UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

B.S. in Health Sciences – Athletic Training (HSA)

Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT)



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Updated 8/26

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I General Information

Introduction page 3
Mission Statement page 3
Program Philosophy page 3
Learning Outcomes page 3
Non-Discrimination Policy page 3
Accreditation Information page 4
Athletic Training as a Profession page 4
Program Faculty page 4
Health Insurance Policy page 4
Malpractice Insurance Policy page 4
Program Fees page 4
Technology Requirements page 4
ATrack™ Online Platform Access page 4
Bloodborne Pathogens Policies and Procedures page 4
Communicable Disease Policy and Procedure page 4
Occupational Health and Safety Administration Policy page 5
Emergency Cardiac Care/First Aid Policy and Procedure page 5
Protected Health Information/HIPAA Compliance Policy page 6
Comportment Policy page 6
Communication and Social Media Policy page 6
Fraternization Policy page 7
Confidentiality Policy page 7
Dress Code page 7
Statement of Receipt and Understanding page 16

Section II Academic Policies

Admission Requirements: Pre-Professional Phase page 8
Admission Requirements: Professional Phase page 8
Technical Standards for Admission: Professional Program page 8
Retention & Progression Requirements: Professional Program page 9
Academic Remediation Policy page 9
Academic Integrity/Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy page 10
Grievance Policy page 10
University Withdrawal/Refund Policy page 10
Academic Master Plan page 10
Sample Curriculum Plan page 12
Participation in Varsity Athletics page 13
Academic Advising page 13
Academic Support Services/Student Access Center page 13

Section III BOC Examination Preparation page 13

Section IV Clinical Education

Clinical Education Overview page 14
Affiliated Sites page 14
Clinical Hours Requirement/Relief Day Policy page 14
Immunization Requirements page 14
Transportation page 14
Application of Therapeutic Modalities and Other Skills page 14
Supervision page 14
Financial Remuneration page 14
Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policies page 14
Clinical Experience Procedures and Responsibilities page 15
Accident/Emergency Reporting page 16

SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION
Welcome to the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) Program at the University of New England. This handbook outlines the mission, goals and objectives, and philosophy of the program, and it also contains important policies and procedures that affect you. Please read the handbook thoroughly, as it is your responsibility to be familiar with its contents. ***Once you have read and understand all of the information, please print off, sign, and date the "Statement of Receipt and Understanding" and turn it in to our program office.***

All policies herein are in effect from August 1, 2026. Any substantive changes to the contents of this handbook will be brought to the attention of all students currently enrolled in the program and will be accompanied by a new "Statement of Receipt and Understanding."

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program is to provide a comprehensive curriculum designed for individuals who want to enhance the quality of healthcare for athletes and the physically active, and to advance the profession of athletic training through education and research in the prevention, evaluation, management, and rehabilitation of athletic and orthopedic injuries.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY
The athletic training faculty is committed to excellence in teaching. The process of learning is a continuous one where the student develops a foundation for intellectual inquiry. We believe that education is a partnership between the student and teacher, where the faculty member serves as a facilitator and guide. The faculty is receptive to individual learning styles and needs, and will provide a vehicle for students to move from novice toward expert within the profession and allow them to explore their chosen career opportunities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Every graduate from the UNE Master of Science in Athletic Training Program will be able to:

1. Successfully challenge the athletic training entry-level Board of Certification (BOC) examination;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of and clinical proficiency in all five domains of athletic training:
    1. Risk reduction, wellness, and health literacy
    2. Assessment, evaluation, and diagnosis
    3. Critical incident management
    4. Therapeutic intervention
    5. Health administration and professional responsibility;
3. Model the importance of interprofessional collaboration in the delivery of high-quality athletic healthcare; and
4. Provide evidence-based, clinically-relevant care to athletes and the physically active.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
The University operates in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Maine Human Rights Act, and all other appropriate civil rights laws and regulations. The University of New England does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, marital status, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental handicap, sexual preference, or veteran's status in the administration of its employment practices or in educational programs or activities. The University is committed to its Equal Opportunity Policy.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION
The UNE MSAT Program was awarded the full, ten-year continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) in 2018-19. Our current certificate expires during the 2029-30 Academic Year.

ATHLETIC TRAINING AS A PROFESSION
Please click here to access the National Athletic Trainers' Association Fact Sheet about the Certified Athletic Trainer.

PROGRAM FACULTY
Please click here to learn more about MSAT Program faculty and here to learn about our Clinical Preceptors.

HEALTH INSURANCE
Please click here to access information about the University's policy regarding health insurance.

STUDENT MALPRACTICE INSURANCE
The MSAT Program provides malpractice insurance for all students enrolled in the professional phase of the program in the amount of $1,000,000 per incident and $3,000,000 aggregate. The current annual fee for this coverage is $45 per student per year in the professional phase (years 4 and 5).

