

MERCYHURST  UNIVERSITY

# Professional Athletic Training Program Athletic Training Student Handbook

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### **Mercyhurst University Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (BSAT) Program Mission**

The mission of the professional athletic training program at Mercyhurst University is to provide the student with the necessary didactic, theoretical, and clinical skills and experiences required to qualify for the BOC examination. In the spirit of the core values of Mercyhurst University, athletic training students shall achieve this by becoming self-aware, culturally competent, and ethical healthcare professionals prepared to enter the allied health field.

### **Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program Vision**

The Mercyhurst University professional athletic training program aspires to offer an extensive academic and clinical experience with devoted faculty to ensure the professional and personal growth of each student pursuing BOC certification.

### **Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program Accreditation**

In June of 2020, the athletic training major received re-accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CaATE) through 2029/2030. With this accreditation firmly in place the program will prepare students for a variety of entry-level positions in athletic training or to seek advanced degrees in the allied health sciences. In addition to academic course work and vast clinical experiences it will help students develop the ability to think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively and become a complete well rounded clinician and contributing member of society. After completing this program, students will be eligible to take the [Board of Certification examination](#) to become a certified athletic trainer.

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the program stopped admitting students into the BS program. Per the 2020 Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs (henceforth referred to as “2020 Standards”) requirements, the new entry-level Master’s in Athletic Training program launched in the Summer of 2021. The final BS cohort will graduate in the Spring of 2023.

### **Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program Educational Goals**

#### **Program Goal 1: Clinical Knowledge**

ATS will be able to demonstrate advancing clinical proficiency emphasizing sound principles of clinical research and critical thinking skills culminating into a system of quality patient care.

#### **Program Goal 2: Academic Knowledge**

Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize and critically analyze their knowledge in the classroom that ultimately is representative of a qualified professional in the field.

#### **Program Goal 3: Professional Responsibility**

ATS will be prepared to make a difference in the world by demonstrating the common values and behaviors of the AT profession while employing professional excellence and ethical leadership.

#### **Program Goal 4: Socially Merciful**

Students will embody the mercy mission and demonstrate dispositions essential to becoming role models for the athletic training profession.

## **Mercyhurst University Sports Medicine Principles: Mission**

The mission of the Athletic Training program is the same as that of the National Athletic Trainer's Association, to enhance the quality of health care for our student-athletes, and to advance the profession of athletic training through education and research in the prevention, evaluation, management and rehabilitation of injuries. The Athletic Training program is responsible for the health and welfare of the student-athletes on campus. "Student-athletes" has been defined as any person participating in a Mercyhurst University-sponsored intercollegiate or club athletic activity. The Athletic Training program shall be responsible for managing the complete health needs of the intercollegiate and club student athletes.

## **Technical Standards for Admission into the Professional BS in Athletic Training Program**

*(reviewed by MU LD 11/2018)*

The Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University 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 Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University establish the essential qualities considered necessary for the 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 (caATe). The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted into the Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program. Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the B.O.C. certification exam. Candidates for the selection to the Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University must demonstrate the following:

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 the competent professional practice.
4. The ability to record the physical examination results and 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 education program as outlined and sequenced.
7. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
8. Affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to the athletic training educational program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards; or they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet these technical standards.

The Mercyhurst University ADA representative will evaluate a student who states he/she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If a student states he/she can meet the technical standards with accommodation, Mercyhurst University will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation; this includes a review of whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all course work, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

Note: Students must sign the *Technical Standards Waiver Form* located on the Mercyhurst University portal indicating their understanding of this policy.

### **Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program Academic Requirements**

Students who intend on majoring in athletic training must pass a review board process following the freshman year or when all requirements for entrance into the major have been met. For more information on the review board process please see the *Prospective Student Handbook* located on the sports medicine department portal.

The professional athletic training program at Mercyhurst University is a caATE accredited program that adheres to the standards and guidelines set forth by the commission ([www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net)). The curriculum is specifically designed to ensure all didactic and psychomotor proficiencies are mastered by the student. Students must complete all required ATR and SPMD courses along with completion of the core requirements of Mercyhurst University (*See AT Curriculum*) in order graduate with a degree in athletic training.

Students majoring in athletic training must maintain an overall GPA of at least a 2.75 to continue in the major. This is to ensure that the necessary educational competencies and proficiencies are being met with a satisfactory level of proficiency. All required ATR and SPMD courses in the athletic training major must be successfully completed with a minimum grade of "C". No major course may be taken on a pass-fail basis and students who earn less than a C in any major course or lab must repeat the course or lab. Students who are not majors (including contract majors) may not take or challenge courses offered by the Sportsmedicine Department/Athletic Training faculty without written permission from the Department Chairperson and Athletic Training Program Director.

Students must complete all clinical education requirements. Clinical assignments are a component of ATR 200, 201, 300, 301, 461 and 404.

### **Probation**

Students whose GPA falls below 2.75 will be placed on probation. Students on probation will be allowed to register for ATR and SPMD courses, continue clinical assignments and continue in the major. The student will then have two (2) terms (including summer terms) to raise their GPA to the required 2.75. Students on probation who do not have a GPA of 2.75 or higher after two (2) terms on probation will be dismissed from the program.

### **Re-Application**

Students who are dismissed may re-apply to the program at any time. It is highly recommended that students wishing to re-apply to the program following dismissal seek academic advisement for an athletic training faculty member. Once the student has met the requirements a special review board session can be held to determine acceptance into the program. Special review board sessions will be held as needed and at the discretion of the program director.

Note: Student who are dismissed from the program and re-apply may need more that four (4) years to complete the program.

### **BOC Exam**

Students successfully completing the Professional Athletic Training Program will be eligible to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) Examination during the final semester of education. However, the Program

Director must “endorse” the student if taking prior to graduation. If a student should pass the exam prior to graduation, he/she **is not** permitted to act as a certified athletic trainer in any way, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Supervision of other undergraduate athletic training students;
- Coverage of practices/competitions alone;
- Per diem work as a certified athletic trainer;
- Sign-off of and/or administer competencies, proficiencies, practical exams, etc. for other students.

It is strongly suggested that students sit for the BOC exam prior to graduation. Traditional students are typically eligible for exam dates starting in the spring of their senior year. Transfer and non-traditional students may become eligible at other times and should consult with the program director on when to take the exam.

### **Clinical Education:**

The professional athletic training program at Mercyhurst University prides itself on providing the student with a strong clinical education and producing competent clinicians. Clinical assignments are a required component of ATR 200, 201, 300, 301, 461 and 404. Each assignment is designed allow the student to transfer the skills and knowledge obtained from the classroom setting into clinical application. Clinical assignments are EDUCATIONAL experiences; they are NOT work experiences. Students receive academic credit for the experience and are not monetarily compensated in any way. **Students are required to have at least one day off every seven days;** during this time, he/she must be willing to take that time off. The student is responsible for communicating this information to the Preceptor within a reasonable amount of time (at least 24 hours in advance).

### **Mercyhurst University Medical and Health Services Affiliation**

Mercyhurst University entered into a contract with Alleghany Health Network/ St. Vincent Hospital to provide health and athletic training services to the campus community and student athletes, respectively. Educational opportunities may be available throughout the academic year, in addition to the General Medical experience. The Medical Director of the Athletic Training Program is Dr. Christopher Rial DO, through LECOM Health.

### **ATS Background Checks**

For all 1<sup>st</sup> year students (traditional sophomores) a criminal background check is required prior to starting a Level 1 clinical assignment. The student is responsible for securing this documentation and any cost associated with it. Some clinical sites may require additional background checks in which case the student will be notified prior to stating the assignment. In the case that TB testing is required (ATR 264) students have testing done free of charge in the Cohen student health center. Additional information

regarding PA State Background checks may be found below; ***the cost and requirements evolve annually and may require more than one check and/or additional checks throughout the student's academic career.***

*Note: All students are required to provide an immunization record to the program director prior to beginning clinical assignments. Also, some clinical sites require additional documentation such as background checks and TB testing. It is the responsibility of the student to meet all criteria set forth by their clinical site. When applicable the clinical coordinator will make the student aware of all requirements upon initial assignment.*

## **Clinical Assignments**

In total students will complete five (5) clinical assignments and 1 senior capstone experience. Each clinical assignment has a minimum and maximum hour requirement for the semester (see *Clinical Sequence* document). Students will be assigned to clinical sites on the campus of Mercyhurst University and to affiliate off-campus (at least one) clinical sites. Students will have an equal mix of male and female populations and be exposed to upper extremity, lower extremity, equipment intensive and general medical experiences.

Clinical assignments are made by the clinical coordinator in conjunction with the program director. Assignments are based on student's academic progression, clinical preceptor availability and quality of the clinical site. Students are notified of their assignment and contact information for the assigned clinical preceptor via email or written letter approximately 30 days prior to the start of the assignment.

