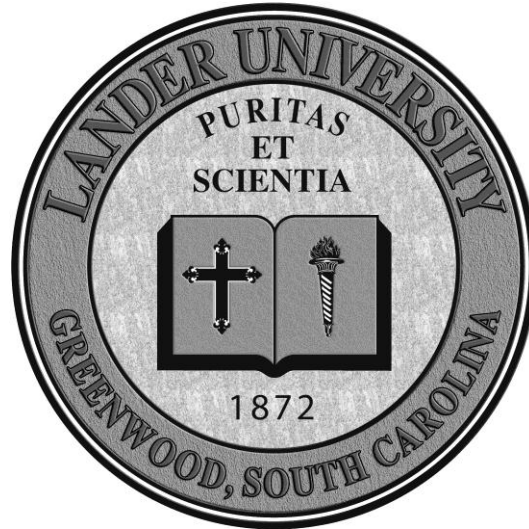


LANDER UNIVERSITY

Greenwood, South Carolina 29649



Program Planning Summary

Master of Science in Athletic Training

Program Contact: Dr. Gina Barton (gbarton@lander.edu)

Program Contact Information: Chair, Physical Education and Exercise Studies,
Lander University, 320 Stanley Ave., Greenwood, SC 29649, (864) 388-8023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dan Ball", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Daniel W. Ball, President

October 25, 2013

CLASSIFICATION

1. **Name of Proposed Program:** Master of Science in Athletic Training
2. **Academic Unit in which the program resides:** College of Education; Department of Physical Education and Exercise Studies
3. **Proposed Date of Implementation:** May, 2015
4. **CIP Code:** 51.0913
5. **Site:** Lander University
6. **Qualifies for supplemental Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship awards?** Yes No
7. **Delivery Mode:** Traditional and Hybrid Instruction
8. **Area of Certification:** Not Applicable

JUSTIFICATION

1. **Need for the program in the state:** Currently, there are seven institutions in South Carolina offering Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) accredited professional programs in athletic training (i.e., Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, Erskine College, Lander University, Limestone College, University of South Carolina, and Winthrop University). According to the CAATE, there are 364 accredited professional athletic training programs across the nation. The professional athletic training programs are offered at the undergraduate (professional bachelors) or graduate (professional masters) levels. Of the 364 professional athletic training programs, only 27 offer a professional master's program in athletic training; however, none are offered in the state of South Carolina. These professional programs in athletic training, both undergraduate and graduate levels, prepare students to sit for the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (www.bocatc.org) examination, which is the entry-level credential necessary to practice as an athletic trainer in the United States. All candidates who challenge the exam must graduate from a CAATE-accredited professional undergraduate or graduate program in athletic training. In addition to entry-level professional programs, the CAATE also serves as the national accreditor for post-professional and residency programs in athletic training (students of these programs must be credentialed by the Board of Certification prior to admission). As indicated above, the current minimum degree requirement for athletic training is at the undergraduate level. Recent trends in healthcare education have demonstrated a shift to graduate level preparation (i.e., nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, etc.). The shift to graduate level preparation has stemmed from numerous origins, including but not limited to, economic, professional, political, and educational influences. Most healthcare professions look to and utilize the medical model for guidance. For decades, medical doctors, dentists, and veterinarians have used a post-baccalaureate entry-level professional degree. Studies have provided arguments supporting the potential to improve the professional preparation of students at the post-baccalaureate level (MacKinnon, 1984; Pitney WA, 2012; Wilkerson, Colston, & Bogdanowicz, 2006). Therefore, the Executive Committee for Education, a sub-committee of the National Athletic Trainers' Association responsible for guiding the future of athletic training education, began an investigation into the necessity and/or practicality of transitioning the minimum degree requirement to the graduate level. No matter the outcome of the investigation, Lander intends to transition its program from an undergraduate professional program to a graduate professional program. It is plausible that transitioning to a professional master's program will enhance the viability of the athletic training program. The following reasons provide justification: 1) Currently, all of the accredited professional athletic training programs in South Carolina compete to recruit students from the same pool of applicants: students seeking an undergraduate degree. Furthermore, the remaining 330 undergraduate professional programs across the nation recruit from the same population. In

contrast, professional master's programs recruit from a different pool of applicants, students seeking a Master's degree, of which only 27 programs compete for students. As previously stated, currently there are no public institutions that offer a professional master's program in South Carolina; therefore, the applicant pool is much larger. 2) Graduate level programs provide a concentrated learning environment that is focused solely on the respective content, which enables a higher level of learning. Furthermore, graduate programs can be more creative in program delivery and are not confined to uniform scheduling that must allot for undergraduate general education courses. 3) Lander plans to create a dual degree program that offers students the opportunity to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and a master's degree in Athletic Training over a five-year period (see Curriculum Outline section for details). It would also be possible for students who had a degree in exercise science or some similar major (from Lander or other universities) to apply for and be admitted to the professional Master's program in Athletic Training. According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association, approximately 70% of practicing athletic trainers have a master's degree. Therefore, Lander would be able to graduate students with a level of education that is in sync with the industry norm.

