UNM MSAT Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 10/4/2021

General Program Questions

- What are some unique aspects of UNM’s athletic training program?
  - UNM offers a variety of clinical education sites, including NCAA Division I athletics, secondary schools, and military clinical settings. The program includes a semester-long immersive clinical experience that can be completed locally or potentially in other states. While the required core curriculum focuses on preparing future athletic trainers for clinical practice, we also offer a thesis option for those interested in pursuing research. The athletic training program has 2 dedicated simulation spaces and 2 dedicated hybrid lecture/laboratory classrooms. Lastly, your tuition includes several benefits including some attire, annual CPR certification fees, and funding for professional development opportunities.

- When does the program start, and how long does it last?
  - The MSAT program is a 2-year program that starts in early July and goes through mid-May each year. Students will not have any academic or clinical education obligations from mid-May to early July each year and will have about 3 weeks off during the winter holiday break.

- What is the average weekly time requirement for the program?
  - Students should anticipate spending about 30-40 hours per week on coursework (including in-class and out-of-class work) and 20-30 hours per week at clinical education experiences. This may fluctuate by semester.

- Can I complete the program on a part-time basis?
  - No. The program, including coursework and clinical education experiences, must be completed on a full-time basis in a specific sequence.

- Do I need a vehicle to complete this program?
  - Yes, students must have reliable personal vehicle transportation to access their clinical sites. Students are not permitted to rely on public transportation or bicycle for transportation.

- Do I need a computer to complete this program?
  - Yes, students will need bring a reliable laptop or tablet to most classes to successfully complete the program.

- How do I know whether I should choose the coursework only or Thesis option?
  - We recommend that all students start with the coursework only option. If students are interested in the thesis option, they should discuss with the program director as soon as possible. Students should declare the Thesis option no later than Spring of the first year of the program.

Financial Aid and Program Cost Questions

- How much does the program cost?
  - Students can find the base university tuition and fees at http://bursar.unm.edu/. Students will also pay a tuition differential of $75 per credit hour. There are no course or lab fees – these are included in the tuition differential.

- What does the tuition differential include?
The tuition differential covers program-specific expenses such as equipment, supplies, simulations and standardized patients, annual CPR recertification, and a clinical documentation system. The tuition differential also includes 2-3 articles of clothing and $100 towards professional engagement (e.g. conference registration and attendance, NATA membership) each year. Students will need to pay their Board of Certification exam fee when they are ready to take the exam.

- What additional costs can I expect?
  - In addition to required tuition and fees, students should expect to pay for books, transportation to clinical sites, background checks ($50/year), professional liability insurance (~$35/year) and any additional professional attire they would like beyond what is provided by the program.

- Do I have to be a New Mexico state resident to receive in-state tuition?
  - Not necessarily. UNM’s program is a part of the Western Regional Graduate Program, where you may be eligible for resident or discounted tuition if you are a resident of one of 16 WICHE member states and territories. Learn more here: https://www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wrgp/

- What financial aid is available?
  - We do not have program-specific scholarships or financial aid. We recommend students complete a FAFSA to learn their individual financial aid opportunities. Students can apply for College of Education and Human Sciences scholarships, found here: https://coehs.unm.edu/current-students/scholarships/index.html. Students can also apply for scholarships through the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA) at www.natafoundation.org.

- Can I work during the program?
  - We do not recommend that students hold a job during their time in the program (July-May) due to the robust time required to complete coursework and clinical education experiences. If students choose to work during the program, work hours must be scheduled around courses, clinical education experiences, and other required program activities (e.g. interprofessional education events, program meetings, etc.)

- Does the program offer any assistantships?
  - No graduate assistantships are available for this program.

Admissions and Application Questions

- When do you admit students?
  - We have one admissions cycle each year. We begin reviewing applications on December 1st and continue on a rolling basis until April 15th or the cohort is filled.

- How do I apply to the program?
  - Apply to the program through ATCAS at https://atcas.liaisoncas.com/. All transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other application materials should be submitted through ATCAS. Do not submit any of this information via email or to UNM directly. You will apply to the UNM Graduate School later in the admissions process. Do not submit an application to UNM’s Graduate School until you are instructed to do so by the UNM Athletic Training Faculty.
• Do observation hours need to be completed in a certain time frame?
  o No. For example, if you observed a secondary school athletic trainer as a high school student and you are applying to the program 5 years later you can submit those hours as long as they are verified. However, we do recommend that observation hours are completed within the last 5 years so you have an understanding of contemporary clinical practice.

• How should I document my observation hours?
  o Observation hours can be documented on a log sheet or in a letter from the supervising athletic trainer. We recommend that documentation includes the following information: your name, supervisor’s name, their BOC certification number, their state licensure or credential (if applicable), the number of hours observed, and the approximate dates completed.

• Can I submit my application if I am still completing my prerequisite courses and/or observation hours?
  o Yes, you may apply to the program with some requirements in progress. All prerequisite courses must be completed prior to starting the program in July. Admissions to the AT program is contingent upon successfully completing all required prerequisites.

• What undergraduate degree do you recommend I complete?
  o You can complete any bachelor’s degree as long as you complete the required prerequisite courses. If you are attending UNM as an undergraduate requirement, we recommend the B.S. Exercise Science degree. Most or all prerequisites can also be completed with the B.S. Nutrition & Dietetics and B.S. Emergency Medical Sciences degrees offered at UNM.

• What do I do if I am unsure that a prerequisite course I have taken meets your requirements?
  o Email the UNM athletic training program director with questions about prerequisite courses. Please provide a course description and ideally a course syllabus with your request.

Clinical Education Questions

• Am I able to select my preceptors and/or clinical sites?
  o All athletic training students must complete certain clinical experiences that meet program requirements. However, students’ career goals and experiences are considered when assigning clinical education experiences, especially the immersive clinical experience.