PROGRAM TUITION AND FEES
The most updated information about MSAT program tuition and fees can be found here.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
The MSAT program utilizes both an online Learning Management System (e.g., D2L Brightspace) for each course as well as the ExamSoft® testing platform. All students are required to have their own laptop computers or a similar device (e.g., tablet) with the capability of accessing these programs. Minimum requirements are below:

- Chromebooks, Linux, and Android devices are NOT permitted
- Operating system of Windows 11 or newer
- macOS of 26 (Tahoe), 15 (Sequoia), or 14 (Sonoma)
- Intel i3 or Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3) or higher
- 8 GB of memory (RAM), although 16 GB is recommended for optimal performance
- At least 4 GB of hard drive storage
- Screen resolution of at least 1920 x 1080 dpi
- Webcam and microphone capability for remote coursework

ATRACK™ ONLINE PLATFORM ACCESS
The MSAT Program requires that students maintain their own documentation of required information (e.g., OSHA Training, First Aid/CPR certification, clinical hours) on the ATrack™ online platform. Access information to the platform will be provided to each student by the Coordinator of Clinical Education. The annual student registration fee for ATrack™ will be paid by the MSAT Program.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS TRAINING POLICY AND PROCEDURE
Policy: Each student enrolled in the professional phase of the UNE MSAT Program must undergo an annual training and evaluation to ensure compliance with OSHA standards for the handling of infectious body fluids before being placed in direct contact with patients/athletes (e.g., observation hours, clinical experience rotations).

Procedure: Each student must complete the annual Bloodborne Pathogens WebCT Tutorial found on her/his Learning Management System (e.g., Brightspace) site. Please contact the Coordinator of Clinical Education for access.

It is the responsibility of the student to submit proof of this annual training on ATrack™ each year BEFORE beginning clinical experience rotations or observation hours.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY AND PROCEDURE
Policy: The University of New England and its MSAT Program are committed to providing a safe working, living, and learning environment for its faculty, staff members, and students. Students who have communicable diseases (including tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, or HIV infection) will not be barred from working, teaching, residing, or participating in University-sponsored activities or attending classes at UNE unless the

individual poses a substantial threat to himself/ herself or others. This policy will further address the diseases that pose a potential threat to the University community due to rapid transmission of infection to, and/or among employees and students. Examples of such infectious diseases include, but are not limited to acute meningitis, acute respiratory illnesses (especially influenza or respiratory illness associated with international travel), possible or known tuberculosis, vaccine preventable viral illnesses (i.e., measles, mumps, rubella, whooping-cough or pertussis), viral conjunctivitis (pinkeye), community-acquired methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) skin infections, and others.

Procedure: The office responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed on a day-to-day basis is UNE Student Health Services. Student Health Services can be reached at (207) 602-2358 or 207-221-4242

If it is determined that an individual medical condition and/or activities represents a public health hazard and/or warrants limitation of activities, only essential persons will be informed on a need-to-know basis of an individual medical condition. The Maine CDC will be consulted if there is a possible or known epidemic. The effected person will be apprised of the names of those persons who have been so informed. No information will be disclosed concerning the medical condition of any person diagnosed with HIV infection except as authorized by law.

MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY
The terms of the Leave of Absence and the policy in its entirety will be provided to the student at the time any Leave of Absence is imposed. Students may obtain a copy of the policy from the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs or online at http://www.une.edu/studentlife/handbook/.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)

Policy: Safety of the students, patients, and other healthcare providers is critical to the health and well-being of all. Healthcare practitioners can reasonably anticipate that the will encounter blood and/or other potentially infectious materials. Therefore, **all students must complete the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens training on D2L Brightspace prior to beginning their clinical rotations** and must be compliant with OSHA and universal precautions requirements, including the use of gloves, care of sharp objects, use of eyewear, protective clothing, and other precautionary measures.

Procedure: Students will be sent a message prior to the start of the fall semester with instructions to complete the OSHA course on D2L Brightspace. After reviewing the course material, students must successfully complete a quiz to test their knowledge of the content. A score of 80% or better must be earned to receive credit for passing the course. In the event that students fail to reach the minimum score, they must retake the quiz. All students must demonstrate successful completion prior to being permitted to report to their assigned clinical site.

EMERGENCY CARDIAC CARE/FIRST AID POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Policy: Each student enrolled in the professional phase of the UNE MSAT Program must maintain current certification in both Standard First Aid and Emergency Cardiac Care throughout her/his experience in the clinical education portion of the program. Students who do not hold current certification in Emergency Cardiac Care and Standard First Aid (or similar) will **NOT** be allowed to participate in clinical rotations.

Procedure: The MSAT Program will make every effort to offer annual certification and re-certification opportunities for students at convenient locations/times.

It is the responsibility of the student to upload proof of this current training to ATrack™ each year.

1. Proof of current certification in Emergency Cardiac Care* that includes a minimum of the following:
    a. Adult & Pediatric CPR
    b. AED
    c. 2nd Rescuer CPR
    d. Airway Obstruction
    e. Barrier Devices (e.g., pocket mask, bag valve mask)

*Courses that meet the minimum requirement include, but are not limited to American Heart Association

ACLS, American Heart Association BLS Healthcare Provider, and American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer. Further information regarding CPR requirements can be found on the Board of Certification Emergency Cardiac Care website.

2. Proof of current certification in Basic First Aid* that includes a minimum of the following:
   a. Burns & Wounds
   b. Splinting & Bone/Joint Injuries
   c. Sudden Illness
   d. Shock
   e. Controlling Bleeding
   f. Head/Neck/Back Injuries
   g. Heat/Cold Emergencies

*Courses that meet the minimum requirement include, but are not limited to American Red Cross First Aid Basics.

PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION/HIPAA COMPLIANCE

Policy: In their role as a part of the healthcare team, students will have access to patients' health information. It is essential that the students understand the importance of maintaining confidentiality regarding this knowledge. This includes both the written and spoken word. As such, each student will be required to complete annual Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training.

Procedure: Students will be sent a message prior to the start of the fall semester with instructions to complete the HIPAA course on D2L Brightspace. After reviewing the course material, students must successfully complete a quiz to test their knowledge of the content. A score of 80% or better must be earned to receive credit for passing the course. In the event that students fail to reach the minimum score, they must retake the quiz. All students must demonstrate successful completion prior to being permitted to report to their assigned clinical site.

COMPORTMENT

Policy: The MSAT Program has a long tradition of exceptional professionalism. All students enrolled in the program are expected to comport themselves as mature, engaged adults when participating in AT Program-sponsored events. Profanity, harassment, physical or mental abuse of others, and disrespect toward faculty and/or supervisors will not be tolerated.

Procedure: Any student who is suspected of being in violation of this policy will be given a written warning by either the CCE or PD that shall include a specific description of the infraction and instructions regarding reconciliation. Students who continue to violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action that could include suspension from clinical experience and/or expulsion from the MSAT Program.

COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA

Policy: Athletic training students in the Professional Phase of the program are expected to use the highest standard of professionalism when communicating with UNE faculty, staff, and administrators, as well as off-campus instructors, coaches, parents, patients and/or athletes. This includes communication via electronic methods such as email, text messaging, and social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, SnapChat).

Procedure: Students are expected to use the respondents' formal title (e.g., Professor, Mr., Mrs., Dr.) when addressing written and verbal correspondence unless instructed otherwise by the recipient.

Students are to avoid the use of colloquial and/or informal language when conducting official correspondence related to their enrollment in the program (e.g., email and phone messages).

Students should take care to remove all inappropriate material from social media sites as this may negatively impact their reputation with current and future clinical preceptors and employers.

Students should NOT discuss official program business that is considered confidential vial social media networks.

Students suspected of being in violation of this policy will be given a written warning by either

the CCE or PD that shall include a specific description of the infraction and instructions regarding reconciliation. Students who continue to violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action that could include suspension from clinical rotation and/or expulsion from the MSAT Program.

FRATERNIZATION

Policy: Fraternization, dating, or other inappropriate behaviors with minors and/or student-athletes at any of our affiliated sites is at best unethical, and at worst illegal. Similarly, fraternizing with or dating adult student-athletes or clinical preceptors is strongly discouraged.

Procedure: Any student who is suspected of being in violation of this policy will be given a written warning by either the CCE or PD that shall include a specific description of the infraction and instructions regarding reconciliation. Students who continue to violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action that could include suspension from clinical experience and/or expulsion from the MSAT Program.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Policy: All information concerning athletes and/or patients must be strictly confidential. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action that may include termination from the MSAT Program.

Procedure: In addition to compliance with the Protected Health Information/HIPAA Compliance policy, HSA and MSAT students are required to review and sign the Student Oath of Confidentiality prior to beginning their first observation/clinical rotation experience.

DRESS CODE

Students enrolled in the Professional Phase of the MSAT Program are expected to dress professionally when attending classes, clinical rotation experience sites and/or MSAT Program-sponsored events (e.g., guest lectures, practical examinations, community outreach events). Specifically, students should:

1. Wear a UNE MSAT Program polo shirt whenever possible (the program purchases two shirts per student admitted to the professional [e.g., graduate] phase of the program).
2. Wear a collared shirt in good condition when an MSAT Program polo shirt is unavailable. Shirts that project inappropriate or culturally offensive language and/or imagery may NOT be worn.
3. NOT wear blue jeans, cut-offs, jean shorts, or shorts that are unreasonably short.
4. NOT wear skirts, tank tops (unless specifically instructed to for the purposes of classroom or laboratory instruction), or any other clothing that inhibits movement.
5. NOT wear sandals, flip flops, or other open-toed shoes. Athletic or dress shoes are preferred.
6. NOT wear hats in the athletic training clinic or other indoor facilities. Hats that are in good condition and in good taste may be worn outdoors or in the ice arena.
7. Wear the program-provided nametag when visiting clinical settings (with the exception of athletic training clinics, unless required by the site supervisor).
8. Be sure that visible body piercing is limited to the ears and nose, and must be appropriate in size and shape so as not to interfere with patient care.
9. Refer to this guide when the dress code for an event is “Business Casual.”

In general, students should always dress as a respected member of the athletic training profession when representing the UNE MSAT Program. If both UNE and a particular clinical site have a dress code, the stricter of the two will be in effect for the duration of the student’s clinical rotation assignment. Any student who arrives at an affiliated site or MSAT Program event unprofessionally dressed may be asked to leave and may be referred to the Coordinator of Clinical Education or Program Director for disciplinary action that could include suspension from clinical experience or expulsion from the MSAT Program.

SECTION TWO

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: PRE-PROFESSIONAL (UNDERGRADUATE) PHASE
The University of New England MSAT Program employs a two-tiered admissions process that consists of a pre-professional phase and a professional phase. High school seniors and transfer students from other institutions must meet the minimum requirements for admission/transfer as published by the UNE Undergraduate Admissions Office.