### **NOTE:**

***Students are responsible for transportation to and from off-campus affiliated sites. Students are expected to have access to transportation as noted in the Mercyhurst University Catalog. Additionally, any costs associated with travel to and from the assigned clinical site(s) will be the responsibility of the student. The student assumes all liability in the event of a motor vehicle accident. Unfortunately, no monetary compensation for traveling expenses is available; however, the Program will make reasonable attempts to accommodate student experiences if transportation is limited.***

### *Preseason Experiences*

*It shall be noted that in an effort to gain the most from the clinical experiences, all students starting in the sophomore year are required to participate in a preseason camp for their assigned clinical experience beginning on or around August 15th. Hours during pre-season camps may exceed 20 hours per week, but count toward the total number of hours required for the assignment. Housing and meals are provided for the students at no charge until classes resume.*

## **Clinical Responsibilities of the Athletic Training Student (ATS)**

1. After receiving your clinical assignment, contact your clinical preceptor to schedule an orientation session.



2. During the orientation session you must complete the first page of your clinical binder (given out the first day of the corresponding course) including but not limited to: developing a weekly/monthly clinical schedule in conjunction with your clinical preceptor, and reviewing the site EAP, BBP, and institution policies relevant to athletic training students.
3. Be sure to have completed all necessary paperwork prior to the clinical assignment including providing immunization records and completing all appropriate background checks and clearances.
4. Make yourself available for the clinical assignment and consistently average the appropriate number of hours per week as denoted by the clinical experience level and in conjunction with the Mercyhurst University academic calendar. *Students should notify the clinical coordinator immediately if you feel coerced to be at your assignment longer than required or to be at your assignment during times outside of the academic year such as holidays or breaks between semesters.*
5. Be responsible for your transportation to your assigned clinical site/clinical preceptor and whenever possible carpool with other students assigned to the same clinical preceptor.
6. Communicate with the clinical preceptor consistently regarding daily clinical experience opportunities.
7. Practice competencies with clinical preceptors and peers on a frequent and consistent basis to develop proficiency.
8. Mentor and teach other students in the program and others interested in athletic training.
9. Apply critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills during your clinical experiences.
10. Be prepared for proficiency assessments on a daily basis.
11. Perform skills on patients only once didactically assessed and when directly supervised by the clinical preceptor.
12. Be willing to learn about variations in applying techniques or skills.
13. Provide honest feedback of the program's clinical experience through the clinical preceptor evaluation completed at the end of the assignment, and through the weekly journal entries and SOAP note documentation.
14. Fulfill all requirements for each clinical assignment including:
  - Completion of the orientation session with the clinical preceptor
  - Complete all required didactic and clinical proficiencies
  - Document and practice all clinical proficiencies

- Completion of all required SOAP notes done over the duration of the clinical experience
- Completion of journal entries documenting your clinical experiences as well as your experiences as a young adult
- Completion of a midterm and final evaluation from your clinical preceptor
- Completion of an evaluation of your clinical preceptor at the conclusion of the clinical experience
- Completion of a clinical site evaluation at the conclusion of the clinical experience

### **General Rules for Athletic Training Students**

The following rules are to be followed by all Athletic Training Students while engaged in clinical assignments at Mercyhurst University and affiliated sites.

1. When acting as a Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Student you should constantly behave in a professional manner. All ATS should abide by and follow the Code of Ethics established by the NATA. The student should also follow the guidelines for professional conduct that are set by his or her specific clinical preceptor.
2. Students are expected to be prompt and on time during all clinical experiences.
3. Students must be responsible and carry out all duties of an ATS as defined by the clinical preceptor.
4. Record and file all clinical hours in the clinical education binder.
5. Smoking, chewing tobacco, consumption of alcohol or drug use is STRICTLY forbidden.
  - *NOTE: Students that report to clinical assignments appearing intoxicated will be asked to leave and referred for disciplinary action which based on the level of infraction may be grounds for dismissal from the program.*
6. Never remove anything from the athletic training room without permission from your clinical preceptor or staff ATC.
7. Communicate with the clinical preceptor about the use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices during clinical assignments.
8. Refrain from crude and inappropriate language.
9. Adhere to the dress code of the assigned clinical site (see below for general guidelines).
10. Maintain appropriate personal hygiene.
11. Maintain appropriate and professional relationships with clinical preceptors, staff, and patients.

## **Clinical Education Sequence (BSAT)**

### **Level I Experience (*no longer admitting cohorts*)**

During the sophomore or first year in the program students will engage in three (3) level I clinical experiences as part of ATR 200 and 201. Students are expected to complete the minimum number of hours associated with each clinical experience (125-175 hours). Each experience will last approximately 16 weeks. Beginning dates and ending dates are dictated by the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University with the exception of experiences occurring in the fall whereas students must report for preseason camp on or around August 15<sup>th</sup>. A Level I clinical experience is considered a highly supervised experience and encompasses low risk equipment intensive experiences (EQ) and medium risk upper extremity experiences (UE).

*A level I experience is based upon several factors:*

- A 1:1 or 2:1 student to clinical preceptor ratio
- Therapeutic Modality usage: restricted to first aid (cold) until students take ATR 267/268 in the spring term then they may initiate competencies obtained.
- Decreased number of patients the clinical preceptor provides care for
- Enhanced opportunity to use skills obtained in SPMD 157, ATR 162, ATR 163 following formal instruction and evaluation in ATR200 (Pre-season period)
- Increased opportunity to use skills obtained in ATR 200, 201
- Opportunity to experience sites with combined (M) and female (F) populations.
- Opportunity to experience the adolescent and general public populations

*Level I consist of the following affiliated settings:*

### **Fall Term ATR 200**

**Minimum Hours: 100; Max Hours: 150**

- Harbor Creek High school (EQ), (MF)\*
- Mercyhurst Prep High School (EQ), (MF)\*
- Cathedral Prep High school (EQ), (M)\*
- Erie High School (EQ), (M,F)\*
- Northwestern High School (EQ), (M,F)\*
- McDowell High School (EQ), (M,F)\*
- Fairview High School (EQ), (M,F)\*

### **Spring Term ATR 201**

**Minimum Hours: 100; Max Hours: 150**

*\*\*Students will be placed in a cohort of 3-4 and will rotate through each of the following for 8 weeks each\*\**

- Mercyhurst University Baseball (UE) (M)
- Mercyhurst University Softball (UE), (F)
- Mercyhurst University Women's Lacrosse (UE), (F)
- Spring Football (EQ) (M)

## **Level II Experience**

During the junior or second year in the program students will engage in two (2) level II clinical experiences as part of ATR 300 and ATR 301. Students are expected to complete the minimum number of hours associated with each clinical experience (see *Clinical Sequence* document.). Each experience will last approximately 16 weeks with beginning dates and ending dates dictated by the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University with the exception of experiences occurring in the fall whereas students must report for preseason camp on or around August 15<sup>th</sup>. A Level II clinical experience is considered a supervised experience with increased student responsibility and encompasses medium risk equipment intensive experiences (EQ), lower extremity experiences (LE), and upper extremity experiences (UE), as well as a General Medical rotation during the spring.

*A level II experience is based upon several factors, specifically:*

- High use of therapeutic modalities (students have completed ATR 267/268)
- Heightened opportunity to implement rehabilitation protocols (students are enrolled in ATR 362/363)
- Enhanced opportunity to use skills obtained in ATR 161, 256, 262, 267,268, 362, 363
- Opportunity to experience exclusive (M) and female (F) populations.

*Level II consists of the following affiliated settings:*

### **Fall Term ATR 300**

**Minimum Hours: 150; Max Hours: 200**

Mercyhurst University Men's Soccer (LE), (M)\*

- Mercyhurst University Women's Soccer (LE), (W)\*
- Mercyhurst University Women's Volleyball (LE), (W)\*
- Mercyhurst University Field Hockey (LE), (W)\*

### **Spring Term ATR 301**

**Minimum Hours: 125; Maximum Hours: 175\*\***

**75 Clinical observation hours will be completed with traditional athletic training sites, and may include any of the following:**

- Mercyhurst University Men's Basketball(LE), (M)\*
- Mercyhurst University Men's Lacrosse (UE), (LE), (EQ), (M)
- Mercyhurst University Women's Basketball (LE), (W)
- Mercyhurst University Wrestling (LE) or (UE), (M)
- Mercyhurst University Women's Ice Hockey (LE)or (EQ), (W)Mercyhurst University Spring Football (EQ), (M)
- Penn State Behrend Softball (UE) (F)
- Penn St Behrend Baseball (UE) (M)

**\*\*General Medical includes 50 clinical hours observing various healthcare providers in the community. Experiences include the following:**

- Family Medicine Observations
- Orthopedic Surgery Observations: totaling one day in the OR
- Millcreek Paramedic Services: 12-20 hours
- Ryan Kobel (Alleghany Health PT): 8-16 hours

### **Level III Experience**

During the senior or third year in the program students will engage in one (1) level III clinical experience as part of ATR 461. Students are expected to complete the minimum number of hours associated with each clinical experience (see *Clinical Sequence* document). This experience will last approximately 16 weeks with beginning dates and ending dates dictated by the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University. Students must report for preseason camp on or around August 6<sup>th</sup>. A Level III clinical experience is considered a supervised experience with high student responsibility and encompasses a high risk equipment intensive experiences (EQ)

*A level III experience is based upon several factors, specifically:*

- High use of therapeutic modalities (students have completed ATR 267/268)
- Heightened opportunity to implement rehabilitation protocols (students have completed ATR 362/363)
- Enhanced opportunity to use all pertinent athletic training skills
- High demand for maturity of the student
- Increased time demands (average of 20-25 hours per week)
- Opportunity to experience highly competitive, high risk equipment intensive populations

*Level III consists of the following affiliated settings:*

### **Fall Term ATR 461**

**Minimum Hours: 200; Maximum Hours: 250**

- Mercyhurst University Football (EQ), (M)
- McDowell High School (AAAA)Football (EQ), (M)
- Fairview High School Football EQ/M
- Erie Otters Hockey Club (EQ), (M)
- Mercyhurst University Women's Hockey (F) (EQ)
- Mercyhurst University Men's Hockey (M) (EQ)

