



## **College of Nursing & Health Sciences**

### **Valdosta State University**

#### **Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (B.S.A.T.) Degree**

Athletic Training Program

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-sciences/athletic-training/prospective-studentinformation/admission-process.php>

Faculty Offices are located in the Health Sciences and  
Business Administration Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – North Campus

The P.A.S.S. Center for Pre-Major Advising is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.  
229-333-5959

April - 2016

To: Prospective Athletic Training Students:

On behalf of the VSU Athletic Training Program faculty, I would like to share with you information regarding the current status and future of the VSU Undergraduate Athletic Training Program. The current Athletic Training Program is a four year program, involving one year of admissions requirements, and three years of didactic and clinical learning once admitted into the program. **It is our intent that the fall 2016 student cohort will be the last baccalaureate degree class for the Athletic Training Program at VSU. Students that begin the admissions process in fall 2016 would be afforded four years to complete the program and, in turn, are eligible to sit for the BOC exam. Therefore, the final graduating class from the VSU Athletic Training Undergraduate Program would be in spring 2020. Spring 2020 falls within the program's current accreditation cycle. The VSU Athletic Training Program faculty will continue providing didactic and clinical learning opportunities for students until the completion of spring 2020.**

In the late spring of 2015, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), along with other groups from the Strategic Alliance, sent word that athletic training education would transition from the current bachelor's degree level to a master's degree level. An absolute timeline has not been established but the move to an Entry Level Master's degree program will soon be a requirement. As you know, the current VSU Athletic Training Program curriculum is structured under the bachelor's degree format. The CAATE and Strategic Alliance have communicated that the transition from a bachelor's degree to program to an entry level master's degree program will not be a simple degree elevation, but will require significant changes to the academic and clinical structure of athletic training education. While some information is available regarding the transition, and some athletic training programs have begun the transition process, there appears to be many unanswered questions regarding the structure and protocol for entry level master's programs. At this time, Valdosta State University is still contemplating if it will transition to an entry level master's program. This decision is one that will ultimately be decided by administrators of Valdosta State University and the Board of Regents.

The VSU Athletic Training Program faculty have already begun to address current and future needs at Valdosta State University and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. We are currently working on an undergraduate program curriculum that would not only satisfy a need within the university and the college, but would also allow for an undergraduate option for students that wish to enter an entry level master's program. As it was mentioned earlier, we are still contemplating the transition to an entry level master's program. The VSU faculty intend to keep you updated regarding the changes as much as possible. **If you have any questions, please contact me at 229-333-5354 or [cconner@valdosta.edu](mailto:cconner@valdosta.edu).**

Sincerely,

*Chuck Conner*

Chuck Conner  
Director – VSU Athletic Training Program

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING (B.S.A.T.) DEGREE**

**Declared Athletic Training majors begin the admissions process during the fall semester of the student's freshman year.** The admissions process continues for eligible students during the spring semester of the student's freshman year. Students that are admitted into the Athletic Training Education Program begin taking major courses of study during the fall of the student's sophomore year. The program is designed to be a four year program assuming that students begin the admissions process and matriculate through the program under the designed curriculum structure. The curriculum involves an extremely structured and in-depth academic component, as well as an extremely structured, diverse, and "hands-on" clinical education component. Clinical education settings may include but are not limited to the following patient settings: college/university, high school, military, outpatient orthopedic clinic, orthopedic physician office, surgical, general medical.

The Athletic Training program is accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The Accreditation Standards are the minimum standards of quality used in accrediting educational programs that prepare individuals to enter the athletic training profession. These Standards can be obtained through the Program Director. The extent to which a program complies with these standards determines its accreditation status. In 1990, the Valdosta State University Athletic Training Program was the first accredited program in the state of Georgia and since then has successfully completed re-accreditation in 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2012. This has resulted in over a two decade long history of producing excellent athletic trainers.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Orthopedic Society for Sports medicine, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, and the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), cooperate to establish, maintain, and promote appropriate standards of quality for educational programs in Athletic Training and to provide recognition for educational programs that meet or exceed the minimum standards.

