

Technical Standards for Admission and Retention into the Western Michigan University - Athletic Training Professional Program¹

Diversity at WMU encompasses inclusion, acceptance, respect, and empowerment. This means understanding that each individual is unique and that our commonalities and differences make the contributions we have to offer all the more valuable. Diversity includes the dimensions of race, ethnicity, and national and regional origins; sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation; socioeconomic status, age, physical attributes, and abilities; as well as religious, political, cultural, and intellectual ideologies and practices (WMU Admissions Criteria Statement; DMAP Statement). Western Michigan University's Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program (ATPP) is dedicated to providing a quality education to the students that enroll in the athletic training education curriculum. The ATPP offers a diverse and cooperative clinical education environment that is based in the University's Intercollegiate Athletic Department of Medical Services and is affiliated with several off-campus clinical education sites. Both the didactic and clinical education component is made available to every athletic training student with a commitment to an academic program that will prepare the student for the Board of Certification (BOC) Examination and pursuit of a professional career as an entry-level certified athletic trainer. The undergraduate program is an entry-level professional program leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training.

The Western Michigan University Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program is a rigorous and intense educational program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled. 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, Student Code, and ATPP Student Policies and Procedure Manual, set forth by The Western Michigan University Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program, establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the requirements of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]). The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to the Western Michigan University Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program or may be removed from the program if such a determination is made after official acceptance. Compliance with the program's Technical Standards, Student Code, and ATPP Student Policies and Procedure Manual, does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam.

Overview

The *Technical Standards for Admission and Retention* outlines the essential qualities necessary for students admitted to this program. The Technical Standards required by the Western Michigan University Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program are designed to protect the well-being and health of Athletic Training Students and the patients/athletes with whom they work and encounter through the students' clinical education rotations. All Athletic Training Students are required to demonstrate ability in all areas provided in this document. These required abilities enable the student to perform tasks necessary to meet graduation and professional requirements as measured by state and national certification processes. Reasonable accommodation will be considered for persons with documented disabilities on an individual basis in accordance with Western Michigan University policies and procedures; however, students must be able to perform in an independent manner.

I. Student and Health Care Provider Verification

Candidates for selection to the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program will be required to verify they understand these Technical Standards. If a student or the Program Director later identifies mental, psychological, social, or physical difficulties in meeting the standards established for the program, the student, with assistance from the Disabled Student Resources and Services, will consult health care providers who are capable of determining the implications of such difficulties on completing the program. The program's selection committee, in conjunction with the Disabled Student Resources and Services, will use this information to determine if the student can meet the Technical Standards with reasonable accommodation; this review will take into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all course work, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation while keeping in mind that students must be able to perform all requirements and demonstrate abilities in an independent manner. At the time of Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program admission, the student must possess a current health examination/physical

¹ Information provided in this document was compiled from multiple sources including: the Duquesne University Athletic Training Education Program Technical Standards/Performance Indicators; the CAAHEP Accreditation Standards Interpretation Manual, the NATA Education Council, WMU Admissions Website, and the CAATE 2005 Accreditation Standards.

and history of immunizations for measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and diphtheria. Immunization (or formal declination) for hepatitis B is required.

II. Admission/Retention Requirements

The following abilities and expectations must be satisfied by all students admitted to the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program at Western Michigan University. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these Technical Standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted to the program. Additionally, any student who has previously been formally admitted, after reasonable accommodations, cannot perform the essential skills may not continue in the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program. Compliance with the Technical Standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC Examination. Candidates for admission and retention in the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program must demonstrate ability, with or without accommodation, in the following performance indicator areas:

