October 26, 2018

To: Sarah Mangelsdorf, Provost
    William Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School

From: Diana Hess, Dean, School of Education

Re:  MS Athletic Training Notice of Intent

The School of Education is submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to create a new MS in Athletic Training in the Department of Kinesiology. Currently, Athletic Training is offered at the undergraduate level. The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) has determined that professional programs for athletic trainers must be at the master’s level rather than the bachelor’s level. In preparation for this change, the Department of Kinesiology has suspended admissions to their undergraduate major, effective May 2019.

The Notice of Intent was approved by the Kinesiology Department on May 11, 2018 and the School of Education Academic Planning Council on October 17, 2018. If possible, we request that this appear on the November UAPC agenda.

Cc: Jocelyn Milner, Associate Vice Provost, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
    Nicole Wiessinger, Academic Planner, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
    Emily Reynolds, Academic Planning Specialist, Graduate School
    Parmesh Ramanathan, Associate Dean for Graduate Education, Graduate School
    Christina Klawitter, Associate Dean for Student Academic Affairs, School of Education
    Carolyn Kelley, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs, School of Education
    Elizabeth Jach, Policy/Planning Analyst, School of Education
    Gary Diffee, Chair, Kinesiology, School of Education
    Andrew Winterstein, Director, Athletic Training Program
Notice of Intent to Plan Master’s Degree in Athletic Training
Department of Kinesiology
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Proposed Degree
Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT)
The Department of Kinesiology is proposing a new Master’s degree in Athletic Training (MSAT). This health sciences professional preparation program is currently offered as a baccalaureate degree; the new MSAT will replace the existing program.

Home Department / School
The program will be housed in the School of Education’s Department of Kinesiology.

Mode of Delivery
The program will be offered in a face-to-face residential format that includes a variety of didactic course work combined with immersive clinical experiences.

Primary Faculty Contacts
Gary Diffee – Professor and Chair Dept. of Kinesiology
Andrew P. Winterstein – Clinical Professor Dept. of Kinesiology

Program Description / Learning Outcomes
The curricular model for the proposed MSAT degree program has been guided by several principles. The degree planning group has taken the following steps: reviewed existing health science programs on campus (e.g. Occupational Therapy, Physician Assistant), met with key campus stakeholders, reviewed current CAATE Standards, evaluated our alignment with the 2015-2019 Campus Strategic Framework, assessed logical campus partners for collaboration, and insured adherence to the core competencies for health sciences outlined by the Institute of Medicine.

The Athletic Training Professional Preparation Program (MSAT) at UW-Madison seeks to be a leader in athletic training education by offering a program that will develop health care providers in athletic training who exhibit the highest levels of clinical scholarship, are dedicated to patient advocacy and social responsibility in health care, practice patient-centered care, and strive to address the burden of injury through a public health lens. The program is dedicated to service, scholarship and developing socially responsible clinicians.

Upon completion of the Athletic Training MSAT students will:
1. Understand the role of the athletic trainer within the broader health care system.
2. Demonstrate appropriate oral and written communication skills.
3. Develop and apply strategies to prevent the incidence and/or severity of injury and illnesses.
4. Demonstrate the clinical skills needed to appropriately diagnose patients for treatment and referral.

5. Apply clinical and decision-making skills to respond to acute injury and illness; including emergencies.

6. Assess patient status and develop treatment and rehabilitation that are consistent with contemporary disablement models.

7. Demonstrate clinical scholarship in the form of evidence appraisal and application to influence athletic training practice.

8. Maintain the highest standards of clinical practice by examining the quality of patient care through the use of patient outcomes.

9. Apply research methods to develop and evaluate clinical questions applicable to practice-based research environments while demonstrating an understanding of ethical research practice.

The proposed MSAT program is a 24-month (55-60 credit) campus-based health science program that includes the opportunity for capstone clinical preceptorships in local environments and locations around the country. The curriculum is front loaded in year one (Summer, Fall, Spring) with a heavy didactic schedule and limited clinical experiences. The second year (Summer, Fall, Spring) stresses immersive clinical field placements supported by innovative modular on-line courses.

The curriculum is built upon a foundation of competency-based training and practice. The AT accreditation process ensures that programs provide educational experiences for athletic trainers to acquire and demonstrate competencies in the areas of prevention, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions.