### **Senior Capstone Experience**

**Minimum Hours: 100; Maximum Hours: 200**

During the spring term (dates of experience to coincide with the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University) senior or third year students will engage in a senior capstone experience as part of ATR 404. During this time students are required to complete a minimum of 100 hours at a mutually agreed upon clinical site. The capstone experience is designed to allow the students to further experience the entire athletic training profession by engaging in aspects of athletic training they have not previously experienced (students have already taken ATR 364 , 461). In addition to clinical experiences the capstone experiences will encompass a required surgical observation, shadowing of physicians clinic at Mercyhurst University, case report presentations, and evidence of implementation of administrative competencies. The capstone experience is specifically designed to allow the student to choose an area or specialty that suits their interests. The capstone experience may begin prior to the spring term if necessary

*A Senior Capstone experience is based upon several factors, specifically:*

- Implementation of administrative tasks (students have completed ATR 364)
- Coordination of physician clinic and increased interaction with allied health professionals
- Knowledge of health insurance (students have completed ATR 364, 461)
- High demand for maturity of the student
- Future interests and goals of the student
- Special populations of interest to the student

*Senior Capstone Experiences can take place at any affiliated clinic site. The following sites are specifically designated for the capstone experience, but other sites may also be used:*

- Mercyhurst University Rowing UE, LE,M,F
- Mercyhurst University Men's Hockey UE, LE, EQ, REH
- Mercyhurst University ATR / Physicians Clinic GM,GEN, REH
- Millcreek Community Hospital – MAE GM, GEN, REH
- St Vincent Rehab Solutions REH, PA, GEN

## **MSAT Student Clinical Education Sequence**

### **Level I Experience: 1<sup>st</sup> Year Fall and Spring**

During the first year in the program, students will engage in four (4) level I clinical experiences as part of ATR 510 (Fall Mini 1), ATR 515 (Fall Mini 2), ATR 520 (Spring Mini 3), and ATR 525 (Spring Mini 4). Students are expected to complete the minimum number of hours associated with each clinical experience (55-110 hours). A total of 5 hours for each class will be allotted for initial and final in-class meetings, in addition to completing simulations during the final week of classes as needed. Each experience will last approximately 8 weeks but there is flexibility based on alignment of Mini Session and Clinical Rotation calendars. Supplemental clinical experiences may also be provided as they are available to promote interprofessional education and collaboration with various healthcare providers in different settings that may or may not include Certified Athletic Trainers. Beginning dates and ending dates are dictated by the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University except for experiences occurring in the fall whereas students must report for preseason camp on or around August 15<sup>th</sup>. A Level I clinical experience is considered a highly supervised experience and encompasses low risk equipment intensive experiences (EQ) and medium risk lower & upper extremity experiences (LE/UE).

*A level I experience is based upon several factors:*

- A 1:1 or 2:1 student to clinical preceptor ratio
- Therapeutic Modality usage: restricted to first aid (cold) until students take ATR 571 in the Fall term then they may initiate competencies obtained
- Decreased number of patients the clinical preceptor provides care for
- Enhanced opportunity to use skills obtained in ATR 501, 504, 508 and following formal instruction and evaluation in ATR 543/544 (LE Clinical Management) and ATR 553/554 (UE Clinical Management)
- Opportunity to experience sites with male (M) and female (F) populations
- Opportunity to experience adolescent and adult populations
- Opportunity to experience team or individual sports/activities

### **Summer Term Mini 6 (Clinical Experience and Hours roll into ATR 510)**

- Students will engage in pre-season physical exams
- Students will engage in pre-season Fall assignment experiences

### **Fall Term Mini 1 (ATR 510: Clinical Experience I); 1 credit hour**

***Minimum Hours: 55; Max Hours: 110 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The first clinical experience course is designed for level one MSAT students to engage in hands-on teaching and assessment of clinical proficiency skills required of Athletic Training students

preparing for the BOC examination. Students will engage with assigned preceptors at clinical sites to complete various hands-on skills that align with didactic content in concurrently and previously enrolled classes. The components being assessed in this course will include taping, bracing, and wrapping techniques previously discussed in ATR 501, as well as lower extremity injury evaluation components discussed in ATR 543/544. Case studies may be examined to assess appropriate implementation of these skills, as well as decision-making in patient care. Students will also be required to complete evaluations of their assigned preceptors, clinical setting, and write reflective journals throughout the duration of assigned clinical experiences.

Previously acquired student skills (didactically):

- Emergency management (splinting, CPR, spineboarding)
- Vital signs (Primary and secondary surveys)
- Hydration monitoring
- Wrapping/Taping
- Crutch fitting & ambulation

Currently enrolled in courses to learn:

- Lower extremity and upper extremity evaluation and management
- Therapeutic modalities and other interventions

**Fall Term Mini 2 (ATR 515: Clinical Experience II); 1 credit hour**

***Minimum Hours: 55; Max Hours: 110 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The second clinical experience course is designed for level one MSAT students to engage in hands-on teaching and assessment of clinical proficiency skills required of Athletic Training students preparing for the BOC examination. Students will engage with assigned preceptors at clinical sites to complete various hands-on skills that align with didactic content in concurrently and previously enrolled classes. The components being assessed in this course will include equipment fitting and removal, as well as upper extremity injury evaluation components discussed in ATR 543/544. Case studies will be examined to assess appropriate implementation of these skills, as well as decision-making in patient care. Students will also be required to complete evaluations of their assigned preceptors, clinical setting, and write reflective journals throughout the duration of assigned clinical experiences.

Previously acquired student skills (didactically):

- Emergency management (splinting, CPR, spineboarding)
- Vital signs (Primary and secondary surveys)
- Hydration monitoring
- Wrapping/Taping
- Crutch fitting & ambulation



- Completed lower extremity evaluation and management

Currently enrolled in classes to learn:

- Lower and upper extremity injury evaluation and management
- Therapeutic modalities and other interventions

**Spring Term Mini 3 (ATR 520: Clinical Experience III); 1 credit hour**

***Minimum Hours: 55; Max Hours: 110 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The third Clinical Experience class will assess students on the implementation and development of therapeutic modalities, as well as upper and lower extremity evaluation and management. Projects will be utilized to assess this component of therapeutic interventions in both classroom and clinical setting modes. Case studies and patient scenarios will challenge students to incorporate evaluation and management skills previously acquired in ATR 543/544 and 553/554 and supplement a treatment plan with appropriate therapeutic modalities or other interventions.

Previously acquired student skills:

- Upper and lower extremity evaluation and management
- Emergency management (splinting, CPR, spineboarding)
- Vital signs (Primary and secondary surveys)
- Hydration monitoring
- Wrapping/Taping
- Crutch fitting & ambulation

Currently enrolled in classes to learn:

- Therapeutic interventions (rehab)
- Strength and conditioning principles
- Axial skeleton evaluation and management

**Spring Term Mini 4 (ATR 525: Clinical Experience IV); 1 credit hour**

***Minimum Hours: 55; Max Hours: 110 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The fourth Clinical Experience class will assess students on the development and implementation of rehabilitation protocols of the lower and upper extremities as well as other aspects of human performance, including but not limited to: strength/conditioning, and nutritional concerns. Case studies and patient scenarios will challenge students to incorporate principles of rehabilitation and injury management skills previously acquired in the first year of the program, as well as skills obtained in concurrently enrolled Performance Nutrition (ATR 590).

## **Level II Experience 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Summer, Fall, and Spring**

During the second year in the program students will engage in two (2) immersive clinical experiences as part of ATR 630 (Summer Term Mini 6) and ATR 635 (Spring Term Mini 4). Students will also engage in three (3) level II clinical experiences. Students are expected to complete the minimum number of hours associated with each clinical experience. A total of 5 hours will be allotted to each class for initial/final in-person meetings and simulations when necessary during the final week of classes. Each of the three level II experiences will last approximately 8 weeks based on Mini schedules, with beginning dates and ending dates dictated by the academic calendar of Mercyhurst University except for experiences occurring in the fall whereas students must report for preseason camp on or around August 15<sup>th</sup>. Supplemental clinical experiences may also be provided as they are available to promote interprofessional education and collaboration with various healthcare providers in different settings that may or may not include Certified Athletic Trainers. A Level II clinical experience is considered a supervised experience with greater student responsibility and decision-making and encompasses medium risk equipment intensive experiences (EQ), lower extremity experiences (LE), and upper extremity experiences (UE).

*A level II experience is based upon several factors, specifically:*

- High use of therapeutic modalities (students have completed ATR 571 and 581/582)
- Heightened opportunity to implement rehabilitation protocols and other medical interventions (students are enrolled in ATR 642/643)
- Enhanced opportunity to use evaluation skills obtained in Year 1 courses (ATR 543/544, 553/554, and 563/654)
- Enhanced opportunity to integrate principles of strength & condition and nutrition aspects of patient care (students have completed ATR 528/529 and 590)
- Opportunity to experience exclusive (M) and female (F) populations
- Opportunity to experience protective equipment intensive sports/activities
- Opportunity to experience populations of varying socioeconomic status

During the second year, students will experience immersive clinical experiences. During immersive clinical placements, students do not have on-campus academic responsibilities, although an online course will be offered during each immersive experience. Students will be required to attend ALL times that the preceptor is working. Students must abide by the required clinical hours during the immersive clinical experience.

### **Summer Term Mini 6 (ATR 630 Immersive Clinical Experience I); 3 credit hours**

***Minimum hours: 175; Maximum hours: 350 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The first immersive clinical experience is designed for students to experience all aspects of an Athletic Trainer's daily work routine in various settings as part of ATR 630. Students will concurrently be enrolled in ATR 605, which will be offered as an online only course.

- Assigned to an Athletic Trainer in a traditional setting
- Student must abide by preceptor's daily work schedule and communicate regarding schedule changes
- Student must abide by clinical hours requirements of the experience
- Prior to the start of, or after, the minimum 4-week immersion requirement, students may be assigned to a preceptor in a supplemental clinical experience. This experience may last up to, but no longer than, 2 weeks.