Once accepted into the major, undergraduate students must apply to the professional (graduate) phase of the program in the fourth year of matriculation. Please refer to the UNE Graduate Admissions Office for more information about this process.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: PROFESSIONAL (GRADUATE) PHASE
All first-year and transfer students are required to undergo a secondary admissions process during the second semester of their fourth year. Please refer to the UNE Graduate Admissions Office for more information. Minimum requirements for acceptance into the Professional (graduate) Phase of the program are as follows:

1. Completion of the following courses with a "C" or better: BIO 208/209, EXS 310, EXS 320, and BIO 309
2. Completion of the following courses with a "C minus" or better: CHE 110 and PHY 110
3. Cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher*
4. Compliance with MSAT Program Technical Standards
5. Compliance with program immunization requirements

*Per WCHP policy, students may be accepted with a GPA lower than 2.5 if they demonstrate strength in other areas. Decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION: PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM
The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) Program at The University of New England is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. The technical standards set forth by the MSAT Program establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]). The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students in the Professional Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will be subject to dismissal. Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam.

Candidates for selection to the Professional Phase of the Program must demonstrate:

1. the mental capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm;
2. sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients;
3. the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice;
4. the ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately;

5. the capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress;
6. the perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the athletic training program as outlined and sequenced;
7. flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations; and
8. affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the Professional Phase of the MSAT Program will be required to verify that they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain reasonable accommodations, they can meet the standards.

Candidates who would like to explore available reasonable accommodations prior to applying to the program are encouraged to contact the **Student Disability Access Center**.

No accommodation will be authorized that would jeopardize clinician/patient/athlete safety, cause an undue burden, lower programmatic standards or substantially modify the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

All students applying for admission to the Professional Phase of the MSAT Program are required to submit proof of receipt and comprehension of these standards. Compliance with the Technical Standards does not guarantee eligibility for the BOC Certification Examination.

RETENTION & PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

Please click here for information published in the official 2026-27 UNE Catalog regarding the retention & progression requirements for both the Undergraduate and Graduate/Professional Phases of the AT Program.

ACADEMIC REMEDIATION POLICY

Goal

To provide all students with the opportunity to 1) remediate academic performance that falls below program standards and 2) successfully complete the program.

Examination Remediation Policy

Any student enrolled in the graduate phase of the program (i.e., coursework at the 500-level and above) must earn a "C+" or better on each written examination to establish minimum competency. If a student fails to earn a "C+," s/he is required to complete a minimum competency remediation process with the course instructor prior to the next examination. An examination may only be remediated once, and the maximum grade allowed is a "C+." Although every unsatisfactory examination must be remediated, each student may only have two examination grades per course adjusted. Failure to achieve minimum competency following remediation will result in the student's referral to the Student Development Committee (SDC) of the Department of Exercise and Sport Performance for review and action, which may include a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

Procedure

1. Any student who does not earn a "C+" (77%) or higher on a written examination must remediate the assessment.
2. The course instructor/coordinator will create a remediation plan to address minimum competency and share the plan with the student in writing (e.g., email) within two (2) business days of the grade release.
3. The student must complete the remediation requirements prior to the next scheduled examination in the course.
4. The instructor/coordinator will enter the new grade as appropriate. The maximum grade allowed is a "C+," and although every unsatisfactory examination must be remediated, each student may only have two grades adjusted per course.

Course Remediation Policy

Any student enrolled in the graduate phase of the program (i.e., coursework at the 500-level and above) must earn a "C+" or better (77%) in each required course (or a "P" in each Pass/Fail course). If a grade of "C+" or "P" cannot be achieved, then the student will be referred to the SDC and a remediation plan will be developed in

conjunction with the course faculty. Once reviewed and approved by all parties, the student will have two weeks to satisfactorily execute the plan. The Change of Grade will then be submitted by the faculty member primarily responsible for the course. The highest grade permitted following successful remediation is a "C+." **Please note that for those students enrolled in the fourth (4th) year of the accelerated MSAT, this will delay successful completion of the program and conferral of the BSHS-AT degree, as well as official matriculation into the graduate phase of the program for at least one full year.**

Procedure

1. Instructors of MSAT coursework will notify the Program Director of any student who will not likely achieve a course grade of "C+" or better or "P" as soon as reasonably possible.
2. The Program Director will refer the student to the SDC.
3. The SDC will convene and create a plan in conjunction with course faculty for the student to remediate sub-standard academic performance. This plan will be shared with the student in writing no greater than five (5) business days from the official end of the course.
4. The student will have two (2) weeks from the date of notification to complete all required work outlined in the remediation plan.
5. If all required work in the remediation plan was completed to the satisfaction of course and program faculty, the instructor of record will submit a Change of Grade into the official record. The maximum grade allowed following course remediation is a "C+."
6. If the student is not able to successfully remediate the course, s/he/they will need to repeat it and will be referred to the Program Director for administrative review that may include suspension of clinical education privileges and/or program dismissal. Courses may only be taken twice.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

The University of New England and the MSAT program embrace new technologies that can enhance the delivery of education and healthcare. However, use of Artificial Intelligence to complete an assignment in MSAT courses is prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. If the use of AI is permitted by the instructor, students must adhere to the guidelines for acceptable AI use by students found here: AI at UNE | University of New England in Maine.

