

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING TECHNICAL
STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND RETENTION

The William Paterson University Master of Science in Athletic Training (MS in AT) is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on its enrolled students. 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 MS in AT establish the essential qualities considered necessary for admitted students in order to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer. Students must also meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). All students admitted into the MS in AT must meet the following abilities and expectations. These expectations are an integral and necessary component of this profession. In the event that a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the MS in AT.

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the Board of Certification (BOC) exam. To be considered for admission and to be retained in the MS in AT, candidates must demonstrate the following:

1. The mental ability to not only perform well academically, but to also apply the acquired classroom concepts to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgements and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
Admission Criteria: a) Minimum 3.0 GPA in all in major and overall college coursework and b) earn no more than 3 grades of C or below (including a combination of C, C-, D+, D, and F grades) or 2 grades below C- (including a combination of D+, D, and F grades) in BIO 1120, BIO 1130, and SMED alpha courses. Included in this policy are the following: transferred grades of courses equivalent to BIO 1120, BIO 1130, SMED, and ATP alpha courses; the higher course grade of a course that the student has retaken (C- or below); grades of C or below in BIO 1120, BIO 1130, and SMED 2200, even though the minimum requirement for admission to the MS in AT is a C- in these courses.
Retention Criteria: a) Minimum 3.0 GPA in all college coursework and b) earn no more than 3 grades of C or below (including a combination of C, C-, D+, D, and F grades) or 2 grades below C- (including a combination of D+, D, and F grades) in BIO 1120, BIO 1130, SMED, and ATP alpha courses. Included in this policy are the following: transferred grades of courses equivalent to BIO 1120, BIO 1130, SMED, and ATP alpha courses; the higher course grade of a course that the student has retaken (C- or below); grades of C or below in BIO 1120, BIO 1130, and SMED 2200.
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.
Admission Criteria: a) Completion of a standard physical exam and signature page by health care provider, and b) ability to perform CPR and First Aid [Basic Life Support or equivalent] – documented with certification of completion.
Retention Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance on Oral Practical Exams and Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook and b) maintain CPR and First Aid [Basic Life Support or equivalent] – documented with certification of completion – as outlined in the Student Handbook.

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 judgements and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance on the application requirements, including the interview by the AT Admissions and Retention Committee.
Retention Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance on Oral Practical Exams and b) Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.
4. The ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance on the application essay.
Retention Criteria: Satisfactory performance on Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.
5. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance as defined by references provided by the applicant and during the interview with the AT Admissions and Retention Committee.
Retention Criteria: a) Satisfactory performance on Oral Practical Exams and b) Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.
6. The perseverance, diligence, and commitment to complete the MS in AT as outlined by the policies and procedures in the Student Handbook.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance on the application requirements, including the interview by the AT Admissions and Retention Committee.
Retention Criteria: a) Satisfactory attendance in class and clinical experiences as outlined in the course syllabi and b) Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.
7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance as defined by references provided by the candidate and during the interview with the AT Admissions and Retention Committee.
Retention Criteria: Satisfactory performance on Oral Practical Exams and Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.
8. Interpersonal and communication skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.
Admission Criteria: Satisfactory performance as defined by references provided by the applicant and during the interview with the AT Admissions and Retention Committee.
Retention Criteria: Satisfactory performance on Oral Practical Exams and Student Evaluations by their Preceptor for all Clinical Experience courses as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Candidates for selection to the MS in AT will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards. Students who require reasonable accommodations to meet the standards must work with the William Paterson University Accessibility Resource Center (ARC). The ARC, will determine eligibility for accommodation in accordance with applicable laws. While enrolled in the MS in AT, if at any point the student's health status changes impacting their ability to meet the technical standards as outlined above, the student

must promptly inform the AT program director and work with ARC to determine whether the student may be reasonably accommodated.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for admission and retention in the MS in AT listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with or without reasonable accommodation. I understand that I must continue to meet these standards throughout the duration of the MS in AT and be otherwise qualified with or without reasonable accommodation. If I believe I need accommodation, I will contact the ARC to establish eligibility for accommodation. Eligibility of services will be determined on an individual basis. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodation, I will not be admitted into the MS in AT. I understand that if I cannot meet these standards once admitted, then I could be dismissed from the MS in AT.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Created by: D. E. Wujciak, MS, ATC and E. D. Feisner MA, ATC, CSCS (March 2001). Approved by Janet DeSenzo, Director, Accessibility Resource Center, (March 2001). Revised by: Linda Gazzillo Diaz, Ed.D., ATC with recommendations from Jacqueline Safont, JD, Director, Accessibility Resource Center and Glenn R. Jones, Esq., General Counsel to the University and the Board of Trustees (May 2016). Approved by: Glenn R. Jones, Esq., General Counsel to the University and the Board of Trustees (May 2016); Revised by Jaclyn Morrisette, Ph.D., ATC with recommendations from Linda Gazzillo Diaz, Ed.D., ATC and Robb Rehberg, Ph.D., ATC, NREMT Melissa Reardon Henry, General Counsel to the University and the Board of Trustees (June 2022).