

ATHLETIC TRAINING

The Department of Sports Medicine, within the College of Health Sciences, has as its primary role preparing you for a career in athletic training. Fundamental to such a career is successful completion of the certification examination given by the Board of Certification (BOC). The B.S. in athletic training program in the Department of Sports Medicine provides access to all the prerequisites for that exam.

Athletic training is practiced by athletic trainers, health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. Students who want to become certified athletic trainers must earn a degree from an accredited athletic training curriculum.

Career Opportunities

Certified athletic trainers work in educational institutions, such as high schools and colleges; for amateur or professional athletic organizations; for the military and performing arts; and in physician offices and sports medicine clinics. You also will be prepared for advanced study in athletic training or related disciplines. The career placement rate of the department is virtually 100 percent.

Graduates of this program have found employment in the following:

- High schools (West Chester – Rustin; Downingtown; Upper Merion);
- Colleges and universities (Columbia, Dartmouth, Drexel, Stanford, North Carolina, Penn State, SUNY New Paltz, Kutztown, Ursinus, Villanova)
- Sports medicine clinics (ATI Physical Therapy, NovaCare; Optimum PT, Kinetic PT)
- Amateur sports (Olympic Games, U.S. Olympic Training Center)
- Professional sports (Association of Tennis Professionals, Chicago Cubs, Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles, Philadelphia Flyers, Philadelphia Phillies)

Graduates of this program have pursued advanced degrees at the following:

- Temple University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Hawaii
- University of North Carolina
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Richmond
- University of South Carolina
- University of Virginia
- West Chester University

Undergraduate Degree

Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. The athletic training program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

Typical Courses

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Athletic Injury Management I – IV
- Athletic Training Techniques
- Exercise Physiology
- First Aid for Health Professionals
- History, Organization, and Administration of Athletic Training
- Kinesiology
- Nutrition
- Pathology and Evaluation of Athletic Injury/Illness I – III
- Theories and Practices of Conditioning and Training
- Therapeutic Exercise
- Therapeutic Modalities

Special Study Opportunities

The program requires you to have practical experience. This clinical education experience is part of your academic course work, typically taken during the last four semesters. Your experience will involve learning under the supervision of a certified athletic trainer with the

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UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

sports teams of West Chester University and local high schools, colleges, clinics, or professional teams. To broaden your exposure, you will be assigned at some institution other than the University for at least one of the semesters.

Related Student Activities

Athletic Training Club, presentations for the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (EATA) meeting, attendance at the EATA and Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society (PATs) meeting, and several on-campus educational seminars and social events each year.

Faculty

The faculty in the department serves as both instructors in the classroom and as clinical supervisors in the athletic training setting. They also provide athletic training services to athletes who compete on the University's intercollegiate teams. The dual role is important since students can observe these professionals and learn from them in both settings. Each faculty member is a BOC-certified athletic trainer and is licensed by the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine. When considered together, the eight full-time faculty represent more than 100 years of experience in the teaching and athletic training professions. You can obtain a complete listing of faculty and their academic qualifications on the department website or from the contact person listed below.

For More Information

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Web page: <http://health-sciences.wcupa.edu/sportsmed/>
Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/

About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

Information on Admission Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.
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