**Description of the Profession:** An athletic trainer is a qualified health care professional educated and experienced in the management of health care problems associated with physical activity. In cooperation with physicians and other health care personnel, the athletic trainer functions as an integral member of the health care team in secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional sports programs, sports medicine clinics, and other health care settings. The athletic trainer functions in cooperation with medical personnel, athletic personnel, individuals involved in physical activity, parents, and guardians in the development and coordination of efficient and responsive athletic health care delivery systems. (CAATE)

**Professional Preparation:** The athletic trainer's professional preparation is directed toward the development of specified competencies in the following domains: Evidence-Based Practice, Prevention and Health Promotion, Clinical Examination and Diagnosis, Acute Care of Injuries and Illnesses, Therapeutic Interventions, Psychosocial Strategies and Referral, Healthcare Administration, Professional Development and Responsibility, and Clinical Integration Proficiencies. Through a combination of formal classroom instruction and clinical education experience, the athletic trainer is prepared to apply a wide variety of specific health care skills and knowledge within each of the domains.

**Program Mission:** To develop critical thinking athletic training professionals capable of meeting diverse regional, national, and emerging international opportunities; athletic training professionals who recognize the importance of continuing education, possess mastery level skills, and demonstrate problem solving capacity.

**Selected Educational Outcomes:** The athletic training student will possess knowledge, skills, and values, as well as demonstrate competency and proficiency in the following areas:

1. Evidence-Based Practice (EBP): to incorporate the best available evidence, a clinician's skills, and the needs of the patient to maximize patient outcomes.
2. Prevention and Health Promotion (PHP): to develop and implement strategies and programs to prevent the incidence and/or severity of injuries and illnesses and optimize their clients'/patients' overall health and quality of life.
3. Clinical Examination and Diagnosis (CE): to possess strong examination skills in order to accurately diagnose and effectively treat patients.
4. Acute Care of Injuries and Illnesses (AC): to be knowledgeable and skilled in the evaluation and immediate management of acute injuries and illnesses.

5. Therapeutic Interventions (TI): to enhance function by identifying, remediating, and preventing impairments and activity restrictions to maximize participation; to conduct rehabilitation in a wide variety of settings on a wide range of patients.
6. Psychosocial Strategies and Referral (PS): to recognize clients/patients exhibiting abnormal social, emotional, and mental behaviors and have the ability to refer these individuals as necessary.
7. Healthcare Administration (HA): to understand risk management, healthcare delivery mechanisms, insurance, reimbursement, documentation, patient privacy, and facility management.
8. Professional Development and Responsibility (PD): to embrace the need to practice within the limits of state and national regulations using moral and ethical judgment, as well as work collaboratively with other healthcare providers and refer clients/patients when such referral is warranted.
9. Clinical Integration Proficiencies (CIP): to represent the synthesis and integration of knowledge, skills, and clinical decision-making into actual client/patient care.

Various assessment techniques are used in the athletic training program to determine the progress of students and to determine if the curriculum is providing appropriate professional preparation.

### **VSU ATP ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

**Students declare the major in athletic training as enrolling freshmen and begin the application process to the program during the fall semester of their freshman year. The admissions process requires two semesters.**

**Admission to the program is limited by the number of available clinical positions.** Applicants will be accepted each year according to the criteria listed below.

1. Overall grade point average

A student must have a 2.75 overall grade point average (includes transferred coursework) after the completion of all prerequisite/application required coursework.

2. Course work

- a. Completion of 24 semester hours
- b. A grade of "C" or better in HSAT 2050, HSAT 3430, and HSAT 4300

3. Directed Observation

- a. Rotations at various clinical education facilities fall and spring semester (number of rotations indicated in the syllabi for HSAT 2050 and HSAT 4300)

b. Skills test

4. Interview (spring semester)

5. Favorable recommendations from three non-familial sources

6. Completion of required admissions paperwork, to include criminal background check (as a part of HSAT 2050)

7. Ability to provide own transportation to clinical education sites

8. Official Transcript

9. Hepatitis B vaccine inoculation or signed waiver

10. Documentation of required immunizations

11. Attendance at specified OSHA training and adherence to OSHA regulations

12. Ability to meet the published technical standards of the program

**Disclaimer: Fulfillment of the eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.**

### **VSU ATP RETENTION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Students must have the following in order to participate in academic and/or clinical components of the program:

- a. Maintained an overall minimum GPA of 2.75. Students whose overall GPA falls below 2.75 will be placed on probation for one semester meaning that the student would not be able to participate in the clinical education portion of the academic program.
- b. Obtained the student liability insurance annually.
- c. Obtained the Hepatitis B Vaccine inoculation or signed waiver.
- d. Completed a pre-participation physical and passed annually.
- e. Attended OSHA training and abide by all OSHA regulations.
- f. Able to meet the published technical standards of the program.

