



Alison Gardiner-Shires, PhD, ATC
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Educational Background:

- PhD in Physical Education, University of South Carolina, 2006
- MS in Athletic Training, California University of Pennsylvania, 2002
- BS in Physical Education/Athletic Training, Salisbury University, 2000

Professional Interests and Research Areas:

Career Choice and Pre-Professional Socialization Issues in Athletic Training
Professional Development Issues in Athletic Training

Alison Gardiner-Shires has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sports Medicine since the Fall 2008. She received a Master's of Science in Athletic Training from California University of Pennsylvania while serving as the graduate assistant athletic trainer with the women's soccer and baseball teams. From there she assumed a one year interim Co-Head Athletic Trainer position at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA where she assisted in providing medical coverage to 23 NCAA Division III teams and taught physical education courses. While working as a full-time graduate teaching assistant, Alison then completed her doctoral degree in physical education from the University of South Carolina in 2006. Her dissertation, entitled "Attractors to and Facilitators for Athletic Training and the High School Setting" set the foundation for her research agenda and has been published in part in the *Journal of Athletic Training*. She then assumed an Assistant Professor position at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico where she taught in the Athletic Training Education Program.

At West Chester University Alison teaches courses in the Athletic Training Education Program and serves as the athletic trainer for the NCAA Division I field hockey and NCAA Division II women's lacrosse teams. She continues to conduct research in the area of career socialization, examining athletic trainers' perceptions of academic preparation. Further, she enjoys mentoring undergraduate students as they explore research through case study presentations.

Alison was recently awarded the "Distinguished Graduate Assistant Athletic Training Alumni" award from her alma mater, California University of Pennsylvania. She resides in West Chester with her husband, Mark, who graduated from the West Chester University Athletic Training Education Program in 1998 and currently serves as the head athletic trainer for the Baltimore Orioles' AAA Affiliate, Norfolk Tides.