



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Professional Athletic Training Program

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### **What is the ideal student for your program?**

We are looking for students who want to be outstanding clinicians. Students that embrace having diverse clinical experiences, working with a diverse population of patients. We want students looking to advance the profession of athletic training, by embracing a scope of practice for ATs that includes advanced clinical skills. A UofSC AT student understands the value of research and how it must be used to influence clinical practice. Finally, we want students looking to be a part of a family-type atmosphere where they can flourish as a member of the Gamecock AT professional network.

### **Is the AT Program at South Carolina CAATE-accredited?**

Yes. In the spring of 2020, we were awarded full accreditation for 10 years. Our next accreditation review is in 2028.

### **Why is your program listed as “degree change pending” on the CAATE website?**

As of Fall 2019, we have one cohort of students remaining in the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training degree. This cohort will graduate in the spring of 2020. Our complete transition to the graduate level will occur in the spring of 2020 once our final cohort graduates and CAATE accepts our substantive change request. Don't worry, we have been a CAATE-accredited AT Program since 1996.

### **Is a bachelor's degree required for admission?**

Yes, completion of a bachelor's degree is required.

### **I am already a certified athletic trainer, looking for a GA assistantship. Is this program for me?**

No. This is a professional program designed for those who would like to become an athletic trainer. However, we do have a post-professional degree option that includes GA assistantships. For more information on that program, please contact Dwaun Sellers (AT Administrative Coordinator) at: [dsellers@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:dsellers@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-777-7075

### **Must I apply through ATCAS?**

Yes, admission to the MS in AT program must be completed through ATCAS: <http://atcas.liasoncas.org/>

### **Can I submit my application in ATCAS even though I am still completing my prerequisite courses?**

Yes, courses taken in the spring semester do not need to be in by the application deadline. However, all prerequisite classes must be completed by the start of the program.

### **Can I submit my application in ATCAS even though I am still completing my required observation hours?**

Yes, all 50 hours of observation do not need to be completed by the application deadline. However, all 50 hours must be completed by the start of the program.

### **Can prerequisite courses be taken at a community college?**

Yes, community college and online courses from accredited institutions are acceptable.

### **How do I know for certain that a class I've taken fulfills a prerequisite course requirement?**

Questions regarding pre-requisite classes can be sent directly to the AT Program Director ([jmensch@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:jmensch@mailbox.sc.edu)). Please include a course description with your inquiry. Additional information, such as a course syllabus, may be requested.

### **What GPA do I need for my application to be considered?**

Candidates with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher will be considered for unconditional acceptance. Candidates with less than a 3.0 GPA will be considered for conditional acceptance, which may require a probationary semester. Typically, this requires a student to obtain a 3.0 in their first semester to continue matriculation in the program.

### **What score is required on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) for admission?**

The GRE makes up only one part of a student's application that we consider during the admission process. The UofSC AT Program's admission philosophy is to examine the entire application, including resume, GPA, letters of recommendation, and professional/personal statement. However, a strong consideration is given to candidates with a score of 145 (or above) on the verbal GRE, and 141 (or above) on the quantitative GRE.

### **Is an interview required?**

No, an interview is not required. We do encourage all students to schedule a visit to our campus to meet the faculty/staff and students and see the AT facilities. If you would like to schedule a visit, please contact Brenn Hartley (AT Administrative Coordinator) at [hartleya@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:hartleya@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-777-5267 to make arrangements.

### **When are admission decisions made?**

We begin our early admission review on November 15 each year. We fill our cohort on a rolling basis and students are informed within 2 weeks of our deadline. Students are encouraged to apply by November 15 for our priority application review and admission decision. All application materials must be received in ATCAS prior to May 1, 2020 to start the program in Summer 2020.

### **When does the program start?**

The two-year program starts at the end of May.

### **Can I be a part-time student?**

No. The program is designed to be completed in a specific curricular sequence, with each semester of classes building on the previous semester.

### **Can I work while in the program?**

Yes, students that are great time managers have been able to find jobs, attend classes, and attend clinical education. It is not easy, but it is possible.

### **Do I need a car?**

No, but a car is recommended.

### **Where do graduate students live?**

While UofSC does have graduate student housing, most graduate students prefer to live off campus in surrounding communities. Our AT Program will work closely with all admitted students to make sure they find appropriate housing/roommates.



## Where can I find information on financial aid?

The University of South Carolina has a central financial aid office. In order to be considered for financial aid, applicants should file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form as early as possible, even before filing an application for admission. This form is available at any U.S. college or university. Applicants may also take advantage of the FAFSA Express program, which allows students to complete the form electronically through the U.S. Department of Education's web site. Visit the UofSC Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

[https://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/financial\\_aid/index.php](https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/financial_aid/index.php)

## How much does this program cost?

We understand graduate school can be expensive, which is why it is important for us to be clear on exactly how much money it will cost for a MS in Athletic Training here at UofSC. Exact information can also be obtained at the UofSC Bursar page:

[http://www.sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/bursar/tuition\\_and\\_required\\_fees/usc\\_columbia\\_fees\\_academic/department\\_fees/index.php](http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/bursar/tuition_and_required_fees/usc_columbia_fees_academic/department_fees/index.php)

Total tuition and fees for this past year:

Fee Description	Summer 2019	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
Academic Fees/Tuition (Resident)	\$6,825	\$6,256	\$6,256
Academic Fees/Tuition (Non-Resident)	\$14,598	\$13,381	\$13,381
Health Professions Fee (Resident)	\$800	\$880	\$880
Health Professions Fee (Non-Resident)	\$1,100	\$1,210	\$1,210
Technology Fee	\$200	\$187	\$187
AT Program Fee	\$0	\$625	\$625
Health Center Fee	\$190	\$190	\$190
Cadaver Fee (BMSC 740)	\$1000	NA	NA

\*Please keep in mind that students will establish SC residency during their first year and that no student will pay 2 years of out-of-state tuition and fees. We also offer AT fellowships that provide qualified students with an out-of-state tuition/fee waiver.

## Does the UofSC AT Program offer any specific scholarships?

Yes, the AT Program has a limited number of AT Fellowships. These fellowships are \$750 annually and include an out-of-state tuition/fee waiver for non-South Carolina residents.

## Does your program have research requirements like a thesis or project?

No. Our AT Program does not require a thesis or culminating research project. However, we believe research and evidence-based practice is and should be integrated across the entire curriculum within both didactic and clinical classes. It begins the very first semester with ATEP 701 Principles of Evidence-Based Medicine and continues with clinical outcome-based assignments and projects in a variety of courses.

## Where will I complete clinical experiences?

Clinical experiences begin in the fall of your first year and continue each semester throughout the program. Students will be placed in a variety of clinical settings, including UofSC Athletics, Prisma Health Orthopedics, local high schools, UofSC campus recreation, UofSC band and dance, Sports Medicine clinics, Emergency Departments, youth sports, and athletic performance centers.

## When will I be eligible to take the BOC certification exam?

You will be eligible to take the BOC certification exam during the testing window in February/April during your year of graduation.