2. Students will be dismissed for any of the following reasons:

- a. Overall GPA falling below 2.75 and inability to achieve this requirement after one semester of probation.
- b. Overall GPA falling below 2.75 a second time (once accepted into the program).
- c. Receiving two final course grades below a "C" in any major courses.
- d. Any violation provided in the program's policy and procedure manuals that result in dismissal.

### 3. Technical Standards

The VSU Athletic Training Program has specific technical standards that must be mastered prior to admission into the program. The Standards can be found on the Athletic Training Program website:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-sciences/athletic-training/>

- Upon graduation from the program, the student is eligible to take the Board of Certification (BOC), certification examination

#### **TRANSFER POLICY**

Students transferring to Valdosta State University must complete the same requirements as a student entering the University as a freshman (new student). Transferable core courses are left to the discretion of the VSU Office of the Registrar. Only athletic training classes taken within the VSU ATP will count towards fulfillment of the academic requirements. Course competencies/proficiencies must be instructed and evaluated by a Preceptor within the VSU ATP to count towards fulfillment of academic requirements and to allow eligibility to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) exam.

#### **POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Please visit the Athletic Training Program Website at <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/nursing-and-health-sciences/athletic-training/>. Select “Academic Program Information” for comprehensive information regarding “Academic” and “Clinical Education” policies and procedures within the program.

#### **ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM**

##### **SUGGESTED COURSE PROGRESSION AND CLINICAL EDUCATION ROTATIONS**

NOTE: Asterisks (\*) indicate specific ATP major/degree program courses. In order to complete the program in four years, these courses should be taken and passed with a “C” or above when the student is advised to take the class. Failure to take and pass the courses may result in the student not graduating in the four year time frame. No mechanism exists nor will one be constructed that will allow a student to take classes out of the required sequence.

##### **VSU ATP Four-Year Academic / Clinical Education Progression (\*Important: See Advising Checklist)**

<b>Freshman Fall (admissions process)</b>	<b>Freshman Spring (admissions process)</b>
HSAT 2050 – Introduction to Athletic Training	HSAT 3430 – Kinesiology
Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)	HSAT 4300 – Care and Prevention Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)
<b>Sophomore Fall (admitted students)</b>	<b>Sophomore Spring (admitted students)</b>
HSAT 4360 – Evaluation of Head, Neck and Trunk	HSAT 4491 – Rehabilitation II
HSAT 4490 – Rehabilitation I	HSAT 4350 – Evaluation of Extremities
HSAT 3440 – Clinical I	HSAT 3441 – Clinical II
Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)	Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)
<b>Junior Fall (admitted students)</b>	<b>Junior Spring (admitted students)</b>
HSAT 4450 – Sports Related Illnesses	HSAT 3020 – Assessment
HSAT 4600 – Psychosocial and Ethics	HSAT 4400 – Modalities and Pharmacology
HSAT 4440 – Clinical III	HSAT 4441 – Clinical IV
Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)	Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)
<b>Senior Fall (admitted students)</b>	<b>Senior Spring (admitted students)</b>
HSAT 3200 – Nutrition	HSAT 4700 – Professional Prep
HSAT 4250 – Organization and Administration	HSAT 4443 – Clinical VI
HSAT 4442 – Clinical V	HSAT 3420 – Exercise Physiology
Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)	HSAT 3500 – Athletic Training Special Topics Core Courses (12 – 15 credit hours)

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING CAREER SETTINGS**

College and University settings  
Professional Sports settings  
Secondary School settings  
Clinical/Outpatient Orthopedic settings

Hospital settings  
Industrial settings  
Military/Law Enforcement settings  
Performing Arts settings

### **WHERE OUR ALUMNI WORK (not a complete list)**

Children's Hospital of Atlanta, Colquitt County High School, Crisp County High School, Florida Institute of Technology, Georgia College and State University, Gwinnett Medical Center, Jacksonville Jaguars, LaGrange College, Lowndes High School, Memorial Hospital, Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Piedmont Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Complex, St. Joseph/Candler Hospital, The Steadman Clinic, University of Alabama, University of Arkansas, University of Georgia, University of Michigan, University of Mississippi, Valdosta High School, Valdosta State University

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM FACULTY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Chuck Conner, L.A.T., A.T.C.