**Fall Term Mini 1 (ATR 610: Clinical Experience V); 2 credit hours**

***Minimum hours: 115; Maximum hours: 230 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

In year two of the program, Fall Term Mini 1 experiences may be assigned based on Summer Mini 6 Immersive Experiences, with flexibility based on the Fall Mini schedule. Students will have the option to continue with preceptors in the Fall at the same clinical experience or be placed at a different clinical experience. This design will allow maximum continuity of care for long-term treatment and rehabilitation while also allowing students to be exposed to transitions between summer and traditional in-school duties that many Athletic Trainers experience. This clinical experience may be flexible based on the Immersive Clinical Experience from ATR 630.

**Fall Term Mini 2 (ATR 615: Clinical Experience VI); 3 credit hours**

***Minimum hours: 175; Maximum hours: 350 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

Fall Term Mini 2 is designed to incorporate a general medical experience. These general medical experiences may or may not overlap with previously assigned preceptors and/or experiences. Students will be assessed on various aspects of patient care, treatment, and management related to general medical conditions, illness, and injuries. This general medical experience may supplement a traditional clinical experience as well.

**\*\*General Medical includes clinical hours observing/participating with various healthcare providers in the community. Experiences include the following:**

**AHN Doctors:** Dr. Deimel, Dr. Macintosh, and Dr. St. Julian (Team Physicians)

**Spring Term Mini 3 (ATR 620: Clinical Experience VII); 2 credit hours**

***Minimum Hours: 115; Maximum Hours: 230 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

In the seventh clinical experience class, students will be challenged with greater independence in formulating patient-care decisions, with oversight from assigned clinical preceptors. Students will be concurrently enrolled in ATR 652 and 638 learn didactic content for psychosocial considerations and administrative roles that Athletic Trainers serve.

**Spring Term Mini 4 (ATR 635: Immersive Clinical Experience II); 3 credit hours**

***Minimum hours: 175; Maximum hours: 350 (5 hours allotted for initial/final meetings and simulations as needed)***

The second immersive clinical experience in the second year of the program is designed to allow greater flexibility in student clinical placement. Students will have the opportunity to engage in a clinical placement that best suits their desired career path, within the constraints of program affiliations that are available. Students will assume maximal independence in patient-care decisions, with oversight from assigned clinical preceptors.

- Assigned to an Athletic Trainer or Physician at a clinical affiliate site
- Student must abide by preceptor's daily work schedule and communicate regarding schedule changes
- Student must abide by clinical hours requirements of the experience

#### **Discrimination of Students in Clinical Rotation Assignments**

In accordance with the clinical progression model, no athletic training student will be discriminated against on the basis of gender identification, sex, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political views, socioeconomic status, physical/ mental health/ intellectual disability, race, or ethnicity. As long as the student is able to meet the Technical Standards or modifications can be made, the student is eligible to apply to and complete the AT Program. Students are required to complete a variety of clinical experiences, and selection of such experiences is designed to ensure a well-rounded, well-balanced athletic training student. If at any point the student feels he/she is being discriminated against, or witnesses any discrimination, this should be reported according to the Grievance Policy.

#### **Supervision of Students**

Clinical preceptors must be physically present and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student to provide on-going and consistent education. The clinical preceptor must consistently and physically interact with the athletic training student at the site of the clinical experience and provide instruction and/or evaluation of the *Athletic Training Educational Competencies*. If for any reason the student is left alone, no athletic training services can be rendered to patients. In the event of an emergency the student being CPR/AED certified can

intervene as a trained rescuer according to the site's EAP. Any student who is left unattended must contact the clinical coordinator immediately. **Preceptors are not permitted to be currently enrolled as students in the Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program. Therefore, regardless of class/ level standing in the AT program, no AT student may act as a preceptor or evaluator of another AT student.**

### **Travel Policy**

Traveling as part of the clinical assignment is not a requirement of the clinical education sequence. However, ***In the event the student is able to travel with the assigned clinical preceptor it is highly recommended.***

Please see the official policy on traveling in the Appendix.

When such opportunities arise students must adhere to the following guidelines

- Make sure students have their own personal health insurance card with them.
- When traveling only count clinical hours during the event and treatments, not travel time.
- Consuming alcohol is discouraged, even for students who are 21 or older. Underage drinking is not tolerated under any circumstances.
- If a player is injured enough to remain in a hospital, the ATS should return home with the team.
- If there are any serious problems that need to be addressed, here are important phone numbers to remember:
  - Program Director: Josh Long MS, ATC
  - Numbers: (814) 824 2403 (office); (440) 479-2639 (cell)
  - Email: [jlong2@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:jlong2@mercyhurst.edu)
  
  - MSAT Clinical Coordinator: Derek Beeler PhD, ATC
  - Numbers: (814) 824 2926 (office); (219) 241 9822 (cell)
  - Email: [dbeeler@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:dbeeler@mercyhurst.edu)
  
  - BSAT Clinical Coordinator: Melissa Lustic-Long MS, ATC
  - Numbers: (814) 824-2928(office); (440) 339-9357 (cell)
  - Email: [mjlong@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:mjlong@mercyhurst.edu)

### **Clinical Preceptor / ATS Ratio**

The program at Mercyhurst University strives to maintain a very low clinical preceptor/ATS ratio. At off campus affiliated setting the ratio will be no greater than 4:1 (most experiences are 1:1 or 2:1) and on campus the ration will be no greater than 6:1 (most experiences are 3:1 or 2:1).

### **Transfer Student Policy**

**\*At this time, the BS in AT Program will not be accepting any student transferring into the University.**

**Should a transfer student wish to major in Athletic Training, the student will be directed to the Pre-Athletic Training major, with the intent of applying for the MS in Athletic Training.**

Transfer students wishing to major in athletic training must adhere to the transfer student policy of Mercyhurst University as follows:

Transfer applications are processed for the fall (September), and spring (February) terms. Complete applications packets must be filed well in advance of the term students expect to enter Mercyhurst University. The student's credentials will be evaluated by the transfer counselor and/or department director upon receipt of official transcripts from all University's attended and an official high school transcript. Once this process is completed, the student will be notified of the Admissions Committee's decision.

***All transfer students must:***

1. Submit an application for admission accompanied by the \$30 application fee.
  - There is no fee for applying online.
2. Forward an official copy of the high school transcript or a copy of the GED certificate (Graduation Equivalency Diploma).
3. Submit an official transcript from each institution of higher education attended since high school graduation.
4. Supply the University with a copy of separation papers if a veteran. Evaluation of transfer credits is the responsibility of the Admission Office, the Registrar's Office, and where applicable, the major department director.

***The following guidelines are used in determining a student's class standing.***

1. No grade below C is acceptable for transfer.
2. Only credits are transferable and are recorded on a Mercyhurst transcript. Letter grades and cumulative average do not transfer.
3. Transfers must complete at least 45 credits at Mercyhurst. At least half of the credits in the major field must be taken at Mercyhurst. Therefore, the maximum number of transferable credits is 75. No more than 60 credits may be transferred from an accredited junior University.
4. Credit granted by two-year or community University's may be applied to Mercyhurst students with freshman or sophomore standing only. Transfer of such credit may not exceed 60 semester hours. Students with junior or senior status may not transfer such credits.

5. Credit will generally be granted for those courses that are reasonably equivalent in content and subject matter to existing Mercyhurst University courses.
6. No more than 6 credits in physical education activity courses are transferable.
7. No more than 12 credits of University courses taught at the high school are transferable. A minimum grade of C is required.
8. A student applying for transfer into an education major must complete the student teaching requirement through Mercyhurst University.
9. Orientation, internship, co-op, and practicum credits are not transferable. Acceptance of Credits from Other Institutions. Students transferring to Mercyhurst are required to identify all accredited and unaccredited post-secondary institutions they have attended, and ensure that transcripts from each institution are sent directly to the Admissions Office. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action. This information affects financial aid decisions as well as academic assessment.

For such students, an admissions decision will be made, in part, on the student's previous performance. Mercyhurst will review courses in which the student has earned a C or better from accredited institutions and identify placement in the student's course of study at Mercyhurst. All courses considered for meeting requirements in the major will be reviewed by the department chair within the student's first term of study.

No more than seventy five credits (total) can be transferred, and no more than fifty percent (50%) of a student's major course requirements. Mercyhurst University, upon careful review by the Office of Academic Affairs and/ or department chair, will accept a maximum of 15 credits from non-regionally accredited post-secondary institutions which are accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and legally authorized to grant specialized associate degrees or higher. Coursework will be evaluated for transfer credit, only if the content of the coursework is in reasonable conformity to the Mercyhurst University curriculum and when a grade of "B" or higher has been earned. In all cases, accepted transfer courses will carry an award of credits, but neither a grade, nor quality points will be awarded.

Transfer credits may only be applied to fulfill lower division (level 100 and level 200) baccalaureate degree requirements. Acceptance of Credits for Online Courses Credits may be accepted for an online course if it meets all requirements of the current transfer credit policy and procedures, and was taken through an accredited institution that has a physical campus offering traditional, on-campus, in person courses.

#### **Transfer Policy specific to the athletic training major at Mercyhurst University**

A student transferring to Mercyhurst University can generally become eligible as a candidate for the program after completion of the required academic course content and any associated

clinical proficiencies. A transfer student with an athletic training related background may have specific pre-athletic training courses waived if the outcomes and clinical proficiencies have been previously met as determined by the program director. In this case, students may be admitted provisionally into the program. The student must complete all pre-athletic training courses in sequential order successfully before they may apply to the program. In addition to successful completion of the course competencies and clinical proficiencies, it is strongly recommended that the student have experienced forms of directed observation in athletic training however, this is not a requirement.