1. Applicants and current students must have sufficient sensory capacity to independently observe in the lecture setting, the laboratory, and the health care or community setting. Sensory abilities must be adequate to independently perform the appropriate physical examination or assessment including functional vision, hearing, and tactile sensation to observe a patient's condition and to elicit information appropriate to the particular discipline.
 - Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, motor and sensory functions, and coordination to independently perform appropriate physical examinations and accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients. Students must have the ability to independently participate in basic diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers and procedures. Motor function must be adequate to fully execute independent movements required to provide patient care including dependent transfer of an individual. Students must be able to independently negotiate patient care environments required in their particular discipline and be able to move between settings such as the classroom, health care facility or community setting. Some physical tasks require the ability to physically transfer large objects and weight (i.e. manual conveyance or maneuvering of human-beings of significant body weight and stature, water coolers). Physical stamina sufficient to complete the rigorous course of didactic and clinical study is required. Long periods of sitting, standing, or moving are required in a variety of learning sites.
 - Must be able to complete the required tasks during the assigned Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI), Clinical Instructor (CI) or clinical supervisor clinical education rotations.
 - Maintain CPR for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid certification
 - Provide documentation of physical examination, vaccinations and immunizations
2. The mental or intellectual capacity to independently assimilate, calculate, analyze, reason, synthesize, and integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments as well as independently comprehend and be able to independently distinguish deviations from the norm.
3. The ability to maintain appropriate disposition and rapport that relates to professional education and quality patient care. Additionally the ability to communicate professionally, effectively and sensitively in academic, community, and health care settings 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 information effectively. Students must be able to understand and demonstrate proficiency in both verbal and written English at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
 - No inappropriate or unprofessional relationships with student-athletes, fellow students or administrators: no fraternization
 - Proper and professional behavior/conduct inside and outside of responsibilities pertaining to role of a WMU Athletic Training Student
 - Demonstration of Culture Competence: Accept all individuals without discrimination
 - Positive letters of recommendation
 - Positive and professional completion of assigned clinical education rotations
 - Positive evaluations through performance of clinical education rotations
 - Successful completion of an interview prior to acceptance to the ATPP
 - Successful completion of an essay that is included in application to the ATPP
 - Successful completion of all relevant courses and course work
4. The ability to independently record physical examination results and treatment plans clearly and accurately.

- Must be able to complete the required tasks during the assigned Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI), Clinical Instructor (CI) or clinical supervisor clinical education rotations
 - Successful completion of all required course work
5. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress. Additionally, the student must exercise good judgment and be able to function independently, appropriately and effectively, in the face of uncertainties inherent in clinical practice and must maintain mature, sensitive and effective professional relationships with faculty, students, patients and other members of the health care team.
- No inappropriate or unprofessional relationships or conduct with student-athletes, fellow students or administrators: no fraternization
6. The ability to be flexible and adjust to changes and uncertainties in clinical situations.
- Must be able to complete the required tasks during the assigned Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI), Clinical Instructor (CI) or clinical supervisor clinical education rotations
 - Receive positive evaluations through performance of clinical education rotations
 - All ATSs must follow and meet the requirements presented in the *Student Code and WMU-ATPP Athletic Training Student Policies and Procedures Manual*.
 - Must plan outside activities to not interfere with fulfilling duties and expectations of an Athletic Training Student (ATS), i.e. outside employment, sports/activity participation, etc.

Employment and Extracurricular Activities

The WMU-ATPP understands that employment opportunities, social interaction, and sport participation are activities that are commonly desired and necessary. If the ATS desires to participate in any of the aforementioned extracurricular activities, it is mandatory to consult the Clinical Coordinator and staff athletic trainers to discuss the feasibility and possible accommodations for inclusion of such activities while meeting the requirements of performing clinical education rotations. While the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program at Western Michigan University supports an ATS's need to work in order to financially support his or her education, the ATS must meet with the Clinical Coordinator and assigned ACI for details in regards to clinical education rotation scheduling.

Although it is difficult, an ATS will be mandated to arrange his/her schedule to accommodate all responsibilities corresponding to his or her clinical education rotation assignment; employment and all other extracurricular opportunities must fall outside of the ATS's clinical education rotation assignment. All clinical education rotation requirements are tied directly to and considered curricular coursework and therefore to miss or leave a clinical education rotation assignment early will be reflected in an ATS's clinical education rotation performance evaluation and therefore his or her overall grade in the corresponding course will be negatively affected. It is an essential requirement that all clinical and academic requirements be met in order to continue in the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program at Western Michigan University.

III. Certification

It is the policy and commitment of Western Michigan University not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national origin, height, weight, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or veteran status in its educational programs, student programs, admissions, or employment policies (WMU Admissions Criteria Statement; DMAP Statement). Falsification of any information provided in this application will result in the rejection of this application and immediate dismissal from the Undergraduate Athletic Training Professional Program, at Western Michigan University, if discovered post admission. At the time of formal application to the ATPP, the student will read and sign a statement of understanding.

"I certify that I have read and understand the Technical Standards of selection listed above and recognize that they must be satisfied in this educational program. If I need an adaptation or accommodation for this program based on a disability, I will make an appointment with the Disabled Student Resources and Services for review of that request. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the program."

Signature of Applicant

Date

Reviewed with personal physician: ____ Yes ____ No _____
Date