

## **Academic Preparation for Graduate School for AT**

**Minimum Required Coursework for Graduate Athletic Training Degree Programs.** Graduate programs in athletic training require applicants to hold a bachelor’s degree in any discipline from an accredited institution, as well as program-specific coursework as admission pre-requisites.

Common admission pre-requisites include human anatomy and physiology, chemistry, physics, psychology, and statistics. Degrees well-suited for this track are therefore the B.S in Public Health, the B.S. in Kinesiology, or either a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in the liberal arts or social sciences.

First-year students enrolled in either the College of Health Professions or College of Liberal Arts & Sciences may be interested in one of the Accelerated Special Consideration Programs for Athletic Training, which offer the opportunity to become a professional athletic trainer in about 5 years, having earned both a Bachelor of Science degree and the Master of Athletic Training degree. See the *ASCP’s for AT* document on the *Track* page.

A few programs may require courses that Mercer does not offer on the Macon campus yet (e.g., exercise physiology, medical terminology, biomechanics for non-engineers). *Each student is ultimately responsible for knowing and fulfilling the admission requirements of the programs to which s/he intends to apply.*

### **Mercer Coursework Fulfilling the College of Health Professions’ Master of Athletic Training Pre-requisites**

CHP Pre-requisite	Mercer Course Equivalent (credit hours)
Statistics	CLAS STA 126 (3 hr)
General Chemistry	CLAS CHM 111 (4 hr)
Principles of Biology	CLAS BIO 171 (4 hr)
Human Anatomy & Physiology	CLAS BIO 131 and 132 (8 hr)
General Physics	CLAS PHY 141 (4 hr)
Introductory Psychology	CLAS PSY 101 (3 hr)

**Majors and Minors for Pre-Athletic Training Students.** While graduate AT programs in the U.S. require applicants to complete a bachelor’s degree before they matriculate, most do not express a preference for any specific degree, as long as they complete the specific pre-requisites for admission as well. Almost any degree would be suited for this track, for example the B.S in Public Health or the B.S. in Kinesiology (both offered by the College of Health Professions), a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree in the liberal arts or social sciences, such as those offered by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences or the Townsend School of Music, or the Bachelor of Business Administration, offered by the Stetson Hatcher School of Business (SHSB). Of particular interest to many students has been the BBA with a focus in Sports Business. Students are urged to consult the Module or the Web site of the Center for Career and Professional Development, which maintains a useful tool for investigating different majors, *What Can I Do With a Major in...?*

**B.S. in Health Science.** Students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences may be interested in the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree. This degree is an integral part of the Accelerated Special Consideration Program offered by the CLAS. Details of the program are described in the *ASCP for AT* document. In summary, the B.S. in Health Science degree is conferred upon students who complete a minimum of 90 credit hours within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the first year of graduate work in the Master of Athletic Training program at the College of Health Professions. Note that students who have already been awarded a B.A. or a B.S. degree are not eligible for this degree (see the University Catalog).

The B.S. in Health Sciences does not require a minor, but students may choose to earn one if they complete the required coursework in addition to the courses listed in the *ASCP* document.

**Minors in Business:** Many pre-AT students see the value of education in a field of business, as such training can further their professional goals as athletic trainers operating in the clinical setting. Options can be found in the University Catalog.

**Academic Performance.** Most AT graduate programs are fairly selective, so students pursuing a career in athletic training should plan ahead carefully in order to create a competitive application “portfolio” during their undergraduate years. This means taking the required coursework, performing well academically, and participating in appropriate extracurricular activities that will develop the skills and characteristics required of a successful graduate school applicant.

Because graduate schools are selective, all pre-AT students should develop an alternative plan to implement in the event that adequate progress is not made on their pre-AT track (i.e., GPA’s below 3.0) or acceptance to graduate school is not achieved. Such plans may include strengthening the application portfolio followed by reapplication or a complete change of career goals.

Students without a strong desire to follow this career path should consider a complete change of career goals; they may investigate their options using the website, <https://explorehealthcareers.org/>, and consult the advisors in the Center for Career & Professional Development (Mercer-Macon).

