

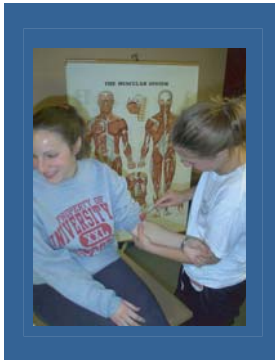
The Profession

An athletic trainer is an allied health care provider who specializes in the prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses. Athletic trainers work closely with other members of the allied health team; including physicians, physician assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and others.

Athletic trainers are employed in a variety of work settings including secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional sports, sports medicine clinics, hospitals and physicians' offices, the military, occupational workplaces, performing arts, and youth sports recreation. The athletic trainer is a respected member of the allied health community.

Although each state sets its own scope for practicing as an athletic trainer, standardized education ensures the athletic trainer has knowledge in several areas:

- Injury prevention and risk management through developing training and conditioning programs, ensuring a safe playing environment, selecting, fitting, and maintaining protective equipment, explaining the importance of nutrition, and using medications appropriately.
- Recognition, evaluation, and assessment of injuries through conducting physical examinations, understanding the pathology of injury and illness, referring to medical care and support services. Immediate care of injury and illness.
- Treatment, rehabilitation, and reconditioning through design of rehabilitation programs, supervising rehabilitation programs, incorporating therapeutic modalities, and offering psychosocial intervention.
- Organization and administration through record keeping, ordering equipment and supplies, supervising personnel, and establishing policies for operation of an athletic training program.
- Professional development and responsibilities through acting as an educator and counselor.



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A Rich History at UW-Madison

The Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) in its present form stands on the shoulders of many innovative professionals that came before. There is a rich history of course work in the area of athletic training. Walter Bakke (Head Athletic Trainer 1936-1966) is on record as the instructor for Men's PE #17 Athletic Conditioning and Training in the early 1950's. In 1961, the course title was changed to Prevention and Care of Injuries. In 1967, Dr. Allan Ryan taught PE 214 Treatment and Care of Athletic Injuries. These courses served as precursors to the current academic program. In the modern era, the UW-Madison's academic emphasis in athletic training was established under the guidance of Gordon Stoddard. Mr. Stoddard formalized the academic courses, coordinated the instruction of athletic training content, and assisted many students in their pursuit of certification. The program operated as a formal internship with a strong academic orientation until our initial accreditation in 2000 and continues to be a program in good standing with the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics has long provided clinical learning opportunities to aspiring athletic trainers. Five individuals have held the position of "Head Athletic Trainer" at the University of Wisconsin. In the early 1930's, Bill Fallon held the post until 1936 when Walter "Doc" Bakke began his 30 year tenure at Wisconsin. The late Walt Bakke was inducted into both the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame. "Doc" Bakke was followed at the UW by Roger Johnson; who was the Head Athletic Trainer until 1969. At that time, Gordon Stoddard took over and brought the program into the modern era of sports medicine. Gordon Stoddard was a member of the NATA Board of Directors and has been inducted into the NATA and WATA Hall of Fame. Dennis Helwig is the current Head Athletic Trainer and has held the post since 1984. Under his guidance, the program has evolved to include a staff of twelve certified athletic trainers and two graduate assistants. State of the art campus athletic training facilities can be found in the McClain Center, Kohl Center, and Crew house.

An Academic Home

The ATEP is housed in the Department of Kinesiology. The program has strong historical ties to the department and utilizes many core courses taught in this area. From 2000 until Spring of 2005, the ATEP was designated as a certificate program. In May of 2005, the University Academic Planning Council approved elevating the ATEP to an academic major option in the Department of Kinesiology. This move places the program alongside other undergraduate majors in exercise science, movement science, and physical education teacher preparation. Program highlights include:

- A strong mix of basic sciences, kinesiology courses, and athletic training subject matter
- Clinical experience in an exciting Division I athletic setting
- Clinical rotations in the secondary school setting
- Excellent career placement and NATABOC certification success
- Experienced and dedicated faculty and staff

The ATEP is under the direction of Andrew Winterstein PhD, LAT. Dr. Winterstein is an Associate Faculty Associate in the Department of Kinesiology. Greg Landry MD serves as the ATEP Medical Director. David Bernhardt MD, Rebecca Nelson MA, LAT and Janet Helwig MS, LAT serve as instructors in the AT program. The program has 20 approved clinical instructors who supervise students in a variety of intercollegiate and secondary school settings.

Interested In Athletic Training?

The UW-Madison CAATE accredited Athletic Training Education Program prepares students for careers in athletic training as certified athletic trainers. The program has an excellent placement record, and boasts a success rate on the NATABOC board examination well beyond the national average.

The ATEP makes full use of the resources available at the UW-Madison to provide an educational experience that is rooted in the basic sciences, provides extensive experiential learning, and seeks to maximize each student's potential.

Pre-admission program advising is available from the **School of Education Academic Services (EAS)**. Call 608-262-1651 or email easinfo@education.wisc.edu to meet with an advisor. Visit the EAS web-site at: <http://www.education.wisc.edu/eas/>.

What Students Say:

"The athletic training education program has been a rewarding, challenging, and incredible undergraduate experience. Not only have I learned more about this field than I ever thought possible, but I've gotten to meet some amazing people and make great friends."

"The athletic training program helps take a large campus and turn it into a small family."

"The ability to use the knowledge gained through class and applying it in the clinical experience setting has given me the confidence that I will carry for the rest of my life as I continue my education as an athletic training student, and soon, as a certified athletic trainer."



Visit us on the web:

www.education.wisc.edu/kinesiology/atep/