A transfer student may enroll in any of the pre-athletic training courses prior to being accepted into the program, assuming that the student has met any/all course pre-requisites. However, the student may not enroll in any clinical education courses prior to being accepted into the program.

Transfer students entering the program MUST submit all documentation of previous psychomotor and clinical proficiency testing from their former institution to the coordinator of clinical education. Lack of sufficient documentation may require the student to re-test on insufficient proficiencies and psychomotor skills, and in some cases may require the student to retake entire courses.

**NOTE:**

*This policy will also be followed by Mercyhurst University students desiring to change their major to athletic training after the first 30 hours of academic course work.*

*Admission to the athletic training education program is competitive and a student wishing to pursue this major should speak with a Mercyhurst University advisor prior to registering for classes. For more information regarding the athletic training education program please contact the Athletic Training Program Director: Josh Long MS, LAT, ATC, CSCS, CES at [jlong2@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:jlong2@mercyhurst.edu) or at (814) 824 2403 (office) or (440) 479-2639 (cell).*

**Iota Tau Alpha- Alpha Theta Chapter**

Iota Tau Alpha is a nationally recognized honor society for athletic trainers. Alpha Theta is the Mercyhurst University chapter of this organization and functions as the student association for athletic training majors. Students in the top 30% of their graduating cohort are eligible for induction in the Alpha Theta chapter at Mercyhurst University.

The mission of Alpha Theta, the Mercyhurst University chapter of Iota Tau Alpha, shall be to function as a professional society for athletic training majors. Activities of the organization shall be focused around enhancing student's scholarly activity and awareness, providing service to the community and enhancing personal and public awareness of the athletic training profession.



### *Goals of Alpha Theta*

1. Provide opportunities for students to attend local, regional and national conferences and symposia
  - a. Provide funds for students to present their undergraduate student research
2. Provide service to the community
3. Provide an avenue for student to get involved with the larger professional organizations of athletic training and to promote the profession throughout the community

### *Induction into Iota Tau Alpha- Alpha Theta*

Iota Tau Alpha is a nationally recognized honor society for athletic training students sponsored and recognized through the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA). Students in the top 30% of their graduating cohort are eligible for induction in the spring semester of the junior (Level 2) year. Induction into Iota Tau Alpha requires students to meet specific academic, scholarly, and service related criteria. Official induction into Iota Tau Alpha is for members of Alpha Theta that have met these requirements.

### **Athletic Training Club**

The Athletic Training Club, once a combined entity with ITA, is a campus-recognized club open to any student interested in athletic training.

#### *Membership*

The Athletic Training Club is a *Recognized Student Club and Organization (RSCO)*. Any member of the Mercyhurst community is permitted to join. Students majoring in athletic training are strongly encouraged to participate in the organization.

### **Professional Memberships and ATrack**

All students are strongly encouraged to maintain a student NATA membership. Membership in PATS and EATA is highly suggested, as well.

The Professional Program uses ATrack Online to log clinical hours, mid-semester and final clinical evaluations, student evaluations or Preceptors and Clinical Sites, and will be phasing into use for tracking competency and proficiency completion. All students are required to purchase a one-time, lifetime membership to ATrack Online. The program director will provide any necessary instructions for ordering.

All preceptors, excluding General Medical and select Capstone (ATR404) preceptors, will also be required to have an account with ATrack Online, which will be provided by the Mercyhurst Professional Program.

### **NATA / PATS Scholarship Information**

Scholarships for upperclassmen Athletic Training Students are available through the National Athletic Trainers Association, the Pennsylvania Athletic Training Society and the Eastern Athletic Training Association. Applicants must be at least a junior in University, have a 3.2 GPA, be sponsored by a certified athletic trainer, and must be a NATA /PATS member for a minimum of 1 year. It is NOT REQUIRED BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that all athletic training majors join the NATA.

### **Certifications**

Athletic training students are required to be certified in CPR/ AED with Supplemental Oxygen for the Professional Rescuer through the American Red Cross. Students will then receive the necessary re-certifications at the beginning of each academic year. Students are responsible for all costs of certifications and re-certifications, which includes a certification card, face mask, and book. Both are required to be renewed every other year.

### **Immunization Records**

Upon official acceptance into the program the student must provide an immunization record to be kept on file with the program director prior to starting clinical assignments. Immunizations will require, at a minimum, the following:

- Hepatitis B series;
- DTaP (every 10 years);
- MMR;
- Varicella;
- Annual flu vaccine;
- SARS- COV-2 vaccine- full dosage must be on file with the University and with the BSAT CEC

Students unable to produce records will not be permitted to begin their clinical rotations.

### **ATS Blood Borne Pathogens**

All ATS are required to follow all OSHA universal precautions against blood-borne pathogens while attaining clinical hours. An OSHA lecture must be attended each year and an attendance sheet and compliance form must be sign at this time. Students will not be permitted to begin clinical hours until OSHA training has been completed during the pre-season orientation, held each year in August. Failure to comply with these guidelines may lead to disciplinary action. Please see the Appendix for the Communicable Disease Policy and the Blood-Borne Pathogens Policy.

## ATS Background Checks

Per the changing Pennsylvania Commonwealth laws regarding observation of and working with minors, the Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program will require the following background checks to be completed and submitted prior to the start of the Level 1 Clinical Rotations:

- Total cost of background checks: \$36.85
- **Act 33 (child abuse clearance)**
  - Cost: \$13
  - Completed online; results should be available quickly
  - <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- **Act 34 (PA State background check)**
  - Cost: free (select "Volunteer")
  - Cost if considered employee (depending on school district): \$13
  - Completed online; results should be available quickly
  - <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>
- **Act 73 (FBI fingerprinting/ background check through IDEMIA)**
  - Costs: approx. \$23.85
  - Takes 2-4 weeks for results
  - Go to <https://uenroll.identogo.com/>
  - Enter Service Code 1KG6XN (specific code for the Pennsylvania Dept. of Ed) or Service Code 1KG6ZJ (Dept of Human Services, depending on clinical assignment)
  - Select Schedule or Manage Appointment
  - Proceed through the application
  - Please bring a photo ID to your appointment
  - Your results will be sent directly to your mailing address.

## Dress Code

Athletic Training Students are expected to dress in a professional manner at all times. A professional appearance portrays confidence, knowledge and positively promotes the athletic training profession.

### Athletic Training Room Attire:

- 1. Shirt:** A collared shirt, dress T-shirt, or sweatshirt with a Mercyhurst University logo or affiliated site is permitted. A collared shirt, dress T-shirt or sweatshirt with no advertisement designs is also permitted. \* **Shirts will be tucked in\***
- 2. Pants:** **No yoga pants or blue jeans will be permitted.** Khakis or casual pants, such as a warm-up suit is permitted. Obviously, dressing for the weather allows for variation with this.

- 3. Shorts:** Casual shorts of appropriate length are permitted. This is simply measured by the length of your arm by your side. Remember, this isn't a fashion statement. It's a professional setting where the focus shouldn't be on what you look like, rather it is on the skills that you are refining and service that you are providing. **No jean shorts, cut-offs, or extremely tight or baggy shorts permitted.**
- 4. Footwear:** Shoes and socks are to be worn at all times. No sandals, Crocs, Birkenstocks, etc. Please consider functionality when selecting shoes.
- 5. Hats + Sunglasses:** No hats or caps are to be worn in the athletic training rooms, but can be worn on fields. Please remove sunglasses when inside, unless a documented need is on file with the University.
- 6. Jewelry:** No excessive jewelry is to be worn, i.e. long, bulky necklaces, chains, or hoop earrings. Please consider functionality of jewelry when selecting piercings and styles (i.e. naval rings).

#### **Athletic Event Attire (game day):**

Consult the staff athletic trainer for any changes in the dress code.

For practices, please wear neutral or appropriate colored shorts or pants, along with a Mercyhurst T-shirt, or plain shirt (no other advertising).

***Specific rules on dress are at the discretion of the clinical preceptor.*** Students should discuss proper dress code expectations during the orientation session at the beginning of each clinical assignment.

Athletic Training clothes can be ordered throughout the year through the Jungle Flash Store. Students will be expected to purchase the appropriate amount and variety of clothes through the flash store website.

#### **Additional Student Fees and Financial Responsibilities**

The Athletic Training Program, being an allied health professional program does have some additional associated costs. These include professional membership fees, background checks, and estimated cost of AT gear/supplies. Below are listed the additional costs, however, these are estimates based on the previous year and could fluctuate year to year based on market variability:

- (Strongly recommended) Accepted students may choose to become members of the NATA (\$65 approximate cost for first-time; \$85 for renewals)
- Current American Red Cross Professional Rescuer certification (\$32 approximate cost per year).
- ATrack Expense (one-time): \$90

- All students must obtain the following clearances once admitted into the program:  
PA Child Abuse History Clearance - \$13;  
PA State Criminal Record Check - \$0-13;  
FBI Criminal Background Check - \$23.85 (Total up to \$50)
- Students are expected to purchase a sling/waist med pack and incur some cost on MU gear relative to financial availability. (\$100 average)

Students are responsible for all costs associated with transportation to and from their clinical sites.

### **Participation in Athletics by Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Students**

The Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University fully understands the commitment student-athletes must make to both their education and their athletic pursuits. Many student-athletes have successfully completed the program however it takes a strong level of commitment, organization and communication on behalf of the student to successfully complete the program while participating in varsity athletics.