2. **Relationship to existing programs at the proposing institution:** Lander offers an undergraduate CAATE accredited professional program in athletic training (accredited through 2017-2018). The undergraduate program will be closed after currently enrolled students complete the program. The university currently offers five graduate programs. The College of Education offers the Master of Arts in Teaching in Art Education, Master of Education in Montessori Education, and Master of Education in Teaching and Learning with various concentrations including an Exercise and Sports Studies concentration offered by the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Studies (PEES). The CHE recently approved the Master of Science in Emergency Management and Master of Science in Nursing, Clinical Nurse Leader, scheduled to implement in January 2014. The proposed Master of Science in Athletic Training will be the only graduate degree program housed in the Department of PEES.
3. **Assessment of the extent to which program duplicates existing programs in the state:** Professional programs in athletic training prepare students to sit for the Board of Certification examination that is the entry-level credential necessary to practice as an athletic trainer in the United States (all candidates who challenge the exam must graduate from a CAATE accredited professional program in athletic training). There are currently seven institutions in the state that offer a professional program in athletic training at the undergraduate level; however, there are none that offer a professional program at the graduate level. Therefore, the proposed program duplicates no existing graduate professional athletic training program in the state.

PROGRAM DEMAND AND PRODUCTIVITY

1. **Anticipated enrollment in the fourth year: 20**
2. **Anticipated number of annual completions after the fourth year: 10**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES

Athletic training is practiced by athletic trainers, (AT), health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients across the age and care continuum. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairments, functional limitations and disabilities. Employment opportunities for athletic trainers are posted on the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) website (www.nata.org). A search on the website (August 28, 2013) for available jobs resulted in 746 available opportunities nationwide with nine in South Carolina, twenty in Georgia, and sixteen in North Carolina. Also, opportunities for athletic

trainers are posted on the South Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association website (www.scata.org) which has ten opportunities posted. The majority of these vacancies require certification as an athletic trainer. The route to certification requires completion of an accredited undergraduate or graduate professional (entry-level) athletic training program, successful passing of the national Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC) examination, and attainment of state certification/licensure. According to the BOC (www.bocatec.org), as of August 23, 2013 there were approximately 45,000 certified athletic trainers in the U.S., and 631 SC state certified athletic trainers according to the SC DHEC. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes employment projections data for athletic trainers. According to the Bureau, "Employment of athletic trainers is expected to grow by 30% from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. However, because it is a small occupation, the fast growth will result in only about 5,500 new jobs over the 10-year period." Although jobs are not expected to grow as rapidly in the traditional settings of professional, college, and university athletic programs, the non-traditional settings are expected to see rapid growth. According to the NATA, athletic trainers employed in the traditional settings listed above account for 27% of its ~32,000 certified members, while the non-traditional settings (i.e., youth sports, clinics, physician offices, military, industrial, and the performing arts) account for 30% of its certified members. Recent research regarding concussions and the related risk of permanent damage as a result of improper diagnosis and care particularly in children and adolescents, has prompted not only a greater awareness among coaches and parents but has led to new legislation at the national and state levels. Currently, only one state in the U.S. does not have concussion legislation. Due to these legal mandates and the fact that athletic trainers are specialists in the care of athletic injuries, the demand for these healthcare professionals should continue to increase. Although an increase in salary for those holding a Master's degree is rare, organizations are more inclined to hire athletic trainers who hold a graduate degree.

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Prerequisite Courses

Human Anatomy	4sh
Human Physiology	4sh
Kinesiology/Biomechanics	3sh
Physiology of Exercise	4sh
Personal Health/Wellness	3sh
Introduction to Statistics	3sh
Introduction to Psychology	3sh

