University of Delaware  
Athletic Training Education Program  
Admissions Criteria

Eight (8) criteria are evaluated as part of the admission process in accepting students into the Athletic Training Education Program: (ranked in order of weighting importance high to low)

1. Prerequisite Courses GPA *
2. Clinical Evaluations *
3. Interview *
4. Overall GPA
5. Directed Observation Hours
6. Letters of Recommendation #
7. Essay #
8. Clinical Competency Evaluation and Palpation Checklists

* equal weighting    # equal weighting

In evaluating the criteria, different ranking scales (1-5, 1-10, etc) are used. In each case the top student in each criteria would receive the lowest (“best” rank) number awarded.

In order to adhere to CAATE-accreditation standards regarding student: faculty ratios, UD’s ATEP will only accept between 16-20 students at the conclusion of the ATI experience. These accepted students will then begin the formal Athletic Training major beginning with the Fall semester of their sophomore year.

The eight (8) criteria are evaluated in the following manner:

1) **Prerequisite Courses GPA** – A total of four classes (KAAP155, KAAP210, KAAP220 and KAAP240) are used to calculate the Prerequisite Courses GPA. Students MUST earn a B- or better grade in these four (4) **Prerequisite Courses** to be considered for admission into the Athletic Training Education Program. The candidates’ GPAs are ranked from high (best) to low (worst). The student with the highest GPA receives a score of (1); this number is then multiplied by two (1 X 2=2) for a total score of two. We continue scoring the students until everyone receives a score. We weight this criterion more heavily than others because we believe the Prerequisite Courses GPA is a very good predictor for success in our program.

2) **Clinical Evaluations** - Students are required to complete a series of clinical rotations during the “interest phase” of the program. UD ATEP believes that the exposures and experiences associated with clinical rotations are an important part of the ATI student’s growth and professional development; however, our accrediting agency CAATE clearly mandates that “athletic training students must be officially enrolled in the program prior to performing skills on patients”. This includes such rudimentary skills such as securing an ice bag, performing flexibility exercises, placing hot packs, simple massage techniques, etc… ATI students however, can
practice/refine the skills they have been taught in class, clinic, and in-service workshops on other ATI students, AT students, or their preceptors to gain proficiency. The ATI clinical experience is formally evaluated by their preceptors at the conclusion of each rotation. Clinical performance is critiqued on areas involving both “Skills/Abilities” and “Personal Attributes”. A Likert scale (0-5) is used in this process. The overall evaluation score that combines both “Skills/Abilities” and “Personal Attributes” is averaged across all rotations. Higher evaluation scores are best. The evaluation scores for each student would be rank ordered from highest (best) to lowest (worst). The Clinical Evaluations are scored using the same format used with Prerequisite Courses GPA. We weight this criterion more heavily than others because we believe the Clinical Evaluation score is a very good predictor for success in our program.

3) Interview – Candidates seeking admission into the ATEP are given a formal interview conducted by the athletic training faculty/staff/students in May of each year. Each evaluator uses a standardized scoring rubric. At the end of the interview process the score for each candidate is totaled and then divided by the number of evaluators to get an overall interview score. Higher scores are better. The Interviews are scored using the same format used with Prerequisite Courses GPA. We weight this criterion more heavily than others because we believe the Interview is a very good predictor for success in our program.

4) Overall GPA – Students must attain a minimum 2.75/4.00 overall GPA to be considered for admission into the Athletic Training Education Program. Overall GPA’s of all students applying for admission are rank ordered from highest (best) to lowest (worst) until all students are ordered. The best GPA is given a rank of 1, followed by 2, 3, 4, etc… until all have been ranked. In cases where students have the same GPA, they will all receive the same rank score.

5) Directed Observation Hours – Student are assigned by the Coordinator of the “Athletic Training Interest” program to a variety of clinical venues to gain valuable directed observation hours. We feel that 50 hours per rotation (5-7 hr./week) is a reasonable goal for students to strive for. With this in mind 200 hours total should be the goal. Therefore, students who achieve 200 hours or more will receive the best rank score of (1). Students between 190-199 (2), 180-189 (3), 170-179 (4), 160-169 (5), 150-159 (6), 140-149 (7), 130-139 (8), 120-129 (9) and 110-119 (10) and 100-109 (11). Students falling below 100 will receive a rank score of (12).

6) Letters of Recommendation – Students seeking admission into the ATEP will be asked to secure three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest for their personal attributes, potential for success in UD’s ATEP, and perhaps even their clinical abilities. Each athletic training faculty/staff member reads the three letters of recommendation and gives them a numerical score of between (1 [excellent]- 5 [poor]). All letters of recommendation are read independently. The scores from all the evaluators are added together and then divided by the total number of evaluators. The averaged score is then recorded and used in the ranking process. The total number of candidates applying for admission to the program is divided by (10). For example, if twenty students apply, 20 is divided by 10 and the result is 2. In cases where a number falls between whole numbers (i.e. 2.6) the number would either be rounded up or down depending on where it fell on the scale. 2.5 would be rounded upward to 3, whereas 2.4 would be rounded downward to 2. This value is then used to determine the number of groupings (1, 2, 3, 4, …. ). We then rank the letter scores of the students from high (best) to low (worst). Using the example above, the students would then be placed in groups of 2 with the top two students receiving a score of (1). The next two highest letter scores would receive a score of (2). We continue scoring the students until everyone receives a score.

7) Essay – Students seeking admission into the ATEP will be asked to write an essay as to why they should become a part of UD’s ATEP. Each athletic training faculty/staff member reads the essays and gives them a numerical score of between (1 [excellent]- 5 [poor]). All essays are read independently. The scores from all the evaluators are added together and then divided by the total number of evaluators. The averaged score is then
recorded and used in the ranking process. The Essays are scored using the same method as used for Letters of Recommendation.

8) Clinical Competency Evaluation and Palpation Checklists - Students MUST complete the “Clinical Competency Evaluation Checklist” and the “Palpation Checklists” throughout the course of the academic year [September – May] to be considered for admission into the Athletic Training Education Program.

When all the criteria have been scored/ranked, the eight (8) scores are added together, to make a grand total score. The candidate with the lowest (“best”) grand total score is ranked as the first candidate who will be offered admission to the ATEP. We then rank the others accordingly.