The Athletic Training Program curriculum integrates these competencies throughout the students’ training to provide a strong evidence-guided patient-centered approach to care. The program stresses the development of clinical scholarship that includes scientific inquiry, critical thinking, cultural competence and integrative learning. Principles of lifelong learning, professional leadership, advocacy, professionalism and ethical reasoning, guide the development of future leaders in athletic training who can meet the future needs of patients and the athletic training profession.

The program will partner with other health science degree programs (e.g. Master of Public Health- MPH) and graduate certificate programs (e.g. Health Advocacy) to enhance the AT offerings through interprofessional courses and learning/service activities. The MSAT program will collaborate with the MPH program to provide the option for a MSAT MPH dual degree (33-month) program for a limited number of students. The ability to draw upon the advocacy and
public health resources at UW-Madison will create a point of distinction for the MSAT program.

**Resources | Resource Allocation**
The instructional and administrate resources to launch this new degree program will come from the existing resources of the current baccalaureate program and the funding structure for summer course offerings. In addition, we will request the addition of 0.75 to 1.0 FTE clinical instructional staff to accommodate anticipated increases in instructional load and expanded administrative needs in the area of field placements. The advising and administrative support currently dedicated to the existing BSAT program will continue to be dedicated to advising and administrative support for the new MSAT program.

**Overview | Alignment with Mission**
The proposed Master’s degree in Athletic Training will provide rigorous and comprehensive preparation for students seeking a health care career in athletic training. Athletic trainers (ATs) are multi-skilled health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to provide preventative services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical condition. ATs practice in a range of clinical practice settings.

The University of Wisconsin – Madison has a rich history in preparing professionals in athletic training and has long operated at a level of excellence consistent with the campus mission. The goal of establishing the MSAT degree was outlined in the authorization and planning documents that established the current baccalaureate (BSAT) degree and this Notice of Intent is the next step in the planned evolution of this program. Offering the MSAT in Athletic Training is consistent with the campus commitment to a broad range of health science offerings. UW-Madison is Wisconsin’s only comprehensive teaching and research university that houses a School of Medicine and Public Health, Pharmacy, Nursing, and a full complement of health profession programs. The UW-Madison is distinctive in Wisconsin as the only university where MD training, a range of health profession programs, and a comprehensive research mission are fully combined. The Athletic Training program is already a well-respected member of this health sciences community and fully contributes to the research, instructional, and outreach mission of the campus. The elevation of the program to a master’s degree will enhance the program’s ability to collaborate as an interprofessional partner with existing graduate programs.

The goals of the proposed Master of Science in Athletic Training (provided above) are aligned with the mission of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the 2015-2019 Campus Strategic Framework. ([https://chancellor.wisc.edu/strategicplan2/](https://chancellor.wisc.edu/strategicplan2/))

**Program Need**
Over a thirty year span the Athletic Training program has evolved from an internship certificate program to its current baccalaureate degree offering. The program was accredited in the 1999-2000 academic year and was the second such program established in Wisconsin. The Athletic Training program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training
Education (CAATE). The CAATE in conjunction with the Board of Certification and National Athletic Trainers Association of deemed that all professional preparation programs in athletic training must be delivered at the Master’s degree level. Programs will no longer be able to enroll students into BS programs by fall of 2022.¹ This decision to elevate to the Master’s degree comes after extensive national discussion about the appropriate degree level for professional preparation of athletic trainers.² Reasons for recommending graduate-level education include (1) the need for a more sophisticated learner to fully assimilate the increasing demands of athletic training practice; (2) the opportunity to create curricula without the competing demands of baccalaureate education; and (3) the need to align educationally with our peer professions. Alignment with the other health science professional programs on campus would facilitate interprofessional education, a core competency recommended by the Institute of Medicine. Elevation of the program to the MS level would allow us to deliver an innovative curriculum without the scheduling constraints of important but competing institutional and prerequisite academic requirements. The gain in curricular flexibility would allow full-time immersive clinical experiences and expansion of the curriculum to create health care practitioners capable of effecting change in the practice of athletic training.