Students accepted into the Professional Athletic Training Program are permitted to participate in varsity athletics during the academic year. However, due to the difficulty of the student-athlete to adequately meet the demands of clinical education (completing required competencies and clinical proficiencies), and the demands of participating in varsity athletics only the competitive season of the student's sport will be acknowledged as excused absences from clinical assignments.

Therefore:

1. The student must be available for clinical experience assignments at all times outside of the primary competitive season. To offset the amount of hours necessary to complete the clinical education experience, it is required for those in-season athletes to obtain 30 hours of ATR clinical experience. This will continue the practicing of skill sets and knowledge acquired in the classroom and to stay on pace with the advancement as a pre-professional student. Students enrolled in athletic training classes that require a clinical assignment will receive an (I) incomplete until the required number of clinical hours are complete. ***This will require student-athletes to stay on campus during university breaks.***
2. Each student athlete must notify the coordinator of clinical education when the primary competitive season is and when they will and will not be available for clinical assignment.
3. Once an AT student begins their clinical assignments they will not be excused from their clinical experiences for any reason pertaining to athletics. This includes off season conditioning, workouts or contests.

Note: Student-athletes must sign the *Student Athlete Waiver Form* located on the Mercyhurst University portal indicating their understanding of this policy.

### Disciplinary Board

The role of the Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program Disciplinary Board is to handle any violations of policy, procedures and general conduct of athletic training students. Any disobedience based upon the severity of the violation could be grounds for removal from the clinical assignment, and/or the AT major. ***Clinical preceptors reserve the right to dismiss an ATS from the clinical site due to any violation of the site's rules and regulations.***

If the clinical preceptor feels the student is in violation of rules and responsibilities of being an ATS they must notify the clinical coordinator immediately. A disciplinary form will then be filed and based on the severity of the infraction a disciplinary hearing may ensue. At the hearing both the reporting clinical preceptor and the student will be given an opportunity to explain the situation. The board will then make a decision of the repercussions of the infraction. The program director reserves the right of final decision making on all punishments.

If a violation occurs, the ATS will meet with the board and a decision will be made about what actions will be taken. In this meeting, the ATS will be given a chance to defend him or herself. The board will decide the severity of punishment, which can range from a warning to a suspension to dismissal from the program. The length of any suspension is at the discretion of the board. All disciplinary forms will be kept in the ATS's personal file.

### Members of the Disciplinary Board:

1. Program Director: Josh Long
2. Program Clinical Coordinator: Melissa Long
3. The reporting clinical preceptor / faculty / staff member
4. MU Head Athletic Trainer: Andy Simon-Wambach
5. A clinical preceptor not involved in the situation: Varies with each situation

### Examples of misconducts include, but are not limited to:

- Repetitive clinical disciplinary problems
- Academic dishonesty
- Not following proper policies and procedures
- Not maintaining current CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> Aid certifications
- Not attending annual OSHA training course
- Conduct unbecoming of an ATS
- Abusing drugs while acting as an ATS
- Consuming or being under the influence of alcohol while acting as an ATS
- Constant tardiness to clinical rotations
- Refusal to attend or failure to report the preseason clinical orientation and/or experiences ON TIME, as specified clinical rotations

## Insurance

### *Injury During Clinical Rotations*

Student athletes and AT students are covered by the school's insurance as secondary accident and medical insurance. If a student is injured while traveling to an away sporting event or while covering a sporting event, the University insurance will be used as a secondary policy and the student's own policy or parent's policy as primary coverage. If such a need arises the student is responsible for contacting the program director immediately.

### *Student Professional Liability Insurance*

Athletic Training students have Student Professional Liability Insurance (SLI) through Liberty Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Coverage limits are \$2 million per occurrence and \$4 million aggregate. In the event a student acts outside of his/her scope as an AT student, malpractice/liability coverage may be compromised.

## Grievances

If a student has a grievance with their clinical preceptor, the student will complete the Grievance Form (found on the AT Blackboard page and/or on the Atrack site) and turn in to the Clinical Education Coordinator. The CEC and Program Director will meet to discuss the situation and make a decision within one week of the situation occurring, and will include a meeting with the preceptor. Details of the alleged scenario will be questioned, but the plaintiff will not be identified.

The Program will always err on the side of caution in favor of the student.

If the student feels he/she is in danger in any way, he/she will be excused from clinical hours with that preceptor and will be reassigned for the remainder of the term. When pertinent, the CEC must report cases of sexual harassment, abuse, gender-based crimes, or domestic abuse cases to the University Title IX Coordinator.

If a student has an **academic grievance** they should contact academic affairs, MAIN 104.

## APPENDIX



# Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program

## Infectious and Communicable Disease Policy

It is the policy of the Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University not to discriminate against any applicant, employee or student who has or is suspected of having a communicable disease. As long as an applicant, employee, or student is able to satisfactorily perform the essential functions of the program as an employee or student, and there is no medical evidence indicating that the employee's or student's condition is a threat to the health or safety of the individual, coworkers, students, athletes, or the public, an employee or student shall not be denied employment, continued active student status, nor shall an applicant be denied employment, nor shall a student be denied admission to the campus or classes based on whether or not he/she is suspected of having a communicable disease. The program will consider the educational, employment, or student status of individuals with a communicable disease or suspected of a communicable disease on an individual, case-by-case basis following procedures outlined by the University.

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**This action plan is as follows:**

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Student Health Services, as an agent for Mercyhurst University, monitors communicable disease cases that may affect the well-being of students' faculty and staff. In the event of a communicable disease event, SHS consults with and receives guidance from Erie County Health Department, PA department of health as well as the CDC (Center for Disease Control). The consulting agency is determined by the disease presented, the number of cases, and the guidelines and recommendations established by state and federal laws. Disease events are co-managed by the SHS and the consulting agency to ensure the safety of individual and the campus community. As an agent of Mercyhurst University, SHS informs the college administration, faculty, staff and students, as needed to provide education to limit the impact of a communicable disease event. SHS works with the offices of public relations, the president and student affairs to create methods of communications such as the use of e-mail, faculty announcements, awareness statements for coaches and other administrative staff, articles for student newspapers and residence hall awareness campaign as recommended by the Erie County health department and the PA department of health.

Communicable diseases are defined as those diseases that can be transmitted from one person to another such as pandemic flu, tuberculosis, meningitis, chicken pox, SARS, hepatitis and others. Individuals contracting communicable disease should report the case to student health services immediately by calling (814) 824-2431. SHS Services will work with the Erie County Health Department and the PA department of health to provide preventive measures to those

who were exposed: such as immunization, distribution of antibiotics or antiviral medications as necessary to prevent further spread of the disease. If quarantine of exposed individuals is needed a building on campus will be dedicated for this purpose, food and other needed items will be provided by the campus food service or the Red Cross.

### **Communicable Disease Response – Incident Action Plan (Example – Pandemic Flu)**

Pre-Level 1 Actions – This plan is intended to address a variety of communicable disease outbreaks. In the majority of situations, there will not be advance time to prepare for the first case of human to human transmission. It is therefore imperative that campus departments initiate various “pre-level 1” actions to assure that they are prepared in the event that an infectious disease is confirmed that may have the potential to spread to campus in a very short time frame. The following actions are recommended as “pre-level 1”.

1. Essential personnel – the campus should determine “who” the essential personnel are in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. This would include civil service staff to maintain or depopulate clinical preceptor, facilities, staff, housing personnel, administrators, etc. The list of “non-essential” personnel should be prepared in addition to “call-off” notices that can be activated on short notice.
2. All campus units should review business continuity plans and/or review their individual unit responses to situations involving short staffing, class cancellations, 24 hour operations, event schedules and cancellation, emergency needs, etc.
3. The Campus should clearly communicate the status of essential vs. non-essential personnel.
4. Assess the quantity of N95 respirators and assure that an adequate supply is on hand.
5. Campus units with essential personnel should schedule them to receive fit test and training on respiratory protection from the Safety & Health Department.
6. The Campus Emergency Operations Committee will direct the campus response during an infectious disease outbreak. Individuals with copies of this document are encouraged to review it to assure they understand the protocols. Additional campus resources (experts in specific fields, unit resources, etc.) will work with the Emergency Management Team as part of the Incident Command System.

# **Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program**

## **DRUG EDUCATION, SCREENING AND REHABILITATION POLICY**

### I) PURPOSE

Mercyhurst University recognizes the threat that drug abuse presents to the health and welfare of the student athlete and the integrity of intercollegiate athletics. To deter the use of illicit drugs by members of intercollegiate athletic teams, Mercyhurst University has developed a mandatory drug education, screening and, where necessary, rehabilitation program. All student members of the athletic program, to include *men and women athletes, student athletic managers, student athletic trainers, and cheerleaders* shall be required to participate in a substance abuse education program. Through this program, participants will receive instruction about the hazards of substance abuse and misuse. Testing shall be conducted primarily during the conventional academic year unless follow-up testing is required subsequent to a previous positive test. The Drug Education, Screening and Rehabilitation Program are sponsored by the Mercyhurst University Athletic Department with coordination through the team physician and the Athletic Training staff.

### II) PROHIBITED DRUGS

Use of any of the following drugs, except those prescribed by a qualified physician to treat an individual's medical condition, by any member of athletic team representatives of Mercyhurst University, whether such use occurs before, during or after the team's season, is prohibited: anabolic steroids, cocaine, amphetamines, marijuana, opiates, barbiturates and any other mind-altering or illicit drug. For further information, a list of drugs prohibited by the National Collegiate Athletic Association is obtainable from the Athletic Director or Athletic Training staff.

### III) SCREENING

Drug screening shall consist of standardized urinalysis, which shall be administered on a random basis during the academic year, or as determined by the team physician or staff certified athletic trainer. Each urine specimen will be identified by number only and will be analyzed by the hired agency for the presence of prohibited drugs. All of the test results shall be reported to the team physician and the head certified athletic trainer who shall review such tests results to determine which, if any, of the test results are positive. A positive test is one in which a prohibited drug is found in the urine specimen.