Assistant Professor, Program Director

Office Location: HSBA Building Room 2209 (North Campus)

Phone: 229-333-5354

Email: [cconner@valdosta.edu](mailto:cconner@valdosta.edu)

Lori Howard, L.A.T., A.T.C.

Instructor, Co-Clinical Education Coordinator

Email: [lchoward@valdosta.edu](mailto:lchoward@valdosta.edu)

Stacey Walters, L.A.T., A.T.C.

Instructor, Co-Clinical Education Coordinator

Email: [swalters@valdosta.edu](mailto:swalters@valdosta.edu)

Russ Hoff, L.A.T., A.T.C.

Assistant Professor

Email: [rhoff@valdosta.edu](mailto:rhoff@valdosta.edu)

School of Health Sciences

Main Office Phone: 229-253-2900

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Main Office Phone: 229-333-5959

### **OTHER INFORMATIVE WEBSITES**

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE): <http://www.caate.net/>

Board of Certification (BOC): <http://bocatc.org/>

National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA): <http://www.nata.org/>

Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association (GATA): <http://gat3a.roundtablelive.org/>

Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA): <http://www.seata.org/> Georgia

Board of Athletic Trainers: <http://www.sos.ga.gov/plb/trainer/>

## ADVISING CHECKLIST: VSU ATP Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (B.S.A.T.) Degree

PRE-REQUISITES	CORE COURSES	HOURS	GRADE	SEMESTER
	<b>Area A - Essentials</b>			
None	ENGL 1101	3		
ENGL 1101	ENGL 1102	3		
None	MATH 1101, 1111, 1113	3		
	<b>Area B – Perspectives</b>			
None	PERS (_____)	2		
None	PERS (_____)	2		
	<b>Area C – Humanities/Fine Arts</b>			
ENGL 1102	ENGL 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114	3		
Maybe	COMM 1100, 1110 suggested	3		
	<b>Area D - Sciences</b>			
Maybe	BIOL 1030/ 1040L	3 / 1		
Maybe	Lab Science	4		
MATH 1101 or 1111	Math/Tech: MATH 2620 suggested	3		
	<b>Area E – Social Sciences</b>			
Maybe	HIST 2111 or 2112	3		
Maybe	POLS 1101	3		
Maybe	Soc. Sci. Elective (_____)	3		
Maybe	Soc. Sci. Elective (_____)	3		
	<b>Area F – Major Specific</b>			
Declared AT Major	HSAT 2050 (Introduction to Athletic Training) (Fall / Freshman: Required for Admissions Process)	2		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2016
None	KSPE 2150	2		
Maybe	ACED 2400	3		
None	BIOL 2651	4		
BIOL 2651	BIOL 2652	4		
Maybe	PSYC 2103	3		
	<b>ATP Pre-Admission Courses: Spring / Freshman</b>			
“C” or above in HSAT 2050	HSAT 4300 (Injury Care and Prevention) (Spring / Freshman: Required for Admissions Process)	4		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2017
“C” or above in HSAT 2050	HSAT 3430 (Kinesiology) (Spring / Freshman: Required for Admissions Process)	3		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2017
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Fall / Sophomore</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4360 (Evaluation of Head, Neck, Trunk)	4		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2017
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4490 (Rehabilitation I)	4		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2017
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3440 (Clinical Competencies I)	2		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2017
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Spring / Sophomore</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4350 (Evaluation of Extremities)	4		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2018
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4491 (Rehabilitation II)	3		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2018
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3441 (Clinical Competencies II)	2		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2018
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Fall / Junior</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4450 (Sports Related Illness)	3		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2018
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4600 (Ethics / Psychosocial Issues)	3		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2018
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4440 (Clinical Competencies III)	2		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2018
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Spring / Junior</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3020 (Assessment)	3		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2019
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4400 (Modalities and Pharmacology)	4		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2019
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4441 (Clinical Competencies IV)	2		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2019
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Fall / Senior</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4250 (Organization and Administration)	3		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2019
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3200 (Nutrition)			Last Semester Offered: Fall 2019
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4442 (Clinical Competencies V)	2		Last Semester Offered: Fall 2019
	<b>ATP Major Courses: Spring / Senior</b>			
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4700 (Professional Preparation)	2		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2020
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 4443 (Clinical Competencies VI)	2		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2020
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3500 (AT Special Topics)	2		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2020
Official Admission into ATP	HSAT 3420 (Exercise Physiology)	3		Last Semester Offered: Spring 2020

