The Athletic Training (AT) Program at South Dakota State University is one of the accredited athletic training curriculums in the United States accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Our Athletic Training major is designed to meet the criteria to maintain accreditation while preparing students to become athletic training professionals and take the Board of Certification (BOC) national certifying examination for athletic trainers. In addition to the completing the required courses, students must successfully complete the proficiencies associated with clinical education as well as clinical experiences under the supervision of appropriately credentialed preceptors.

Application for admission into the Athletic Training major can begin during or after a student’s sophomore year (approximately 32 credit hours). The AT program accepts one new group of students each year during the Fall semester and employs a secondary selective admissions process. This is a competitive process as each year there are more students applying than can be accepted. The number of students accepted into the AT program (UG and entry-level Graduate) is limited to 20 students.

**The minimum selection criteria are as follows (please see technical standards also):**

1. Interest and desire of student to become an athletic trainer.
2. Successful completion (C or better) of the following courses:
   - AT 164: Introduction to Athletic Training (2 credits)
   - BIOL 221: Anatomy (4 credits)
   - PE 354: Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries (2 credits)
   - BIO 325: Human Physiology (3 credits)
3. Competed application process which culminates with a letter of interest, three letters of reference and personal interview. (See Below)
4. Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better
5. Completion of an athletic training observation record. (described below)
6. Verification and demonstration of Technical Standards
7. Completed Health Assessment

**If accepted, the following criteria are necessary to continue in the athletic training major:**

1. Normal progress towards completion of required courses, clinical education and clinical experiences, including completion of proficiencies.
2. Maintain cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better.
3. No grade of a D or F will be accepted on any athletic training assignment or course work (this includes not only AT prefixed courses but also supporting courses).
4. Positive performance evaluation each semester.
**Program Policy on Extracurricular Activities:**

The clinical experience design for athletic training students (ATS) involves regular daily, evening and weekend commitments by the ATS. If a student chooses to continue in an extracurricular activity, it is the student’s responsibility to adjust their extra-curricular activity according to their clinical experience schedule. If a student plans on continuing with an extracurricular activity, including work, club sports, intramural sports, University sanctioned clubs, etc.), the student should meet with the ATP clinical coordinator to discuss this issue. Although extracurricular activities are not prohibited, they have to be redirected to avoid direct conflict with completion of the clinical experience.

**Program Policy on Participation in Varsity Athletics:**

This policy pertains to individuals who are interested in entering the professional phase of the SDSU Athletic Training Program and continue participation in varsity athletics. The faculty and staff recognize that students involved in athletic participation may have a high interest in entering the profession of Athletic Training. However, the demands of participation in varsity athletics directly conflict with the clinical experience available to students entering the clinical portion of the major. In general, we ask that students who wish to continue playing a sport, delay their application into the program so that their first year in the SDSU AT program is within their last year of sport team eligibility. Therefore, they would complete their final year in the SDSU AT program after their eligibility is completed. In essence, we are asking for one full year dedicated to the AT program after their eligibility is finished. Students who wish to continue in Varsity Athletics should meet with the Program Director to discuss this issue early in the application process.

**Timeline of the Application Process**

The application process for the AT program will take place over the entire school year. Deadlines, specific activities and requirements are included below along with explanations of why and what is expected. Final application materials will be due on April 15th. Successful candidates will be given an opportunity to sign up for an interview that will be completed before the end of the semester.

**Goals of the Application Process**

1. To actively assist students in their decision to become an athletic trainer and an athletic training student at South Dakota State University.
2. To allow the selection committee an opportunity to determine student desire and readiness to begin a professional program in athletic training.

**Objectives of the Application Process**

1. Increase the student’s awareness about the profession of Athletic Training.
2. Increase the student’s awareness about the Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training.
3. Improve the student’s readiness for entry into the clinical experience.
4. Allow the student an opportunity to positively reflect on experiences and observations regarding their decision and desire to become an athletic training student.