In addition to the administrative pedagogical needs outlined above athletic trainers are needed to meet the healthcare needs of the citizens of Wisconsin and beyond. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predict that employment of athletic trainers is projected to grow 23 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations.³ Demand for athletic trainers is expected to increase as people become more aware of the long-term effects of sports-related injuries, and as a growing middle-aged and older population remains active. Increasing physical activity among the general population is frequently cited as a key mechanism to improve health and reduce the cost of care; demand for athletic trainers will grow as these programs are implemented as injury is a common impediment to continued physical activity. Athletic trainers are well positioned to implement a public health perspective to the burden of sports injury. This public health and health advocacy approach to care are cornerstones of the new degree proposal. Increased licensure requirements and regulation has led to a greater acceptance of athletic trainers as qualified healthcare providers in a range of clinical settings beyond traditional professional, university, and secondary school environments. As a result, third-party reimbursement is expected to continue to grow for athletic training services. Athletic trainers will benefit from this expansion because they provide a cost-effective way to increase the number of health professionals in an office based and clinical settings. Lastly, there continues to be a need for qualified health care professionals at the secondary school setting. The health disparities in access to athletic training services in these settings are well documented. Innovative programs are needed to address these gaps in care; a program at UW-Madison with identified collaborators in the public health realm and access to the broadest range of interprofessional collaborators of any system institution is uniquely positioned to create leaders and care providers to address these societal needs.

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Athletic Training at UW-Madison was the second program in the State of Wisconsin to secure national accreditation (2000). Since that time five additional programs have been accredited in the UW-System. In addition to UW-Madison, LaCrosse, Oshkosh, Stevens Point, Eau Claire, and Milwaukee currently offer programs in athletic training. All are in the various stages of program planning for MS degree transition with UW-Steven’s Point and UW-Milwaukee already matriculating students. UW Green Bay has indicated an intent to plan but unlike the other campuses mentioned, they have not been educating students in AT since the early 90’s. The presence of multiple AT programs with distinct identities and approaches within the UW System provides students with broad pedagogical and geographical choices for athletic training education in Wisconsin.

We are confident that UW-Madison will continue to excel as a leader in athletic training education as the program transitions to a graduate model. Our tradition of excellence is illustrated by our current seven-year 100% first time pass rate for the Board of Certification exam and our exceptional record of student placement. The BOC pass rate places the program in the top 10% of all programs for this time span.

Program Faculty and Staff / Planning Team
The MSAT degree will draw on current faculty and staff providing instruction and leadership in the current program. The program is exploring using courses from the current Kinesiology graduate offerings as well as from outside the department (e.g. School of Medicine and Public Health).

Athletic Training Faculty and Staff
David Bell PhD, ATC – Asst. Professor
Andrew Winterstein PhD, ATC – Distinguished Clinical Professor
Sharon V. Clark – MS, ATC Assoc. Faculty Associate
Julie Stamm PhD, ATC – Lecturer
Patrick Hills-Meyer MS, ATC – Lecturer
Alison Schwarz ATC – Lecturer (Clinical Instructor)

Department of Kinesiology Graduate Faculty
Gary Diffee, PhD – Professor and Chair
Andrea Mason, PhD – Professor, Graduate Studies Committee Chair
Lisa Cadmus Bergstrom PhD – Asst. Professor

Affiliate Faculty
Kathleen Carr MD – Family Medicine (SMPH)
Barbara Duerst MS MPH – Faculty Associate – Public Health (SMPH)
Timothy McGuine PhD, ATC – Distinguished Scientist – Orthopedics (SMPH)
AT Program MSAT Degree Planning Committee
The AT Program Committee has taken on the task of serving as the MSAT Degree Planning Committee. In addition to the faculty and staff listed below the group is has solicited feedback from students in focus group sessions.

Andrew Winterstein  
David Bell  
Sharon Clark  
Julie Stamm  
Patrick Hills-Meyer  
Tricia DeSouza – Clinical Representative Intercollegiate Athletics  
Ashley Parr - Clinical Representative Intercollegiate Athletics  
Kathleen Carr – Medical Director AT Program

Letters of Support
Letters of support have been requested from the following sources:

Occupational Therapy Program  
Physical Therapy Program  
Public Health Program  
Physician Assistant Program  
Center for Patient Partnerships (Health Advocacy Group)  
Division of Intercollegiate Athletic Sports Medicine  
Dept. of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Division of Sports Medicine


Dr. Gary Diffee
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Kinesiology
2000 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the Department of Kinesiology’s Notice of Intent to Plan a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training (MSAT). The elevation of athletic training to a master’s degree-level distinction is an appropriate step in the evolution of this health science profession. I have worked with the Athletic Training Program since I began with the Physical Therapy Program 21 years ago and we have since moved from a bachelor’s to a master’s to a doctoral degree. We have worked closely with the Athletic Training Program and have always been impressed with the caliber of students that come out of this program. The UW-Madison campus has a strong history of providing students with a broad range of health science offerings. The Athletic Training Program is well-established and valued as a member of the campus health sciences community.