Testing will be unannounced and performed at any time on a random selection basis - one athlete per team, the entire team, or by specific sport as determined by the team physician, head trainer or athletic director, the randomly selected athlete, by specific sport, that is tested will be chosen unbiased by number code. Should an individual exhibit physical signs of possible substance abuse, the staff athletic trainers and the team's head coach will discuss these signs and symptoms with the team physician or staff athletic trainer who will then have the authority to select that person for screening in the interest of the individual's physical welfare. Failure to execute the required consent form or to undergo drug testing at any time will render the student immediately ineligible to practice or represent Mercyhurst University in the

intercollegiate athletic program, and may result in the student-athlete's loss of scholarship the following year, consistent with NCAA standards. The head coach of each sport is responsible for compliance with the drug-screening program. If any athlete refuses testing, the coach will be notified for appropriate action.

#### IV) ACTION TAKEN BY MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY FOR POSITIVE TEST RESULTS

A full statement of Student Athlete Rights and Responsibilities regarding this policy is on file in the Athletic Department and available for review upon request. The following procedures will be applied in the event of a positive test result:

A) The team physician or head athletic trainer will inform the Athletic Director and Head coach of the positive results, and the Athletic Director will appoint a representative of the University to meet with the student. That representative will insure that the student is fully informed about his/her rights and responsibilities in the Drug Education and Testing Program. It will be the athlete's responsibility to notify his/her parents of the first positive drug test. The student will be required to attend two counseling sessions with a counselor assigned by Mercyhurst University. The athlete and/or his/her parents will be responsible for the cost of the drug counseling. If the athlete refuses counseling he/she will be suspended from all team activities until counseling begins. Additionally, the student will continue to be retested over a period of time, the length of which will be determined by the team physician or the athletic director. This re-testing is to assess the student's discontinuance of the prohibited drug. If, upon additional testing, the student's test shows continued use since the initial testing the Athletic Department will notify the athlete's parents and the student will not be eligible for practice or competition for a minimum of seven days and the student will be required to submit to continued counseling. During that period, additional testing will continue.

C) A third positive test will result in the student's indefinite suspension from athletic participation and loss of athletic scholarship. In order to be reinstated, the student will be required to continue counseling and will be referred to a rehabilitation program. Enrollment in and completion of the rehabilitation program, including all costs for it, shall be the responsibility of the student. Only upon successful completion of the rehabilitation program, and upon the satisfaction of the team physician and athletic director, after subsequent drug testing, shall an individual be allowed to return to full status as a student athlete. Any individual returning to the athletic program under such circumstances shall be subject to periodic selection for testing, as determined by the team physician, athletic director, or head athletic trainer.

#### V) ALCOHOL

Alcohol abuse has been identified as the number one abused drug in our society. The detrimental effect of alcohol abuse on students associated with Mercyhurst University athletics is a major concern of the entire University community. The Athletic Department encourages responsible use of alcohol, and the education program on drug abuse will include information on alcohol use and abuse. Alcohol consumption by any athlete, student athletic trainer, and cheerleader and student manager under the age of 21 will not be tolerated and will be dealt with individually by an appointed designee of the athletic department. Mandatory counseling may be required if deemed necessary by the team physician, head athletic trainer or athletic

director. The Athletic Department requires compliance with the Alcohol Policy that has been formulated through the Office of Student Affairs.

# **Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program**

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

### **I) POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Mercyhurst University does not and will not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind by any members of the faculty, administration, staff or student body. While Mercyhurst subscribes to the federal and state laws which declare sexual harassment to be unacceptable and illegal conduct, this policy is also predicated on the moral truth that all individuals are entitled to be treated with dignity and to be free from unwelcome physical and verbal intrusions to their bodies and to their minds.

### **II) WHAT IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT?**

Sexual harassment has been defined as unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It occurs when a person with power abuses that power. Sexual harassment is primarily an issue of power, not sex.

The difference between voluntary sexual relationships and sexual harassment is that sexual harassment contains elements of coercion, threat and/or unwanted attention in a nonreciprocal relationship. Sexual harassment usually is unwelcome and repeated behavior, but in some instances it can be an action that occurs only once. In most normal relationships an individual can exercise freedom of choice in deciding with whom they wish to establish a close intimate relationship. These choices are based on mutual attraction, caring and a reciprocal interest in pursuing the relationship. These elements are absent in sexual harassment.

### **III) EXAMPLES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

- \* Repeatedly asking for a date after the person has expressed disinterest.
- \* Unwelcome patting, hugging, or touching of a person's body, hair or clothing.
- \* Disparaging remarks to a person about her/his gender or body.
- \* Making suggestive clinical preceptorial expressions such as licking lips or wiggling tongue.
- \* Sexual innuendos, jokes, or comments.
- \* Sexual graffiti or visuals.
- \* Asking about a person's sexual fantasies, sexual preferences, or sexual activities.
- \* Making sexual gestures with hands or through body movements.
- \* Pressure for sexual activity.
- \* Requests for sexual favors.

### **IV) WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT?**

Both men and women may be sexually harassed. Victims of sexual harassment may include heterosexuals, bisexuals, and homosexuals. Most reported cases involve women being harassed by men who are in a position of power over them, either on the job or in the classroom. Sexual harassment may also occur between peers or between individuals of the same sex. Anyone can be a victim of sexual harassment.

Female Athletic Training students have the potential to be the most sexually harassed individuals on a University campus. Being aware of this, a female Athletic Training Student needs to protect herself by watching what she wears, what she says, and how it is being said to make sure that someone making advances does not misinterpret it. Be careful not to put yourself in dangerous positions with athletes, coaches, etc. (i.e. making dinner for, doing laundry for, dishes, etc.) just because they ask you to. Maintain a professional distance.

#### V) WHAT SHOULD YOU NOT DO?

**\*\*There are three things that you should avoid at all costs.\*\***

- 1.) *Don't blame yourself.* Sexual harassment is not something that you bring on yourself; it is an action that the harasser decides to take. It's not your fault.
- 2.) *Don't delay.* If you delay action when someone harasses you, it is likely to continue. Also, if you intend to file charges against someone and you put off doing so for a long time, you may find out that you have missed the time limit for doing so.
- 3.) *Don't keep it to yourself.* By keeping quiet about sexual harassment, you enable it to continue. Chances are that you are not the only victim.

#### VI) WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT SEXUAL HARASSMENT?

Ignoring sexual harassment does not make it go away. Indeed, it may make it worse because the harasser may misinterpret no response as approval of his/her behavior. However, there are things you can do, from informal strategies to formal ones. Here are some of your options:

- 1.) *Know your rights.* Sexual harassment is illegal in many instances, and not tolerated in all.
- 2.) *Speak up at the time.* Be sure to say "NO!" clearly, firmly, and without smiling. This is not a time to be polite or vague.

3.) *Keep records*, such as a journal and any letters or notes received. Note the dates, places, times, witnesses and the nature of the harassment – what was said and done and how you responded.

4.) *Talk to someone*. Talk to a faculty member, coworker, or other trusted individual about what has happened. You should also speak to the Sexual Harassment officer, whose name is listed below, or an advocate. The Sexual Harassment Officer can help you determine what your rights are. An advocate can help give you emotional support as well as help and information about institutional procedures.

#### VII) SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER

Faculty, staff, and students may contact Tine Fryling, Preston 115, Mercyhurst University, (814) 824-2352 for the following assistance:

*Information and consultation*

*Informal complaints and resolution*

*Formal complaints*

#### VIII) ASSURANCE OF PRIVACY

All discussions with advocates and/or the Sexual Harassment Officer are completely confidential



# **Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program**

## **Blood-Borne Pathogens Policy Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program and Mercyhurst University Athletics**

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be cleaned or changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of appropriate barriers such as gloves, eye and face protection, gowns, or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharp instruments or devices. Place all these items in sharps containers located at locations on campus such as student health services and the athletic training rooms.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Certified athletic trainers, athletic training students, team physicians, and coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athlete care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels, jerseys, and equipment should be properly disposed of in biohazard bags and containers, or placed in clearly marked biohazard bags and washed separately with hot water (>160 degrees F), detergent, and bleach.
9. Individuals washing contaminated towels, equipment, or jerseys should wear gloves and exercise proper precautions.
10. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth-guards, and other articles containing body fluids.
11. Properly dispose of all infected dressings, tape, bandages, gloves, and other non-sharps materials in clearly marked biohazard waste bags and boxes.
12. It is recommended that college personnel who may come in frequent contact with contaminated articles and athletes should receive the Hepatitis B vaccination series. These individuals include athletic trainers, athletic training students, team managers, coaches, athletes, and laundry personnel.
13. Any athlete or personnel who has been exposed to a potential blood-borne pathogen or has been cut or stuck by a used contaminated sharps object or needle should immediately wash the area with soap and hot water and seek medical attention and treatment, and report the incident to the proper college authority and physician.

While following all the following procedures will not prevent all transmission of blood-borne illnesses and disease in athletics, it will greatly reduce the risk of transmission to athletes and those who treat and care for athletes and athletic injuries.

## Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program

### Social Media/ Social Networking Policy

Participation in social networking, whether it be social media sites like Facebook or Snapchat or professional sites like LinkedIn, can prove beneficial in a medical environment. Many professionals have access to emerging literature, additional contacts, and professional opportunities that previously either did not exist or were hampered by slower means of communication. That said, the line crossing from professional relationships to inappropriate and/or personal relationships can be a difficult balancing act.

