

PREATHLETIC TRAINING INFORMATION SUMMARY



PreProfessional Advising Information

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Make an appt!

AT School Basics

AT School

- Two years: Didactic Years (Class Instruction) and Clinicals

Residency (optional)

- 1-2 years focused postgrad training

Degree(s) Conferred:

MAT (Master of Athletic Training)

Get involved in activities (in- and outside the classroom) to help you answer the question "why AT?" and prepare you for success in your AT program and career:

Demonstrate your knowledge, skills, and preparation

Extracurricular Activities

Many AT programs encourage students to engage in **service to their community**, and have **leadership** experiences prior to their application to AT programs.

Visit the **Bennion Center** (bennioncenter.org) and **Campus Connect** (getinvolved.utah.edu) to find out what's available at the U!

Academic Preparation

Ensure you're academically prepared for the rigor of AT school.

- Complete a bachelor's degree and prerequisites
- Competitive applicants have high GPAs, so build and strengthen your time management skills
- Any major is appropriate; make sure to pick the right fit for you, and study what you love!

Shadowing and Clinical Experience with Athletic Trainers

This should be one of your first experiences as a preAT student. Observing athletic trainers in action, working in different environments will help you understand the profession, as well as help you get to know individual ATs. This is important, as many AT programs require at least one letter of recommendation from an AT.

UofU MAT requires students shadow a minimum of 50 hours. Only hours with a certified AT will count toward this requirement. Most students observe an AT long enough to get a strong letter of recommendation.

Demonstration of AT Traits

Maturity & Professionalism

ATs work with clients from a variety of backgrounds. It's important to demonstrate that you can work with all clients with professionalism, and good interpersonal & communication skills. Demonstration of strong work ethic through various activities will show your professionalism as a future healthcare provider.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND INFORMATION

PPA is here to help!

Preparing for AT school can be complex and nuanced. But you don't have to do it alone! PPA offers a variety of services to aid you during this time. From application and personal statement reviews to mock interviews, we want to help you with this process. Meet with a PPA advisor at least once a semester to help guide you along the way.

Start Saving NOW!

Applying to AT school can be expensive. The application fee for ATCAS is approx. \$96, which includes applying to one school; each additional school is \$55. These fees will increase each year. Some programs may have additional supplemental fees. ATCAS offers a limited number of fee waivers for qualified applicants on a first-come, first served basis.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Most AT programs admit students once a year, for summer or fall matriculation. UofU MAT classes begin in June. You'll take the GRE if necessary, and submit an application at least 12 months in advance of the year for which you are applying.

Do your research!

It is your responsibility to ensure you are meeting all requirements for the schools you are interested in. When selecting AT programs, we recommend that you look at schools that align with your interests: location, size, student/faculty ratio, representation, etc. You can search for AT schools on the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) website, aota.org/education/find-a-school.

ATCAS (Athletic Training Centralized Application Service)

Most US AT programs utilize [ATCAS](#).

- Application requirements include transcripts, extracurricular experiences, personal statment, and fees
- Many schools use a rolling admissions process (meaning they begin reviewing applications and admitting before the deadlines). It will benefit you greatly to *submit your application early*.
- The application will take most students several weeks to complete. Ensure you have plenty of time to fill out the application.

GRE

Some programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). **UofU MAT does not require the GRE.** The GRE is offered throughout the year, and taking the exam by the spring of the year before you wish to enter OT school will enable you to apply earlier. The exam may be repeated, but it's always best to prepare thoroughly and take the GRE once. It has three sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. Additional information, including registration, can be found at ets.org/gre.

COST and PREP: The exam costs over \$200. There are a variety of ways to prep for taking the GRE. You can purchase a test prep book, utilize free resources online, or purchase a study course (for example, through the University of Utah Continuing Education).

