

ATHLETIC TRAINING RESOURCES



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to athletic training programs. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.

QUICK FACTS

Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals specializing in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sports-related injuries, and this handout provides a guide to applying to accredited programs in the USA. You are required to complete a CAATE accredited athletic training educational program to qualify to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam as of Fall 2022. Be sure to Search for Accredited Programs with CAATE or check with the program you're interested in to verify it meets the requirements.

You can begin your school exploration by researching programs and their requirements through the **Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)**. Ensure you meet the program requirements that will apply when you take your licensing exams.

Here are some things to consider when you begin navigating the process:

- **GCSU offers a MS in Athletic Training.** Please see the other side of this document for more information.
- Applications usually require some combination of these materials: **minimum GPA, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, a personal statement, a cover letter, observation hours, and an interview.** Thoroughly read through the requirements each school/program has for admission.
- **Common Application Portal: Most programs (but not all)** utilize the **Athletic Training Centralized Application Service (ATCAS)** as a common application portal.
- **Letters of Recommendations:** It is recommended that you seek **1-4 letters from licensed athletic trainers, science faculty, advisors, or other professionals that can adequately speak on your behalf.**
 - In addition to faculty, you should seek **athletic trainers, coaches, and other industry professionals** you've worked with.
- **Interviews:** When preparing for professional school interviews, it's important that you **practice ahead of time.**
 - "Why do you want to be an athletic trainer?" or "Why our program?" are common types of questions that you want to prepare for.
 - Utilize resources in **Handshake** and **book an appointment with a Career Advisor to further assist you.**

COMMON APPLICATION SERVICE (ATCAS)

Athletic Training Centralized Application Service (ATCAS)

- Many schools require your application to be submitted through this system. GCSU's program does not require you to use this service when applying.
- An account has to be made to utilize this application service. **Familiarize yourself with the site, the applications themselves, and what materials are necessary for each application.**
- **Keep in mind that not all schools use ATCAS!** Thoroughly read through each program's admission procedures.
- Personal Statements being submitted through ATCAS should be a general overview as to why you chose this profession.
 - Pay attention to the character count (including spaces) allotted for the essay.

GRE PREPARATION

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

- Applicants are required to take the GRE only by some programs, but **required minimum scores vary.**
- You can register for the GRE using this link: <https://www.ets.org/gre.html>.
- The exam is made up of 3 sections including: **Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing.**
- Be sure to take the test in enough time to make the application deadlines.

Prepare in advance!

- Spend time prior to your test date familiarizing yourself with the types of questions in each section.
- You can study through taking a course with a company like Kaplan or Princeton Review, or you can purchase study books online that contain practice tests and examples.

COMMON PREREQUISITES

Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II
Principles of Biology I & II
Principles of Chemistry I & II
Medical Terminology
Statistics

Structural Kinesiology
Physiology of Exercise
Principles of Physics
Intro to General Psychology

KEY NUMBERS

- Minimum GPA Range: **2.5-3.0**
- Average GRE Score: verbal **151.29**; quantitative **156.93**; written **3.49**
- Average BOC Exam Score: **525**

***This is not an exhaustive list. Please research each program's requirement, and please consult with your academic advisor prior to registering for classes.**

***Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING (MSAT) AT GCSU

Below are things to consider when applying to the athletic training program here at GCSU:

- **The Georgia College MS in Athletic Training Program does not require GRE, observation hours, or use of ATCAS.**
- You are required to include a **professional resume**. Please visit the Career Center for assistance in creating and editing your resume.
- A minimum **prerequisite GPA of 3.0** and a minimum **upper-level GPA of 2.75** is required for admission.
- Your **Personal Statement** should indicate your **interest in Athletic Training** (asset to the discipline, career goals, etc.) as well as **what current issue related to athletic training is of interest to you and why**. This is normally written in an essay format.
- The GCSU program requires **interviews**, which are offered on **five separate interview panel dates**.
- It is required of applicants to submit **three references (two of whom must be academic)** on the online reference form, supplying names and detailed contact information of referees. You will also need to indicate which courses you have taken with each instructor.
- A **cover letter** is required that indicates your interest in Georgia College and how you would be an asset to both our student body and our program. Include why you have chosen to apply to our program specifically and how your background and experiences have prepared you for our liberal arts education.

RESOURCES

ATCAS Applicant Login:

<https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

ATCAS: Quick Start Guide and FAQs:

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/ATCAS Applicant Help Center/Starting Your ATCAS Application/Getting Started with Your ATCAS Application/00 Quick Start Guide](https://help.liaisonedu.com/ATCAS%20Applicant%20Help%20Center/Starting%20Your%20ATCAS%20Application/Getting%20Started%20with%20Your%20ATCAS%20Applicati%20on/00%20Quick%20Start%20Guide)

BOC for the Athletic Trainer: Determine Eligibility:

<https://bocatc.org/candidates>

BOC for the Athletic Trainer: Exam Report for the 2022-2023 Testing Year:

<https://bocatc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/BOC2022ExamReport.pdf>

CAATE:

<https://caate.net/Students>

CAATE: Search for Accredited Programs:

<https://caate.net/Search-for-Accredited-Programs>

Georgia Board of Athletic Trainers:

<https://sos.ga.gov/georgia-board-athletic-trainers>

Interpreting GRE Scores:

<https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/interpreting-gre-scores.pdf>

NATA: Prospective Students:

<https://www.nata.org/prospective-students>

The GRE Tests:

<https://www.ets.org/gre.html>