RESOLUTION OF GRIEVANCE/CONFLICT OTHER THAN ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

A student conflict or grievance with a faculty member/clinical preceptor/course coordinator should be addressed first directly with the person(s) involved. If a satisfactory resolution is not achieved, students may request a review by contacting the Program Director. The director has the discretion to address the concern directly or to refer the matter to the Student Development Committee for review. Students may also reach out to the WCHP Dean as per the guidelines in the UNE Student Handbook.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT WITHDRAWAL AND REFUND POLICY

Please click here for published information regarding student withdrawal and refunds.

ACADEMIC MASTER PLAN

The Master of Science in Athletic Training program has been constructed as an entry-level, five-year program in a 3+2 format. Students can enter the program in one of two ways: as incoming first-year students or as post-graduate students who hold a Bachelor of Science degree and have successfully completed prerequisite coursework. **Incoming first-year students will earn both a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences – Athletic Training and the MSAT, with courses in the fourth year counting toward both degree programs.**

The first three years represent the Pre-Professional Phase and consist of courses such as Biology (8 cr), Anatomy and Physiology (8 cr), Chemistry (4 cr), Physics (4 cr), English Composition (4 cr), Psychology (3 cr), Sociology (3 cr), Statistics (3 cr), Kinesiology/Biomechanics (3cr), Exercise Physiology (3 cr), Pathophysiology (3 cr), Public Speaking (3 cr), Public Health (3 cr), and Human Gross Anatomy w/cadaveric specimens (3 cr). Many of these courses have a laboratory component to facilitate greater understanding and application of the material on the part of the students.

Woven throughout the Pre-Professional phase courses that fulfill the UNE Nor'easter Core Curriculum such as creative arts and humanities electives. FYS 110 Nor'easter First Year Seminar, for example, is a class that is required of all undergraduate students and was designed to explore the emotional, social, and academic considerations for a successful transition into college. Through regular reflective writing, group projects, and guided discovery, students will engage in a

journey of self-discovery and connection, examining the experiences and beliefs that shape who they are today and envisioning the path(s) they wish to pursue at UNE.

The sole Pre-Professional course that incorporates athletic training knowledge and skills is ATC 105 Intro to Athletic Training (3cr). ATC 105 is meant to provide a foundation of the history of athletic training and its basic skills in order to build/maintain students' enthusiasm for the profession. Although skills such as taping/wrapping are introduced, students are not expected to achieve mastery and all content that relates specifically to an Athletic Training Educational Competency is re-introduced and evaluated at the graduate level of the program. This course is open to non-athletic training majors as well.

Internal candidates for the Professional (Graduate) Phase of the program must apply during the spring of year four and may receive conditional acceptance pending successful completion of all prerequisite coursework. External candidates must apply and have successfully fulfilled all admission criteria by February 15th of any given year. Failure to do so may delay the student's registration for Fall coursework.

The graduate program begins in the fourth year of the accelerated MSAT (or year one of the stand-alone program) with the didactic courses ATC 500 Foundations of Athletic Training w/lab (3cr), ATC 502 Examination of Orthopedic & Athletic Injuries I w/lab (3cr), ATC 520 Clinical Reasoning in Athletic Training (3cr), and ATC 535 Athletic Performance & Conditioning, a course that will provide the necessary background to prepare a student to sit for the National Strength & Conditioning Association's Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) credentialing examination upon completing the degree.

Year four of the MSAT program is also critical in that students will be given their first opportunity to work directly with athletes and patients under the supervision of a clinical preceptor. ATC 525 Clinical Rotation I (5cr) and ATC 550 Clinical Rotation II (4cr) engage the student in the field of athletic training for a minimum of 225 hours and 180 hours, respectively. Clinical assignments include the UNE Athletics Department, local high schools and colleges, as well as various other healthcare settings in and around Southern Maine. All experiences are monitored closely by the program's Coordinator of Clinical Education and specific educational and behavioral outcomes are measured.

Year four also includes courses such as ATC 504 Examination of Ortho & Athletic Injuries II w/lab (3cr), ATC 515 Physical Agents in Athletic Training (3cr), ATC 530 Rehabilitative Techniques in Athletic Training w/lab (4cr), ATC 540 General Medical Conditions in Athletic Training (3cr). These classes are designed to align with simultaneous clinical rotation experiences to allow the students to put theory into practice as soon as possible.

Summer I of the program incorporates ATC 545 Pharmacology in Athletic Training (3cr) and ATC 600 Administration of Athletic Training Programs (3cr), along with newer courses such as ATC 605 Manual Therapies in Athletic Healthcare (3cr) and ATC 551 Athletic Training Clinical Rotation III (1 cr). ATC 605 will expand on theories and techniques related to the students' use of their hands to diagnose and treat various musculoskeletal conditions and incorporate appropriate material from the disciplines of massage therapy, osteopathy, and physical therapy. ATC 551 will provide students with exposure to non-sport patients in settings such as primary, urgent, and acute care clinics.

The final year of the MSAT program aims to culminate the graduate experience through courses like ATC 630 Athletic Training Immersive Clinical Rotation I (6cr) and ATC 645 Athletic Training Immersive Clinical Rotation II (6cr). Each course presents the opportunity for an immersive, unopposed, full-time clinical rotation with a minimum of 240 hours that can occur at UNE-affiliated clinical sites. At the close of each semester, students will complete a two-day, on-campus residency which will include a review of both didactic content and clinical skills. ATC 625 Psychosocial Interventions in Athletic Healthcare (3cr) focuses exclusively on athletic training educational competency related to the psychosocial interventions required of practicing athletic trainers. It will be delivered in an online format to allow flexibility for the immersive experience. ATC 630 Graduate Seminar in Athletic Training is designed to prepare students for the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer credentialing examination and entry-level employment, incorporating skills like resume/cover letter writing, interviewing, and salary/benefits negotiation.