As the Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, I extend my support for this Notice of Intent to Plan in the spirit of interdisciplinary cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lisa Steinkamp, PT, PhD, MBA

Director, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
May 14, 2018

Dr. Gary Diffee  
Professor and Chair  
Dept. of Kinesiology  
2000 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

I am writing in support of the advancement of the Athletic Training (AT) Program to a master’s level degree. I have had the opportunity to visit with Mr. Andrew Winterstein, PhD, AT, who serves as the AT Program Director. As a result of that visit, I feel confident that the Athletic Training Professional Preparation Program (MSAT) at UW-Madison will offer a well thought-out curriculum, incorporating scholarship and service, for holistic preparation of graduates.

Having transitioned from a bachelor to master degree program in 2010, the Physician Assistant (PA) Program recognizes the need to train our UW-Madison graduates to be professionally prepared to practice well-coordinated, patient-centered care while integrating principles of population health to be able to address the many challenges that face us today. It is evident to me that Mr. Winterstein and the AT Program are aligned in that same mission as they advance to the MTAS degree. I do believe that advancement of the AT program to a master’s degree will enhance and promote the program’s ability to collaborate as an interprofessional partner with existing graduate programs, as well as to support the level of stature deserving of a rigorous AT Program. The PA program has been innovative in creating interprofessional curricular activities, and we embrace the opportunity to explore similar professional activities with the AT Program. Athletic training is an established and valued member of the health sciences community and it will be wonderful to create opportunities to promote interdisciplinary care of patients.

It is apparent that the AT program is committed to offering an educational program that will develop well-rounded clinicians prepared to practice as socially responsible citizens within communities. The UW-Madison Campus is a leader in providing students with a range of offerings in the health sciences. The master’s degree will elevate the AT program to be able to challenge students to advance to that next level of training and upholding the UW-Madison AT Program as a leader in their field.
With this letter, I share my enthusiastic and full support for a MTAS degree. It is important and a responsibility for us to remain leaders within our respectful disciplines and to always work toward educational advancement. I am excited that the Athletic Training Program is taking this forward step to enhance educational leadership and progressive training of future graduates at a master’s degree level.

Thank you and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Virginia L. Snyder, PhD, PA-C
Physician Assistant Program Director
Associate Professor, Clinical Health Science Track
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Room 1278 HSLC, 750 Highland Avenue
Madison, WI 53705
Email: vsnyder@wisc.edu
Office Phone: 608-265-6770
April 25, 2018

Dr. Gary Diffee
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Kinesiology
2000 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

It is with pleasure that I offer this letter in support for the Department of Kinesiology’s Notice of Intent to Plan a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training (MSAT). The elevation of athletic training to a Masters degree-level distinction is an appropriate step in the evolution of this health sciences profession. Our campus has a strong history of providing students with a broad range of health science offerings. The Athletic Training Program is well established and valued as a member of the campus health sciences community.

As the Director of Public Health Education and Training in the Department of Population Health and the Deputy Director of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program, I extend my support for this Notice of Intent to Plan in the spirit of interdisciplinary cooperation. With more and more of our students having an interest in preventing the consequences of obesity and overweight in children and adults, we see a need for collaboration with many other programs and disciplines to address these wicked public health issues related to nutrition and physical activity. In addition, injuries related to athletics has also become a prominent public health issue. These and other topics provide opportunities for the potential of the development of a dual degree with the MSAT program so that our graduates can provide services at a population health level through a public health prevention lens. As the MPH Program develops a transformed curriculum to address new practice-based competencies, there will also be opportunities for MSAT students to participate in select core courses.