Curriculum

Course Number	Course Name	Credit Hours	Semester
AT 602	Fundamentals of Athletic Training	3sh	Summer I
AT 604	Musculoskeletal Pathology	3sh	Summer I
AT 606	Clinical Anatomy	3sh	Summer I
AT 608	Athletic Training Techniques	3sh	Summer I
AT 622	Injury Examination & Evaluation I	4sh	Fall I
AT 624	Therapeutic Interventions I	4sh	Fall I
PEES 602	Principles of Strength & Conditioning	3sh	Fall I
AT 620	Athletic Training Clinical Practicum I	3sh	Fall I
AT 633	Injury Examination & Evaluation II	4sh	Spring I
AT 635	Therapeutic Interventions II	4sh	Spring I
PEES 636	Nutrition and Performance	3sh	Spring I
AT 630	Athletic Training Clinical Practicum	3sh	Spring I

AT 654	Medical Conditions & Disease	3sh	Summer II
AT 656	Therapeutic Interventions III	4sh	Summer II
AT 650	Athletic Training Clinical Practicum III	3sh	Summer II
AT 682	Evidence-Based Practice I	3sh	Fall II
AT 684	Athletic Training Management	3sh	Fall II
AT 680	Athletic Training Clinical Practicum	3sh	Fall II
AT 693	Evidence-Based Practice II	3sh	Spring II
AT 699	Athletic Training Seminar	3sh	Spring II
AT 690	Athletic Training Clinical Practicum	3sh	Spring II
	Total Semester Hours	68sh	

The University will offer the Master of Science degree in Athletic Training with three methods of enrollment. First, the program will enroll students in a traditional manner in which the applicant has earned a bachelor's degree from any regionally accredited institution by the time of matriculation. Second, the student may enroll at Lander as a freshman into an accelerated dual enrollment program that results in the student earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science and a Master of Science degree in Athletic Training in only a five-year period (contingent upon the student's application and admittance into the athletic training program after the third year of attendance). Four graduate courses (PEES 602, 636 and AT 684, 682) taken via dual enrollment will be credited towards required undergraduate courses for the exercise science degree to allow for the expedited degree completion. Furthermore, students who pursue this option and decide not to continue with the athletic training program (or students who are not accepted into the program) will be required to complete the remaining undergraduate courses (PEES 308, 341, 326, 402) required for the degree in exercise science in a traditional four-year period. Last, coursework taken at other accredited professional athletic training programs would be open to review for transferability.

ARTICULATION AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

The professional graduate program in athletic training would be the only such program offered by a public institution in South Carolina. A professional program in athletic training prepares students to sit for the Board of Certification examination, which is the entry-level credential necessary to practice as an athletic trainer in the United States (all candidates who challenge the exam must graduate from a CAATE accredited undergraduate or graduate professional program in athletic training). Professional programs in athletic training are currently offered at the undergraduate and graduate levels. In addition to professional programs, the CAATE also serves as the national accreditor for post-professional and residency programs in athletic training (students of these programs must be credentialed by the Board of Certification prior to matriculation). Coursework taken at other accredited athletic training programs would be open to review for transferability. Lander is open to establish relationships with other institutions across the state as they have the potential to serve as feeder programs for the proposed Master of Science degree in Athletic Training. Inter-Institutional cooperation currently exists with the undergraduate professional programs, and would continue with the proposed program. For example, there are annual workshops sponsored by the South Carolina Athletic Trainers' Association that are held annually in which faculty and students from each of the accredited programs facilitate/present/attend sessions related to the practice of athletic training. These workshops focus on fostering the importance of professional development.

ESTIMATED COSTS

Faculty: The program is designed as a year-round full-time program which will require 12-month faculty contracts. Based upon the proposed curriculum along with CAATE requirements for release time for program director and clinical coordinator responsibilities, the program will

require two additional faculty members. In addition, the current faculty position will need to be increased to a 12-month contract.

Equipment: Biodex restoration \$10,000, Modalities \$25,000

Classroom Renovation: Wall (including electrical outlets for modalities), water-cooled crushed ice machine, refrigerator/freezer, AV, desks - \$10,000

Operating: Annual fees: CAATE Annual - \$2,100; Curriculum competency/proficiency software \$500; Travel/CEUs: \$2,500/faculty member; Reaccreditation fee - \$5,000 per occurrence; One-time substantive change evaluation fee to the CAATE for transitioning from a bachelor's to Master's - \$3000 to \$6,000

Communication/Marketing: student recruitment - \$1,000;

Maintenance and Replacement: Calibration checks, etc. - \$750/yr.;

Professional Services: Malpractice liability insurance - \$180/yr./faculty member, certification dues - \$110/faculty member/2yr

Library: In combination with the library resources available at Lander and as a result of the relationship established with the Self Regional Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship, there would only be a need to add three additional journal subscriptions: Sports Health - \$350/yr; Athletic Training & Sports Health Care - \$282/yr., International Journal of Athletic Therapy & Training - \$426/yr.