**Overall Application Outcomes**

At the completion of this application process, the student should be able to:

1. Positively reflect on their experiences and observations regarding their decision and desire to become an athletic training student.
2. Describe characteristics of athletic trainers and the profession of athletic training and relate their reflections towards their own personal characteristics and desire to become an athletic trainer.
3. Describe the athletic training program as it exists at SDSU, what they will bring to the program as well as their expectations of what they hope to gain from the program.
4. Compare and contrast the diversified practice settings for athletic trainers and discuss their career goals within the potential of practicing in these settings.
5. Demonstrate readiness to begin the academic and clinical experience of the AT program.

**Requirements and Directed Observations**

I. **Semester Meetings:**

**Purpose:** The meetings are an opportunity to collectively bring students together who are interested in becoming an athletic trainer, provide continued information on the application process, attempt to answer questions and address student comments. For the faculty, we have the opportunity to track continued interest in applying to the AT program.

**Schedule of Dates:** TBA

**Outcome Measure:** Sign in on attendance record

**If a student is unable to attend a meeting, he or she should notify and schedule a meeting time with the clinical coordinator to obtain the information and/or handouts provided.**

II. **Outside Observations**

**Purpose:** Encourage students to observe or shadow a certified athletic trainer(s) in a practice setting outside of SDSU. In this effort, students will become aware of the variety of professional settings for the athletic trainer.
How: Students should accumulate a **minimum of (10) hours** over the year of observation time with a certified athletic trainer from one or more of the practice settings for athletic trainers. Certified athletic trainers may practice in a variety of settings including, but not limited to: High School/Teacher, College/University, Clinic/Hospital/Outreach, Industrial and Professional Sport.

Arranging Observations: Students are responsible for arranging their own observations of practicing certified athletic trainers. If a student is not sure of where to observe a certified athletic trainer, they can consult with SDSU faculty for suggestions.

How to Observe:
1. When arranging observation times, student should identify himself or herself by name and as a prospective student for the athletic training major at South Dakota State University.
2. Arrange a time that is convenient with the athletic trainer.
3. Be on time or slightly early for the observation.
4. Dress appropriately, ie. nice slacks, khaki pants, dress T-shirt, polo shirt, etc. – please remember what may be fashionable may not be professional.
5. As an observer, you are not expected to be an active participant, but you may have some questions, etc. for the athletic trainers. Please remember that it may be difficult for the athletic trainer to discuss specific cases because of confidentiality issues.
6. Be prepared to follow the rules and regulations as described by the host certified athletic trainer.

Outcome Measure:
1. Verification sheet with phone number and signature of certified athletic trainer observed.
2. Journal Entry which should include the following:
   A. Items you learned during your observations.
   B. Items you are still unsure about following your observations.
   C. Did this (these) observations enhance or change your idea of athletic training and how?

**Note: You may be deciding among different medical and/or allied health professionals and may choose to shadow other professionals – HOWEVER – only hours with a certified athletic trainer will count towards these (10) hours of outside observation.**
III. SDSU Observations

Purpose: Allow students to become familiar with the operations and people involved in the SDSU AT program and Sports Medicine personnel.

Guidelines

(1) Overall: Students are asked to complete (2) blocks of observations for the year. Observations will be completed with current SDSU AT program second year students. ALL observations need to be completed by MARCH 7, 2014.

(2) What is a “Block” of Observation Time? A block consists of (4) observations per sport or assignment. Potential sports or assignments are listed below. It is encouraged that students complete all (4) observations per block before starting another block.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL SPORTS</th>
<th>WINTER SPORTS</th>
<th>SPRING SPORTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>Softball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Spring FB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Outreach</td>
<td>High School Outreach</td>
<td>High School Outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC/Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>CC/Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>CC/Track &amp; Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) What constitutes an observation? An observation for a sport includes being present at pre-practice, through practice and post practice activities. Although not required, one of your observations may include observing at a competition.

Arranging Observations: Students are responsible for arranging their own observations. For the sport teams at SDSU, students may arrange their blocks through the Second Year Athletic Training Student. See the attached phone list.