**NOTES:**

**OTHER:**

<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Area A-E (42hrs)+Area F (18hrs) +ATP Major Courses (60hrs)=120hrs total. Must have an overall GPA of 2.75 or greater to be eligible for ATP admission. Refer to ATP Admissions / Retention Requirements for more information.</b></p>
---	---

## **Athletic Training Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (as of May 12, 2016)**

### **1. What is the last semester that a student can begin the Athletic Training Admissions Process?**

A student must be registered for HSAT 2050 (Introduction to Athletic Training) for Fall Semester 2016. HSAT 2050 will not be offered again after Fall Semester 2016. HSAT 2050 is the first pre-admission course that a student must take in order to be eligible for the other two pre-admission courses (HSAT 4300 and HSAT 3430).

### **2. What happens if a student makes below a final grade of “C” in HSAT 2050 (Introduction to Athletic Training)?**

The student would not be eligible for the two additional pre-admission courses (HSAT 4300 and HSAT 3430) offered Spring Semester 2017. A major change will be required.

### **3. What happens if a student makes below a final grade of “C” in HSAT 4300 (Injury Care and Prevention) and/or HSAT 3430 (Kinesiology)?**

The student would not be eligible for admission into the Athletic Training Program because a minimum final grade of “C” is one of the requirements for admission. A major change will be required.

### **4. What happens if a student is eligible but does not get admitted into the Athletic Training Program after passing all three pre-admission courses (HSAT 2050 – Fall 2016; HSAT 4300 and HSAT 3430 – Spring 2017)?**

Because those courses are not being offered again, reapplication for admission is not an option. The student would need to change his/her major. The Career Opportunities Department offers Career Counseling for student who need to change their major.

### **5. What happens if a student makes below a “C” in an Athletic Training Course (an HSAT course) once the student is admitted into the program (years 2-4)?**

Courses that students would take once admitted into the program would begin in Fall Semester 2017. Because the courses would not be offered again (see [Athletic Training Program Only Course Offering](#)), the student would not be able to complete the program and would not be eligible to take the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam. In order to matriculate through the program within the four years provided, students must make a “C” or better in each class. The student would need to change his/her major.

### **6. What happens if a student’s overall GPA fall below a 2.75 and the student is placed on probation?**

Because a student placed on probation is not eligible for a clinical education course (HSAT 3440, 3441, 4440, 4441, 4442, 4443), the student would miss the opportunity to take the clinical education course the semester that he/she is on probation. Because the clinical education course would not be offered again (see [Athletic Training Program Only Course Offering](#)), the student would not be able to complete the program and would not be eligible to take the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam. The student would need to change his/her major.

### **7. What happens if a student is taking courses within the Athletic Training major and the student stops taking classes for a semester or longer because of personal reasons, program suspension, or any other reasons (to include medical)?**

The Athletic Training Undergraduate Program is scheduled to end after the completion of Spring Semester 2020. If a student does not matriculate through the Athletic Training major courses (see [Athletic Training Program Only Course Offering](#)), as the courses are offered for the last time, the student would not be able to complete the program and would not be eligible to take the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam.

### **8. What should a student do if he/she is not admitted into the program or is unable to complete the program by Spring Semester 2020 because of the issues listed above?**

The student should make an appointment with the Athletic Training Program Director. The student and the AT Program Director, along with assistance from VSU Centralized Advising and/or Career Opportunities will discuss options for the student.