Lastly, graduate students will have the opportunity to refine and present clinical case studies and/or original research in a ATC 655 Graduate Capstone in Athletic Training (1cr). The total number of credits for the five-year MSAT program is 159, with 62 being delivered at the graduate level. External candidates who already have a BS degree will only be required to complete years four and five consisting of 62 credits.

Accelerated MS in Athletic Training Degree w/Nor'easter Core

FALL I		SPRING I		Total
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	
BIO 104 General Biology w/lab (Sc. Method)	4	EXS 120 Personal Health & Wellness	3	
PSY 105 Intro. to Psychology (Human Health)	3	MAT 120 Statistics (Quant. Reasoning)	3	
WRT 110 First Year Writing (FYW)	3	SOC 150 Intro to Sociology (PKJ Social Science)	3	
FYS 110 First Year Seminar (FYS)	3	Human Experience or PKJ Elective	3	
		ENV 104 Intro Environmental Issues (HNE)	3	
	13		15	28

FALL II		SPRING II		
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	
BIO 208 Anatomy & Physiology I w/lab	4	BIO 209 Anatomy & Physiology II w/lab	4	
CHE 110 General Chemistry I w/lab	4	PSY 250 Lifespan Development (HE/PKJ)	3	
PUB 200 Public Health	3	SPC 100 Effective Public Speaking (Creativity & Arts"	3	
ATC 105 Intro to Athletic Training	3	NUTR 220 Nutrition	3	
		EXS 180 Motor Learning & Performance	3	
	14		16	30

FALL III		SPRING III		
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	
ATC 300 Special Topics in AT	1	ATC 333 Human Gross Anatomy w/lab	3	
PHY 110 Physics I w/lab	4	ATC 420 Research Methods	3	
Humanities Elective (Humanities)	3	BIO 309 Pathophysiology (Deeper Dive)	3	
EXS 310 Kinesiology & Biomechanics	3	EXS 320 Exercise Physiology	3	
General Elective	3	IHS 310 Ethical Practice in the Health Professions	3	
	14		15	29

TRANSITION/ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL PHASE & GRADUATE COURSEWORK

FALL IV		SPRING IV		
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	
ATC 500 Fundamentals of Athletic Training	3	ATC 504 Examination of Athletic & Ortho Injuries II	3	
ATC 502 Examination of Athletic & Ortho Injuries I	3	ATC 515 Physical Agents in Athletic Healthcare	3	
ATC 520 Clinical Reasoning in Athletic Training	3	ATC 530 Rehab Techniques in Athletic Healthcare	4	
ATC 525 Athletic Training Clinical Rotation I	5	ATC 540 Gen Medical Conditions in Athletic Healthcare	3	
ATC 535 Athletic Performance and Conditioning	3	ATC 550 AT Clinical Rotation II	4	
	17		17	34

COMPLETION OF BSHS-AT DEGREE (121 CREDITS)

SUMMER IV	
Course	Credit
ATC 545 Pharmacology in Athletic Healthcare	3
ATC 600 Administration of Athletic Training Programs	3
ATC 605 Manual Therapies in Athletic Healthcare	3
ATC 551 Athletic Training Clinical Rotation III	1
	10

FALL V		SPRING V		
Course	Cr	Course	Cr	
ATC 625 Psychosocial Interventions in Athletic Healthcare	3	ATC 610 Graduate Seminar in AT	2	
ATC 630 Athletic Training Immersive Clinical Rotation I	6	ATC 645 Athletic Training Immersive Clinical Rotation II	6	
		ATC 655 Graduate Capstone in AT	1	
	9		9	18
Revised August 2026				

PARTICIPATION IN VARSITY ATHLETICS
Please click here to access the MSAT Program's policy regarding students' participation in varsity athletics:

ACADEMIC ADVISING/STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER
Each student is assigned to a faculty mentor at the time of enrollment into the program. This person continues as the advisor for the duration of student's time in the Department, unless the student or advisor requests a change through the Department Chair.

Each campus has a dedicated Student Academic Success Center where students can receive peer and professional tutoring, writing support, and more. For more information about academic advising policies and procedures, please contact the program director.

STUDENT DISABILITY ACCESS CENTER
UNE seeks to promote respect for individual differences and to ensure that no person who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission to, and continued enrollment at, the University is denied benefits or subjected to discrimination at UNE solely by reason of his or her disability. Any student eligible for academic accommodations due to a documented disability is encouraged to speak with the professor in a timely manner. Registration with UNE Student Access is required before accommodation requests can be granted. For more information about the Student Disability Access Center on both campuses, please click here.

SECTION THREE

Board of Certification (BOC) Examination Preparation

Goal
To provide a clear and objective method to assess students' preparedness to challenge the entry-level credentialing examination in athletic training – the Board of Certification (BOC) exam.

Policy
The athletic training program will provide BOC examination endorsement to only those students who are either in their final semester of study and have demonstrated success on a program-approved cumulative content examination or have completed all the requirements for the MSAT degree.

