

So You Want to be a...

WHAT DOES AN ATHLETIC TRAINER DO?

Athletic Trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

WHAT DEGREE DO I NEED TO BECOME AN ATHLETIC TRAINER?

A graduate degree will be required for a career as an Athletic Trainer in the next few years (2022). Students must complete an accredited Athletic Training program and pass the Board of Certification (BOC) exam. Graduate programs all have specific prerequisite courses that must be completed with a C or better grade before applying. The following programs in California are entry level master's programs that lead to certification, University of Laverne, University of the Pacific, Azusa Pacific, California Baptist University and 2 universities are moving to the master's level this year Cal State Fullerton, and Point Loma, SDSU and SJSU (in progress) (Chapman's program is closing). Most programs require observation hours with a certified athletic trainer. The following schools still only offer bachelors programs with no indication of moving to the master's level CSU Long Beach, Northridge, Sacramento. CSU Fresno and Concordia are on probation.

Athletic Trainer

Salary: Median Annual Wage (2018) \$47,510
California: \$58,060

WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK FOR AN ATHLETIC TRAINER?

Employment of Athletic Trainers is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. Athletic Trainers work in educational settings, such as colleges, universities, elementary and high schools. Others work in hospitals, fitness centers of physicians or PT offices or for professional sports teams.

DO I NEED ANY CERTIFICATIONS OR LICENSURE?

Upon completion of a Commission of Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE-<https://caate.net/>) accredited athletic training education program, students become eligible for national certification by successfully completing the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) examination <http://www.bocac.org/athletic-trainers>.

Common Pre-requisite courses for Master of Athletic Training Programs:

- Anatomy and Physiology I and II
- Biomechanics, or equivalent
- Physiology of Exercise
- General, Abnormal, or Developmental Psychology
- Introductory or General Statistics
- Introductory or General Nutrition
- Basic Health & Wellness
- Foundations of Athletic Training with a lab
- Introductory or General Chemistry
- Introductory or General Physics