

MSAT - Program Review  
Reviewers:  
Kenton Cummins, MHA, MLS(ASCP)CM  
Sally Cantwell, Ph.D., RN  
Dani Moffit, Ph.D., LAT, ATC

Date of Review: September 21, 2020

**Introduction:**

The Masters of Science of Athletic Training program is a nationally recognized graduate program with a rigorous curriculum, competitive and prestigious clinical rotations, and highly qualified faculty. Faculty are highly engaged in creating a learning experience for students to accomplish their didactic and clinical student learning outcomes. The program recognizes the importance of maintaining close relationships with clinical partnerships, has community and university support, and a mission statement that is aligned with the university and outlines their program goals.

We appreciate the opportunity to review a program with high standards and appreciate the time and effort the program put forth for this successful review process.

**Standard A - Mission Statement**

Summary: The mission statement was updated in the last year. It demonstrates a student-centered curriculum that aligns with the College of Health Professions and University mission statements.

**MSAT Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Weber State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program is to provide a quality educational and research experience for students. Graduate students are presented with didactic and psychomotor experiences that will lead them to being able to exercise sound ethical judgment, achieve satisfying careers, and make positive contributions to their communities. In addition, the MSAT guides the student on the journey to become a lifelong learner through obligatory professional continuing education.

**Dumke College of Health Professions Mission Statement:**

The Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke College of Health Professions (DCHP) will be the premier healthcare college for our students, faculty, staff and community by meeting their evolving needs through traditional and innovative methods within healthcare. The Dumke College of Health Professions provides excellence in education for our students, support for our faculty and staff, resources for our healthcare partners and partnerships with our local and global communities.

**Weber State University Mission Statement:**

"Weber State University provides associate, baccalaureate and master's degree programs in liberal arts, sciences, technical and professional fields. Encouraging freedom of expression and

valuing diversity, the university provides excellent educational experiences for students through extensive personal contact among faculty, staff and students in and out of the classroom. Through academic programs, research, artistic expression, public service and community-based learning, the university serves as an educational, cultural and economic leader for the region.”

Strength:

The mission statement is student-focused and expresses high-level expected student outcomes such as educational quality, focus on graduate research, meaningful clinical experiences, and creating positive community relationships. The mission statement coincides with the DCHP and

University mission statement on gh486de14(m reW\*nBTo)-4( )7( )β)-4(di)6(ve)17( )6-4(y,)-4( )βuca)β)-4(i)on)al

Summary: There are five Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) in the program. The SLOs are based on the five domains of athletic training. Each SLO is measured by both direct and indirect tools that are throughout the courses, with a requirement of at least one direct method of assessment per objective. The assessment plan includes benchmarking, findings, and action plans for both met and unmet outcomes. The outcomes are clearly defined by the MSAT program and are met through the curriculum. The CAATE

overload to support MSAT FTE and instruction demand. Faculty are student-centered in their curriculum development. Faculty members are certified Athletic Trainers. Faculty are active members of professional organizations such as the National Athletic Trainers' Association, the American College of Sports Medicine, and attend the Athletic Training Educators' Conference annually. Faculty feel supported both professionally, and personally. Faculty have expressed they have been prepared for the tenure process. The following [link](#) provides details on the faculty in the MSAT program.

Strength: All faculty have demonstrated commitment to the MSAT program, as well as the college. Words used to describe the faculty by those interviewed include "great communication," "easy to work with," "knowledgeable," "camaraderie," "accommodating," and "students are always put first." There is obvious respect for the program and the faculty from all constituents.

Recommendation(s): If the desire of the program is to grow in numbers, there will be need for another faculty line to help support at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This is demonstrated by most faculty members already teaching overload to meet the needs of the program.

#### **Standard F - Program Support**

Recommendation(s): Dean Simonian described the desire to get a 100% administrative position to also provide help with advising students. Upon speaking to the faculty, this should be a priority. The  $\frac{3}{4}$  position they currently have is not consistent because it is filled by a student. By having a full-time dedicated position, there would be several areas this person could help with, including: a) Admissions help with the increased number of international students in the program; b) Advising for the Athletic Therapy program; c) Recruitment for both the undergraduate and graduate programs; and d) Enrollment management for the graduate program.

### **Standard G - Relationships with External Communities**

Summary: The MSAT program has several types of external communities: clinical sites, an advisory board, and outreach programs. Each provides a different opportunity for the student's benefit, whether it be networking, reaching career goals, or reaching personal goals. These communities have become an integral part of the MSAT program and provide different experiences beyond the didactic portion of the program. We recognize there are accreditation requirements for maintaining a list of clinical relationships. However, as a review committee, we failed to ask for the list of clinical sites.

Strength: There are three external communities with which a relationship has been well-established. The MSAT program's medical director is from Intermountain Healthcare. Many community outreach events are hosted by Intermountain Healthcare and as such, students are able to volunteer with these events. WMI Global is another group that hosts event coverage beyond the local community. Because of the relationship with the MSAT program, it often asks for volunteers/help from current students and alumni of the program. The strongest relationship is with WSU's athletic department which can only occur with incredible communication and support from both sides.

Recommendation(s): Since immersions are a CAATE Standard, making sure the students are aware of the resources available through the NATA for seeking immersive sights will provide extra opportunities for the students. For future reviews, we recommend a list of clinical sites be included in the review documents.

### **Standard H - Program Summary**

Summary: The Master of Science in Athletic Training program at WSU successfully prepares its students for career paths. The number of faculty members who are hired to teach and administer the program is adequate to meet program requirements and student learning outcomes.

Strengths: The MSAT program has a 100% pass rate on the national exam. The chair and program director have a very good understanding of their students and the job market. Knowing most of their students want to stay in Utah, the number of students in the program will not saturate the job market.

It is evident that this is a student-centered program. This was demonstrated by what students, faculty, staff, community partners, and administration all noted about the programmatic culture during our programmatic review.

Recommendation(s): See recommendations in all Standards.