

SO YOU WANT TO BECOME AN ATHLETIC TRAINER?

WHAT IS AN ATHLETIC TRAINER?

Athletic trainers (ATs) are highly qualified, multi-skilled health care professionals.

ATs work under the direction of a physician to provide the following:

Preventative services

Emergency care

Clinical examination and diagnosis

Therapeutic intervention

Rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions

THE PROFESSION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING IS HIGH IN DEMAND.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the athletic training profession is expected to grow by 21% by 2022.

ATs ARE NOT PERSONAL TRAINERS.

Unlike personal trainers, ATs follow a medical-based education model and are licensed or otherwise regulated in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Efforts continue to add licensure in California.

ATs ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE FOLLOWING GROUPS AS ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS:

American Medical Association (AMA), Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

The ATC credential and the Board of Certification (BOC) requirements are currently recognized by 48 states plus the District of Columbia for eligibility and/or regulation of the practice of athletic training.

BOC certification is the only accredited certification program for ATs.

NATA
NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION
HEALTH CARE FOR LIFE & SPORT
nata.org

WHERE DO ATs WORK?

Public and Private
Secondary Schools



Public and Private
Colleges/Universities



Clinics and
Hospitals



Professional
Sports



Emerging Settings (Performing Arts, Public Safety, Military, Occupational Health)

HOW DO I BECOME AN ATHLETIC TRAINER?

1

Apply and be
accepted into a
CAATE-accredited
program

2

Graduate from a CAATE-
accredited program

3

Sit for and pass the BOC
certification examination

On average, schooling takes 4-6 years, usually longer for terminal and clinical doctoral degrees.

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 400 COMMISSION ON
ACCREDITATION OF ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION
(CAATE) ACCREDITED PROGRAMS IN THE US.**

Professional programs, Post-professional
programs, and Residency programs

Visit <http://caate.net/search-for-accredited-program/> to
find out which colleges offer athletic training as a major.

TYPES OF DEGREES ATs CAN OBTAIN:

Bachelor's degree (BS, BA), Master's degree
(MS, MA, MEd), terminal degrees (PhD, EdD),
clinical and doctoral degrees (DAT)

ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATHLETIC TRAINING?

High School Seniors:
Jack Cramer Scholarship
\$2,000 scholarship

Collegiate Students:
NATA Foundation Scholarship
program has awarded almost
\$3 million to undergraduate,
masters, and doctoral
athletic training students
\$2,300 per scholarship

MORE ABOUT PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION:

- Competency-based approaches are used in the classroom and clinical settings
- Medical-based education model
- **5 domains of clinical practice:** prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate and emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation, organization and professional health and well-being
- **Students are instructed in the following subject matters:** evidence-based practice, prevention and health promotion, clinical examination and diagnosis, acute care of injuries and illnesses, therapeutics interventions, psychosocial strategies and referral, health care administration, professional development and responsibility