How to Observe:
1. When arranging observation times, the student should identify himself or herself by name and as a prospective student for the athletic training major at SDSU. The first contact should be made via email or verbal phone call. **Please call at a reasonable hour. DO NOT use text messaging for the first contact.
2. Arrange a time that is convenient with the second year athletic training student.
3. Be on time or slightly early for the observation.
4. Dress appropriately, i.e. nice slacks/khaki pants/shorts, dress T-shirt, SDSU t-shirt, polo shirt, etc. – what may be fashionable may not be professional.
5. In regards to specific cases, please remember that it may be difficult for the student or staff athletic trainer to discuss specific cases because of confidentiality issues. Please bring questions to the observations.

Outcome Measures:
1. Students will maintain signatures on the verification of hours form.
2. After each block, the student should produce a written reflection about the observation time during that particular block. Each log entry should be no more than one (1) page. The reflection should include comments about:
   A. Items you learned during your observation.
   B. Items you are still unsure about following your observation.
   C. Did the observation block enhance or change your idea of athletic training, the AT program? Why or Why not?

3. At the completion of the block, the prospective student will give the second year athletic training student an evaluation sheet. These evaluation sheets will be submitted directly to the AT program clinical coordinator by the second year athletic training students. ** Note: Waiver policy.

IV. Psychomotor Competencies

Purpose: Athletic Trainers perform a large variety of psychomotor skills during their practice. Prospective students should be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of proficiency for the selected skills of PE 354: Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries in order to:
   1. Be prepared to begin clinical education and clinical experience assignments the following fall.

Guidelines: Prospective students will receive a proficiency packet, containing most wrapping and taping procedures, during PE 354: Prevention and Care of Athletic Injuries. Students will be asked to practice these proficiencies, not only through the course, but also through the entire year. Practice and competency will be recorded as partner/peer signatures as well as verification from second year athletic training students.

Outcome Measures:
1. Proficiency packets will be submitted as part of the final application.
2. Proficiencies should have the required peer and athletic training student signatures.
3. Demonstration of several skills will take place during final interview.
V. Completion of the Application Process

Submission of Application Materials
The application process to the SDSU Athletic Training Program will be completed by the last week of classes. Students will be asked to submit the following items to the clinical coordinator by April 15th.

1. Formal Application Form
2. Letter of Interest/Essay Format
3. Journal: Items should be computer generated:
   (A) Outside Observations:
       Verification of (10) Hours/Signatures
       Written Reflection in Essay Format
   (B) SDSU Observations:
       Verification Form/Signatures
       Written Reflection in Essay Format – One page for each block
4. Letters of Recommendation (3) (sent from recommenders)
5. ATS Recommendation Forms (2) (submitted from athletic training students)
6. Proficiency packet containing wrapping and taping procedures (may be submitted at time of interviews)
7. Completed Health Assessment

VI. Interview

Granting of and signing up for an Interview

Qualified candidates will be granted an interview, which will take place during the last week of the spring semester. The interview consists of a verbal interview. Students will be able to sign-up for an interview time at the final meeting date for the year.

Interview Committee

The interview committee generally will consist of the following people:

   Host: 1-2 First Year Athletic Training Students

   Verbal Interview:
   (4) AT Faculty or Staff Members
   (1) Preceptor
   (1) Graduating Second Year ATS
   (1) HNS Program Advisor
Release of Grades

Candidates will be asked to sign a waiver allowing the SDSU AT program faculty to review their grades prior to final selection. This is completed prior to the interview.

Confidentiality

We ask that interviewing candidates not discuss their interview (including questions, answers, skills, etc) with other candidates until all interviews are completed. Also, if any candidate has questions about their interview, selection or any part of the process, they should visit with the AT Program Director rather than other members of the interview committee. Candidates will be asked to sign an Agreement of Confidentiality prior to the start of their interview.

VII. Notification

Prospective students will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance to the Athletic Training Program approximately one to two weeks following the release of final grades.

Contact Information:

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
Trevor Roiger EdD, AT
South Dakota State University
SIM 116 BOX 2203
Brookings, SD 57007-1497
P: 605-688-5824
Trevor.roiger@sdstate.edu

CLINICAL COORDINATOR:
Mary Beth Zwart EdD, AT
South Dakota State University
SIM 116 BOX 2203
Brookings, SD 57007-1497
P: 605-688-5325
Marybeth.zwart@sdstate.edu