Procedure
1. Each student enrolled in the final semester of the program will be provided with two (2) BOC Self-Assessment Exam voucher codes. The recommendation will be that at least one of the codes be used to take a Self-Assessment Exam in "study" mode and the other in "test" mode. Each student must be in good standing with the program to receive these codes.
2. Once a student feels adequately prepared, s/he/they may request to be given a program-approved cumulative content examination. This computer-based examination will consist of 175 questions related to the five domains of athletic training (see Fig. 1 below) and will be administered either remotely using a secure proctoring protocol or in-person if security cannot be assured. A maximum of four (4) hours will be allotted for the test – unless the student has a documented accommodation with the UNE Student Access Center – and no study materials will be allowed during the test.
3. **Only those candidates who have demonstrated their ability to correctly answer 77% of the questions will be endorsed to register for the BOC examination prior to completing their degree requirements.** The program will provide additional voucher codes as necessary, not to exceed a total of six (6).
4. Candidates who choose to wait until they have completed the degree requirements to register for the exam (i.e., after May 15th) do not have to undergo the endorsement examination process, however they are strongly encouraged to utilize the same methods to prepare and to assess their readiness.

Domain	Description	Percent of Items on Exam
I	Risk Reduction, Wellness, and Health Literacy	20.0%
II	Assessment, Evaluation, and Diagnosis	25.6%
III	Critical Incident Management	20.8%

IV	Therapeutic Intervention	25.6%
V	Healthcare Administration and Professional Responsibility	8.0%

Fig. 1 Practice Analysis, 8th Edition Exam Blueprint

SECTION FOUR

CLINICAL EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Students enrolled in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program at the University gain valuable clinical experience under the supervision of Certified Athletic Trainers and other qualified healthcare providers beginning in the first semester of their graduate coursework. One of the hallmarks of our program, graduates typically have over 900 hours of practical experience when they leave.

Athletic Training Clinical Rotation I (ATC 525) and II (ATC 550) establish fundamental knowledge and skill base in areas such as emergency management of catastrophic athletic injuries, proper fitting and use of protective and prophylactic equipment, anthropometric measurement, advanced taping and wrapping techniques, and basic evaluative skills such as goniometry, strength and neurological assessments, and selective tissue testing. The required number of hours for these courses are 225 and 180 per semester, respectively, and each student is assigned to a Clinical Preceptor for the duration of the semester.

Reflecting the expansion of practice settings for Athletic Trainers, Athletic Training Clinical Rotation III (ATC 551) will provide students with exposure to non-sport patients in settings such as primary, urgent, and acute care clinics. During this rotation, students have the opportunity to work with physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

ATC 630 and ATC 645, Athletic Training Immersive Clinical Rotations I and II, will challenge students to integrate injury assessment knowledge and skills with rehabilitation techniques and clinical decision making, while increasing exposure to the athletic training profession by requiring nearly 500 hours of clinical experience in the fall & spring of the final year. Due to the unopposed nature of these rotations, settings can include high schools, colleges/universities (often NCAA Division I), hospitals, outpatient sports medicine clinics, physical therapy settings, primary care offices, pediatric facilities, professional sports, professional dance centers, and occasionally, industrial locations.

Assessment of student performance occurs at all levels of the clinical experience plan, with preceptors evaluating professional behaviors and clinical proficiency. Formative evaluations are done at mid-semester, and summative assessments occur at the endpoint of the rotation. Summative assessment grades are incorporated into the overall grade for the corresponding course. Progress is monitored by reflective posts in which students are asked to share about their learning in an online dialogue with their peers and the CCE. At the conclusion of each clinical rotation, students will create a case study which they will record and post to the learning platform.

Students also provide AT Program faculty with formative evaluations of their supervising preceptor and site. The Coordinator of Clinical Education and Program Director strongly consider student feedback when making decisions about the addition/retention of affiliated sites and preceptors.

AFFILIATED SITES

Please click here for a list of our affiliated sites.

CLINICAL HOUR REQUIREMENT / RELIEF DAY POLICY

The MSAT Program believes strongly that the experience a student gains through his/her clinical experience is a critical component to his/her education. With respect to the required hours for successful completion of the Clinical Experience coursework, the MSAT Program is dedicated to ensuring that student experiences are centered on quality versus quantity. During the first two Clinical Rotation courses (ATC 525/550), students are required to obtain a minimum of 10-15 hours per week and between 135 and 225 hours throughout the course of the semester. It is also MSAT Program policy that during the first two clinical rotation courses (ATC 525/550) students exceed no more than 30 hours per week and 275 hours per semester. Exceptions to this policy occur during the immersive rotation courses (ATC 630/645), where it is expected that students will acquire approximately 40 hours per week. In addition to the policy regarding hours, students are required, during ALL clinical rotations to have comparable days off. UNE Athletic Training Students are required to have a minimum of one relief day from clinical rotation per calendar week.

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for selection into the Professional Phase of the MSAT Program must demonstrate compliance with program immunization requirements. Students must insure that they are up to date with all required immunizations and that records are reflected in the Exxat® platform once they've been given access. **Any student identified as being non-compliant with respect to immunizations will be suspended from the clinical site until s/he can demonstrate current immunization status. This has the potential to prevent the student from meeting the requirements for successfully completing the clinical practicum course.** Because the immersive rotation provides opportunities for a student to gain clinical experiences outside of the state of Maine, s/he must ensure that s/he meets the appropriate immunization requirements for healthcare workers of the state and/or clinical site where the training will occur. Please click here for the current MSAT Program Immunization Requirements.

