us in our journey of education.