

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING**

<http://rht.gmu.edu/atep/>

#### **Name and description of the field**

The B.S. in Athletic Training prepares students for careers in athletic training, an occupation that is recognized by the American Medical Association as an allied health care profession. Certified athletic trainers are medical experts in preventing, recognizing, managing, and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity. The program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

#### **What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?**

- Excellent interpersonal communication skills
- Intellectual curiosity
- Ethical practice
- Ability to hold information in confidence
- Organizational skills including time management
- Initiative to demonstrate intellectual and physical skills
- Computer literacy
- Analytical, critical thinking and evaluative skills

#### **If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?**

Only the B.S. is offered.

#### **Is a Minor available? No.**

#### **What are recent graduates doing?**

This is a new major at GMU; however recent graduates who have completed the internship component have gone on to graduate programs in physical therapy, public health, sports medicine, physical and health education. Some of these graduates include:

- Assistant Athletic Trainer, George Mason University
- Physical Therapist, Alexandria Hospital
- Head Athletic Trainer, Merced Junior College

#### **Sample job descriptions:**

**Areas of employment include: Secondary Scholastic and Collegiate Athletics, Sports Medicine Clinics, Professional Sports, Industry, Military, other allied health care settings** – responsible for the care and prevention of injuries that occur to the physically active. Must have degree in athletic training and national certification. Licensing may be required in specific states.

#### **What other resources should students consult for more information?**

- National Athletic Trainers' Association, Dallas, Texas
- National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Omaha, Nebraska
- Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education, Chicago, Illinois
- Joint Review Committee on Athletic Training, Centennial, Colorado
- American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Reston, Virginia
- Virginia Athletic Trainers' Association, Radford, Virginia
- Call (703) 993-2370 to meet with a Career Counselor to discuss employment information and options.

#### **What kinds of practical experiences are recommended to explore Athletic Training further?**

- Part-time and summer employment or volunteer service in an allied health area
- Experience in a variety of settings with many different age, race, and ethnic groups and both genders
- Any experience working with the public which requires independence, initiative and responsibility
- Internships/cooperative education positions with health, fitness organizations

## EXPLORING MAJORS

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### Whom should students contact for further information?

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703-993-2060

Academic Advising Center  
304 SUB I  
703-993-2470

Ken Guerrant  
Career Services  
348 SUB I  
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