

# Athletic Trainer



## Occupational Description

The athletic trainer, with the consultation and supervision of attending and/or consulting physicians, is an integral part of the health care system associated with physical activity and sports. Through preparation in both academic and practical experience, the athletic trainer provides a variety of services, including injury prevention, recognition, immediate care, treatment, and rehabilitation after physical trauma.



## Job Description

Past role delineation studies have concluded that the role of an athletic trainer includes, but may not be limited to

- Prevention
- Recognition and evaluation
- Management and treatment
- Rehabilitation
- Organization and administration
- Education and counseling



## Employment Characteristics

Athletic trainers typically provide their services in one or more of the following settings: secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional athletic organizations, physician offices, military, industry, and private or hospital-based clinics. According to the NATA, entry-level salaries in 2002 averaged \$32,000.



## Educational Programs

**Length.** Baccalaureate degree programs require 4 years of study. Postbaccalaureate programs are generally 2 years.

**Prerequisites.** Applicants for the 4-year baccalaureate degree programs should have a high school diploma or equivalent and meet institutional entrance requirements. Applicants for postbaccalaureate programs should have a baccalaureate degree that includes appropriate course work and clinical experience, as specified by the institution.

**Curriculum.** The professional curriculum includes formal instruction in prevention and evaluation of athletic injuries and illnesses, first aid and emergency care, therapeutic exercise, administration of athletic training programs, human anatomy, human physiology, exercise physiology, kinesiology and biomechanics, nutrition, psychology, and personal and community health. The curriculum also includes a series of structured laboratory and clinical experiences.



## Inquiries

### Careers

National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc  
2952 Stemmons Frwy/Ste 200  
Dallas, TX 75247  
214 637-6282  
800 TRY-NATA  
214 637-2206 Fax  
[www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)

### Certification

NATA Board of Certification  
NATABOC Administrative Offices  
1512 S 60th St  
Omaha, NE 68106-2102  
402 559-0091  
402 561-0598 Fax  
[www.nataboc.org](http://www.nataboc.org)

### Program Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs  
(CAAHEP) in collaboration with:  
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic  
Training  
PO Box 460939  
Centennial, CO 80046-0939  
303 627-6229  
303 632-5915 Fax  
E-mail: [dllcaruthers@comcast.net](mailto:dllcaruthers@comcast.net)  
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