TRANSPORTATION
Because the MSAT Program employs multiple off-campus sites for clinical experience, each athletic training student admitted to the Professional Phase of the program must have her/his own transportation. Although every effort is made to accommodate students with extenuating circumstances (in-season athletes are commonly assigned to the UNE Athletic Training Clinic, for example), driving distances/times of 30 miles/40 minutes are not uncommon. Any student who is having difficulty attending her/his clinical experience site should contact the Coordinator of Clinical Education.

APPLICATION OF THERAPEUTIC MODALITIES and OTHER SKILLS
MSAT students may apply therapeutic modalities (e.g., ultrasound, electrical muscle stimulation, moist heat) to athletes/patients ONLY when under the direct supervision of program faculty or a preceptor. Students MUST be instructed in the technical application of all modalities – either by program faculty or the preceptor. All safety precautions and contraindications must be adhered to at all times; and no athletic training student may change or modify a treatment without permission from the supervising preceptor.

SUPERVISION
In order to ensure athlete/patient safety, while athletic training students are on clinical experience, he/she will be directly supervised by a preceptor as designated by the MSAT Program. Direct supervision is defined by the CAATE as: *"The Preceptors must be onsite and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student and the patient. Supervision also must occur in compliance with the state practice act of the state in which the student is engaging in client/patient care. If the patient/client care is occurring via telehealth or telemedicine, then the preceptor must concurrently monitor the patient/client care through appropriate telecommunication technology."*

On such occasions when the preceptor must leave the students unsupervised (e.g., to tend to an athlete on another field) the athletic training students may only provide medical care in accordance with their training and certification in First Aid and Emergency Cardiac Care.

FINANCIAL RENUMERATION
MSAT students may receive financial remuneration during the clinical education experience, however these situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, must not interfere with the educational mission of the program, and must comply with all UNE policies.

HARASSMENT & DISCRIMINATION
Harassment and/or discrimination of other students, athletes, patients, staff, etc.is a severe breech of professional ethics. Harassment and discrimination can take many forms including but not limited to sexual harassment (including sexual preference discrimination), gender discrimination, racial/ethnic discrimination, religious discrimination, sport-based discrimination, socioeconomic discrimination, etc. No form of harassment or discrimination will be tolerated and students engaging in such discrimination in classes or clinical experiences will be immediately removed from the experience. An ongoing pattern of harassment / discrimination may be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Sexual Harassment Complaint Procedures
Any suspected instances of sexual harassment should be reported to the Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCE).

Sexual harassment includes any behavior of a sexual nature that is, or may be perceived as, being unwelcome or offensive. Sexual harassment, by its very nature, violates the basic right of everyone to be treated as a person worthy of respect, and is in direct contradiction to the UNE mission. It is also a violation of state and federal laws. A link to the UNE Title IX sexual harassment grievance policy can be found here.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Once a student has been admitted into the Graduate/Professional Phase of the MSAT Program, s/he will be assigned

to a preceptor before the start of each semester. Once assigned, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Contact the preceptor as soon as possible to establish a meeting.
2. Review her/his/their schedule with the preceptor and identify days/times for participation at the site.
3. Arrive on time, dress appropriately, and behave professionally at all times.
4. Inform the preceptor of scheduled absences at least two weeks in advance, and unscheduled absences 24 hours in advance, whenever possible.
5. **Students may not miss more than six (6) clinical rotation experience days per academic year, no more than three (3) per semester.** Students should follow the procedures as listed above. Missing more than six days (extenuating circumstances would need to be discussed with the Program Director and Coordinator of Clinical Education) could result in failure of the course.
6. Communicate with the preceptor as s/he/they would an employer.
7. Assume full responsibility for the learning that takes place during the rotation.
8. Report any issues/situations that could negatively affect the learning experience to the Coordinator of Clinical Education.
9. Serve as a mentor for less experienced students assigned to the same site.

Any student who fails to meet expectations for comportment and/or clinical progression will be subject to administrative action using the following procedure:

1. The Preceptor will discuss the situation with the student directly about the specific behaviors that require correction and expectations for resolution. If no resolution is achieved;
2. The Preceptor will contact the student and the Coordinator of Clinical Education (CCE) in writing about the infraction and the student will be required to meet with the CCE and to discuss the situation and outline specific goals for restitution. If no resolution is achieved;
3. The student will be suspended from clinical experience rotation until such time as the situation can be resolved satisfactorily. The student will be referred to the Program Director for disciplinary action that may include expulsion from the MSAT Program.

ACCIDENT/EMERGENCY REPORTING

In the event of an accident or emergency either on- or off-campus, students should follow the guidelines and procedures outlined on the UNE Office of Safety and Security for "Non-Employee Accidents and Injuries."

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND UNDERSTANDING

All students enrolled in both the accelerated 3+2 (HSA) and stand-alone graduate MSAT programs will be provided with the most current version of the AT Student Handbook at the beginning of each fall semester and will be required to electronically acknowledge receipt and understanding. Documentation of acknowledgement will be retained in the program office.