Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Athletic Training

In order to become an athletic trainer, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework *(see list of programs for specific requirements)*
- obtain required observation hours with Athletic Trainer *(see list of programs for specific requirements)*
- apply through ATCAS system, some colleges may require additional applications *ATCAS*
- complete a degree in Athletic Training from an accredited AT program *List of programs*
- pass the Board of Certification (BOC) exam
- obtain state specific credential for the area you are wanting to practice

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into an athletic training program, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. AT programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Athletic Training Centralized Application Services (ATCAS) is used by the majority of AT schools but most schools also require a separate application to their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many athletic training programs:

BIOL 150, BIOL 291, BIOL 292
General Bio. I, Human Anat. & Phys. I, Human Anat. & Phys. II

CHEM 139
General Chemistry I

PHYS 130
Introductory Physics I

PSY 150 and/or other course in social or behavioral science
General Psychology

ND 330 (or higher)
Human Nutritional Needs

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for Athletic Training schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
828-227-7753
prepro@wcu.edu

Honors College Students:
Emily Sharpe
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