The American Medical Association (AMA) *Code of Medical Ethics* preamble to Opinion 2.3.2, indicates that “social networks, blogs and other forms of communication online also create new challenges to the patient-physician relationship.” A 2015 study examining digital professionalism indicated that, through the introduction of ten principles, that a student or professional’s online can significantly impact his or her professionalism, whether or not there is direct interaction (Ellaway, Coral, Topps, and Topps, 2015). It has been suggested that privacy controls be as strict as possible through social media sites, and that discretion should be considered when comments and photographs are shared on the internet.

The Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program (MUATP) promotes professional interaction between students, faculty, and preceptors for the progression and betterment of education and clinical experiences. In order to maintain this professional interaction, it is the policy of the MUATP that athletic training students (both pre-professional and professional) are prohibited from interacting with current faculty and preceptors on any form of social media or social networking site. Students should not accept any connection requests, nor should they request interaction with, any current preceptors or faculty members of the Sports Medicine department, in with the Athletic Training Program is housed. This includes current graduate assistants, interns, and fellowship enrollees, as well as clinicians not directly working at Mercyhurst University (i.e. medical students and fellows, physical therapy students, etc.).

Former faculty members (those no longer employed by MU), preceptors (those no longer under contract with MU in the role of preceptor), and former students (alumni or those no longer enrolled at MU) are not affected by this policy.

#### References:

Ellaway, R. H., Coral, J., Topps, D., & Topps, M. (2015). Exploring digital professionalism. *Medical Teacher*, 37: 844-849.

Scifers, J., Long, A., Manners, J. (2012). *Development of a social networking policy in athletic training education* [PowerPoint Slides]. Retrieved from <https://vimeopro.com/nata1950/atec-2013/video/59015557>

# Mercyhurst University Professional BS in Athletic Training Program

## Participation in Athletics by Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Students

The Professional Athletic Training Program at Mercyhurst University fully understands the commitment student-athletes must make to both their education and their athletic pursuits. Many student-athletes have successfully completed the program however it takes a strong level of commitment, organization and communication on behalf of the student to successfully complete the program while participating in varsity athletics.

Students accepted into the Professional Athletic Training Program are permitted to participate in varsity athletics during the academic year. However, due to the difficulty of the student-athlete to adequately meet the demands of clinical education (completing required competencies and clinical proficiencies), and the demands of participating in varsity athletics only the competitive season of the student's sport will be acknowledged as excused absences from clinical assignments.

Therefore:

1. The student must be available for clinical experience assignments at all times outside of the primary competitive season. Students enrolled in athletic training classes that require a clinical assignment will receive an (I) incomplete until the required number of clinical hours are complete.
2. Each student athlete must notify the coordinator of clinical education when the primary competitive season is and when they will and will not be available for clinical assignment.
3. Once an AT student begins their clinical assignments they will not be excused from their clinical experiences for any reason pertaining to athletics. This includes off season conditioning, workouts or contests.

*Therefore, by signing below the student-athlete acknowledges and is in agreement with the aforementioned policy for the duration of their time in the professional athletic training program.*

## Mercyhurst University BS in Athletic Training Program

### Travel Policy

Professional level students, while not required, are encouraged to travel at least one time in their academic careers. The experiences gathered through athletic travel can prove invaluable to the educational process.

In the event that a travel opportunity is presented to a professional-level student, the ensuing guidelines must be followed to protect the student, Preceptor, and University from liability:

- The student may only travel if the Preceptor is also travelling;
- Students may not be unsupervised while treating athletes at any time during the travel experience;
- Students and athletes may not engage in any behavior prohibited by the University while travelling. The AT student is a professional, and should be have as such; failure to adhere to this guideline will result in a Disciplinary Board hearing and possible suspension and/or expulsion from the AT Program;
- AT students must obtain written permission (email is acceptable) from all instructors of courses that will be missed during the travel experience **no less than 48 hours prior to leaving for the trip;**
- It is strongly discouraged that students miss lab/ Clinical Education days when travelling, due to the volume of hands-on content instructed;
- Pre-Professional students are not permitted to travel.

# Mercyhurst University Professional BS in Athletic Training Program

## Policy on Enrollment in Clinical Education Courses

Professional level students are required to enroll in one Clinical Education course each semester he/she is in the Professional Athletic Training Program. The traditional Clinical Education course enrollment is as follows:

- Fall Level 1: Clinical Education I
- Spring Level 1: Clinical Education II
- Fall Level 2: Clinical Education III
- Spring Level 2: Clinical Education IV
- Fall Level 3: Special Issues
- Spring Level 3: Capstone in Athletic Training

Students **may not** be enrolled in more than one clinical education course at a time; this results in the requirement of acquiring two sets of hours, completing two sets of competencies/proficiencies at the Mastery level, and will not allow the student to spend adequate quality time on his/ her academics.

In the event the student transferred into the Athletic Training major (applicable prior to Fall 2018), he/she will be required to remain on campus to complete the required clinical education courses, with no exceptions.

Students who transferred into the AT Program prior to Fall 2018 have the possible option of taking both Special Issues and Capstone in Athletic Training concurrently, pending review of GPA, prior Preceptor evaluations, and permission from both the Program Director and the Coordinator of Clinical Education.

Mercyhurst University Professional Athletic Training Program

Disciplinary Form

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Disciplinary Infraction:

Disciplinary Action Taken:

**WARNING**

**SUSPENSION**

*Duration:* \_\_\_\_\_

**DISMISSAL**

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director Signature

Mercyhurst University Department of Sports Medicine

Professional Athletic Training Program

Athletic Training Student Grievance Policy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Preceptor/Staff/Student Grievance Pertains To: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Assignment at time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Incident Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Incident Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Inappropriate Action/Behavior:

- Unprofessional Behavior  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Breach of Duty  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other Inappropriate Conduct  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in detail how the incident occurred:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Witnesses (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I, the aforementioned, agree that the above details and account of the situation are true, factual, and an accurate representation of the situation. I have brought this to the attention of the Clinical Education Coordinator to have the situation rectified.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athletic Training Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinical Education Coordinator Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program CEC and Program Director will review the facts presented above and based upon said facts, determine the best suitable course of action. The decision of the Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Program is **FINAL**. When necessary/ appropriate, including in instances of sexual harassment, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, or gender-based crimes, the CEC is required to report the incident to the Mercyhurst University Title IX Coordinator.

Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Program Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Mercyhurst University Athletic Training Professional Program  
Immunization Policy**

*(adapted 8/2021 from MU DPAS Immunization Policy)*

Students are financially responsible for the cost of all health care services they may require while enrolled in the program, including any health care services required as a result of their participation in scheduled program activities (e.g. TB testing, immunizations, treatment of injuries, pathogen exposure evaluation and treatment).

The Student Health Record, which includes the Pre-Admission Immunization Record and the Mercyhurst University Health Screening Form, must be completed prior to matriculation. These forms are necessary for health center access as a patient if an emergency arises and for use in providing clinical affiliates with written proof of immunizations and wellness. Students are financially responsible for this process and it may need to be repeated annually or more frequently as required by clinical sites. The Cohen Health Center staff will maintain the Student Health Record and ensure that the student meets the defined requirements. Students who are not in compliance with having a completed Student Health Record may be prohibited from matriculating into the program or participating in clinical experiences, which can delay their education and progression in the program of study.

To be in compliance, students must have a completed:

- Mercyhurst University Health Screening Form prior to matriculation and updated prior to the clinical year of the program. This includes:
  - An annual health screening
- Pre-Admission Immunization Record prior to Professional Program matriculation and updated prior to the clinical year of the program. This includes:
  - MUAT students are required to have current immunization status throughout enrollment in the program as recommended for healthcare personnel by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please refer to the following link for the most current CDC guidelines:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/hcw.html>
  - Immunization verification and/or laboratory verification of serologic testing for immunity (antibody test results) must be provided for all listed conditions recommended by the CDC for health care personnel. All non-converters may require additional immunizations with follow up titers per the CDC recommendations, to include but may not be limited to the following:
    1. SARS-CoV2 Vaccine: Documentation of one of the following must be filed with **both** the University and with BSAT Program. Student must have received second dose (or single J&J dose) at least two weeks prior to returning for fall classes:
      - a. Moderna/NIAI two-dose vaccine (administered four weeks apart);
      - b. Pfizer/BioNTech two dose vaccine (administered three weeks apart);
      - c. Johnson and Johnson single dose vaccine
    2. Hepatitis B: Documentation of the three-dose immunization against Hepatitis B. This series must be started prior to matriculation and must be kept on schedule.



Following completion of the Hepatitis B series, a positive (immune) titer may be required.

3. Mumps: Records of a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule.
4. Rubeola (measles): Records of a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule.
5. Rubella: Records of a 2-dose MMR immunization.
6. Varicella: Records of a 2-dose vaccine series being administered on schedule. Note: History of previous infection is not sufficient evidence of immunity.
7. Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis: Documentation of a completed primary series with TDaP booster within the last ten years.
8. Influenza: Documentation of influenza vaccination. While enrolled in the program students will be required to obtain annual influenza vaccination.

The student health record is a confidential document that is not accessible to the department program faculty, department chair/program director, medical director, or program staff. Per accreditation standards, the only information that will be accessible in the department student file is the immunization record and tuberculosis screening results. Students must give written permission for their immunization record and tuberculosis screening results to be shared with the program by signing the Authorization to Release Immunization Record and Tuberculosis Screening to the Program of Study and the Authorization to Release Information to clinical sites.

Program faculty, department chair/program director, medical director, or program staff will not participate as health care providers for students enrolled in the program, except in cases of emergency, and will not have access to any student health information other than that defined in this policy.