Helpful Resources

- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE): caate.net
PreAT Resources, including an AT Program Directory
- National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA): nata.org
PreAT Resources, including an AT Program Directory
- [University of Utah AT Program](#)

APPLICATION TIMELINE

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Register & Study | | | | | Take the GRE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Request and Gather LORs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prep: Personal Statement & Program Research | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Submit ATCAS | | UofU MAT's deadline is November 1st | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Supplemental Requirements | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | Interviews | | | | | | |
| Ideal | | | | | | | | | | | | Acceptances | | | | |
| Possible | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

POLICIES and CONSIDERATIONS

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|------------------------|---|
| AP/IB CREDIT | No AP/IB will be accepted, per CAATE standards. |
| REPEATS | All grades will be counted in your ATCAS calculated GPA. How repeated courses are viewed will vary by the specific AT program. However, many programs will consider your performance in each class and the frequency of repeats. |
| WITHDRAWALS | Although W's will not affect your GPA, W's should be used sparingly. Work with your advisor. |
| GPA | Most AT programs require minimum overall and prerequisite GPA of 3.0. <i>UofU MAT requires a minimum of 3.0 for both overall and prerequisite GPAs.</i> Competitive applicants for most programs have higher in both overall and prereq GPA. |
| MINIMUM GRADE | Most programs set a minimum grade requirement for prereqs of a C or better. |
| GRADE EXPIRATION | Check each program's requirements for more information. <i>UofU MAT does not have grade expiration.</i> |
| INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS | Depends on program. UofU MAT accepts international students. Most schools which accept international students usually require the TOEFL in addition to the GRE. |
| BACHELOR'S DEGREE | Although some schools still offer AT as a major/bachelor's degree, more and more schools are transitioning AT to a master's degree. This requires a bachelor's degree. There is no specific major you need to pursue in order to increase your chances of admission to an AT program. |

Letters of Recommendation

Students are required to submit **Letters of Recommendation** through ATCAS. ATCAS limits applicants to 4 letters, but most programs require 2-3. The number and types of LORs vary depending on each AT program, but generally, you will need one letter from each of the following people:

UofU MAT's requirements:

- AT you shadowed or worked with
- Professor (possibly science) OR any Professional who can write about your academic ability

PreAT Prerequisite Course Guide

Requirements vary by program. It is your responsibility to do your own research on each AT program you wish to apply to. AP coursework may or not be accepted. If accepted, coursework beyond AP is often required.

Shaded boxes indicate the classes most commonly required by AT programs. **Bolded** classes may be taken at a community college; however, not all programs accept prerequisites from 2 year schools.

| MATH | |
|--|---|
| MATH 1050 (4) College Algebra and/or MATH 1060 (3) Trigonometry <i>*may be needed for other prereqs</i> | MATH 1070 (3) Statistics <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> May be substituted by other statistics |

Please note: Consult both your advisor to determine appropriate placement and course selection.

| BIOLOGY | | |
|---|---|--|
| BIOL 1610 (4) Fundamentals of Biology I <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: MATH 1010 | BIOL 2325 (4) Human Anatomy <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: BIOL 1610 | BIOL 2420 (4) Human Physiology <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: BIOL 1610 and CHEM 1210 |

Please note: It is commonly expected for anatomy and physiology to be completed prior to applying.

| CHEMISTRY |
|---|
| CHEM 1210 (4) CHEM 1215 (1) General Chemistry and Lab <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: MATH 1050 |

| PHYSICS | |
|---|---|
| PHYS 2010 (4) PHYS 2015 (1) General Physics I and Lab <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: MATH 1060 | PHYS 2020 (4) PHYS 2025 (1) General Physics II and Lab <i>*Preferred by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: PHYS 2010 |

| KINESIOLOGY and OTHER COURSES | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| KINES 3093 (3) Biomechanics <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: MATH 1050 & BIOL 2325 | KINES 3091 (3) Exercise Physiology <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> PreReq: BIOL 2325 | NUIP 1020 (3) Scientific Foundations of Human Nutrition and Health <i>*Required by UofU MAT</i> | Psychology <i>*Upper division preferred by UofU MAT</i> | H EDU 3030 (3) Medical Terminology <i>*Preferred by UofU MAT</i> | ATSM 3300 (3) Intro to Prevention & Health Promotion in Sports Medicine <i>*Preferred by UofU MAT</i> |