We look forward to the development of the MSAT at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the opportunities to develop exciting new educational experiences for our students. Should you need any further information please don’t hesitate to contact me at barbara.duerst@wisc.edu or at (608)-263-4215.

Sincerely,

Barbara Duerst
Director Public Health Education and Training Programs
Department of Population Health Sciences/Deputy Director
Master of Public Health Program
May 10, 2018

Dr. Gary Diffee
Professor and Chair
Department of Kinesiology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
2000 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

I am writing to provide my support of the proposed Master’s degree in Athletic Training Program (MSAT) at UW-Madison. In my roles as a faculty member in two departments in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (Family Medicine and Community Health, and Orthopedics and Rehabilitation) and as the Medical Director for the Athletic Training Program, I am uniquely positioned to reflect on the importance of the elevation of the athletic training education program to a graduate level program. With a longstanding history of excellence in educating athletic trainers at the undergraduate level, this program is poised to become a true interprofessional partner on the campus in order to help contribute to the missions of the Campus Strategic Framework and to address public health disparities in the state of Wisconsin in access to the medical care that athletic trainers provide. Athletic trainers are often the first contacts for medical care for the youth of our state, bridging the far too common gap in care created by the current deficit of primary care providers in the state of Wisconsin in many of our communities. I regularly work with athletic trainers with graduate degrees in my community based sports medicine clinical practice, on the field at high school and college sports events, at community based athletic events such as distance races, and in various educational forums for other health professionals and the public at large. These health professionals are uniquely qualified to provide patient-centered medical evaluation and treatment in collaboration with physicians, physical therapists, nurses, and public health professionals. As the premier institution for health professions education and public health training in our state, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has the resources needed to support the education of graduate athletic trainers as vital members of the modern healthcare workforce and as key contributors to the clinical, educational and research missions of this university.
I look forward to continued collaboration with my colleagues in athletic training at UW-Madison as this outstanding program progresses to a graduate degree program. On Wisconsin!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Carr, MD
Associate Professor (CHS)
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Dr. Gary Diffee  
Professor and Chair  
Dept. of Kinesiology  
2000 Observatory Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

I am pleased to write this letter supporting the Department of Kinesiology’s Notice of Intent to Plan Master of Science degree in Athletic Training (MSAT). As you know, the elevation of athletic training to the MS degree level is a necessary and appropriate step in the evolution of this health sciences program. The athletic training profession has continued to grow to address the healthcare needs of active individuals in a variety of settings. Athletic trainers are valuable care providers and play a role in the reduction of future healthcare costs because of their focus on injury prevention and evidence based care.

The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics has long been a supporter of the Athletic Training Program and members of our athletic training staff serve as clinical preceptors for the program. One of the most rewarding parts of my job is to be able to teach, mentor and develop young professionals in the clinical setting. We look forward to continuing to serve as a clinical education site for athletic training students in the new degree program.

As an alumni of the UW Athletic Training Internship program from 1996, I am very excited to see this educational program continue evolve and produce well trained clinicians and healthcare providers.

Sincerely,

Michael Moll, MEd, LAT  
Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
608-225-6825  
mkm@athletics.wisc.edu
Dr. Gary Diffee                                      May 15, 2018
Professor and Chair
dep. of Kinesiology
2000 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dr. Diffee:

I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the Department of Kinesiology’s Notice of Intent to Plan a Master of Science Degree in Athletic Training (MSAT). The UW-Madison campus has a strong history of providing students with scholarly and professional education in a broad range of health occupations. The advancement of athletic training to Maters degree-level is consistent with the required scope of knowledge as well as practice expectations within the current health care system. An MSAT program offering at UW-Madison is certain to be distinctive with a curriculum rich in student exposure to research evidence and scientific rigor.

The current AT Program is well established and valued as a member of the campus health sciences community. Expansion of collaborative, interprofessional education has enabled occupational therapy faculty and students to actively engage in instructional activities with health science students across campus, including athletic training, which enriches the learning experience for all. The AT Program’s history of educational innovations, high standards and the commitment of its faculty and instructors will undoubtedly make the transition from Bachelor’s to Master’s degree seamless.

As Director of the Occupational Therapy Program I extend my support for this Notice of Intent to Plan in the spirit of interdisciplinary cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ruth Benedict, DrPH, OTR
Professor and Director