



WEST LIBERTY UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC TRAINING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does the Master degree transition for Athletic Training Programs begin?

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) has mandated all undergraduate Bachelor degree Athletic Training Programs submit for transition to a Master's degree or drop programs by the year 2026. After 2026, the Athletic Training major will no longer be offered as an undergraduate program (Bachelor's), only as a graduate program degree (Master's) for all institutions across the country who complete the transition process.

How will the Master's degree transition affect the WLU Athletic Training Program?

Please contact the program director for any questions related to the Master's degree transition and the WLU Athletic Training Program. Currently, this does not affect students within or applying to the AT program.

What types of employment are available with an AT degree?

There are many job opportunities and settings available upon graduation such as the following: high schools, clinics, many health care settings, graduate schools, colleges, fine arts, armed forces, professional teams, and even physician extenders, which is becoming very popular with Athletic Trainers. Certified athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in preventing, recognizing, managing and rehabilitating injuries that result from physical activity. As part of a complete health-care team, the certified athletic trainer works under the direction of a licensed physician and in cooperation with other health care professionals, athletics administrators, coaches and parents.

How do I apply for the program?

The student must declare AT as a major and complete the required course work and be officially accepted into the program. Students need to take certain pre-requisite classes and then enroll in and Introduction to Athletic Training class. Providing the student gets a C or better in the required pre-requisites, at least a B in the Freshmen year AT classes (AT100, AT115), meets GPA and technical requirements, and completes an interview process, the student may be accepted into the program.

Do I need to have my CPR and First Aid complete prior to application?

No. Students will become certified in CPR and FA during a class they are required to take within the curriculum.

When will I know I got accepted in the program?

Students will be notified with a letter after the interview process is complete. Students will be notified with an official letter shortly after the spring semester of their freshman year. Some may be accepted with probationary status based on meeting requirements. This is at the discretion of the program director.

If I apply this year and don't make it into the program can I reapply next year?

No. Due to anticipated masters transition requirements for all Bachelor of AT programs, and to meet this timeline, we cannot accept re-application to the AT program. The student will work with their academic advisor to transition to another major at West Liberty, if the student chooses, that is in the Department of Health and Human Performance.

How many students will you accept into the program?

Accreditors require programs to have a “manageable number” of students conducive to learning environments. Thus, the numbers may fluctuate, but most likely between 15-20 each year, will be accepted.

Can I major in AT if I want to pursue a career in a professional health care setting?

Yes. Degrees such as physical therapy, physician assistant, chiropractic, master’s degree’s in health-related fields, can all be pursued with a bachelor’s degree in Athletic Training. It is up to the student however, to complete all pre-requisites for a given professional degree based on the requirements of a chosen University or College. The student will work with the academic advisor to ensure graduate school prerequisites for postgraduate healthcare professions are completed while majoring in AT.

Are any of the core classes online?

AT specific courses are not offered online, however, some core coursework within the Dept of Health and Human Performance as well as General Education requirements are offered online.

How many years is the Program once I am admitted?

The program is six semesters once the student is admitted, which spans three academic years.

Can I work and be in the program too?

Because of the clinical education component of the Athletic Training Program, it is very difficult to work while in this program. Although it is not prohibited, it is very difficult, because of the clinical practicums.

Can I be an athlete and be an Athletic Training Major?

Yes. You may attempt to do both. The program will work with a student-athlete as much as possible regarding clinical hours. However, the student will be responsible to obtain the same amount per clinical practicum as a non-athlete.

Can I minor in Athletic Training?

No. Athletic Training is a stand-alone, four-year undergraduate degree.

Are there summer internships involved with the curriculum?

Nothing is required; however, internships can be set up with various settings if a student chooses to. If so, it will be linked to a practicum class. This will occur on a case-by-case basis.

What is the minimum GPA required to remain in the program?

Students must maintain at least a 2.8 cumulative GPA and earn nothing lower than a C in all AT major classes once accepted into the program.

Where are the clinical sites for the students?

Students are required by the CAATE to receive clinical experiences in a variety of setting. The WLU AT program has clinical sites which include local high schools, physical therapy clinics, and a general medical facility, in addition to its own University athletic training rooms.