## **Admissions**

### **How competitive is the MSAT at LSU?**

The MSAT is a competitive admissions program, and at this time the program will accept a maximum of 26 students for the Summer 2021 cohort. The application process outlines the information utilized in the selection process for program applicants.

### **Do I have to take the GRE?**

Yes. GRE scores are valid for 5 years from the date last taken. LSU-Baton Rouge institution code is **“4927”**. You must take the GRE even if you have a graduate degree. The minimum accepted GRE score is a 290.

### **When I can submit my application materials?**

The program application process will become available in the Summer 2020 and will be made available on the LSU Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) website and Graduate School website (<https://www.lsu.edu/graduateschool/>).

### **I am interested in applying to the MSAT, but I will not have my prerequisites completed until the end of the Spring semester which is after the application deadline in December.  Can I still apply and be accepted to the MSAT?**

Yes, you may still take coursework throughout the application process, however all coursework must be completed prior to June 20 of the acceptance year. Students are open to apply however will not be accepted to the program if the prerequisite coursework is not successfully completed prior to June 20. For example, students applying for acceptance into the Summer 2021 cohort must complete all prerequisite coursework prior to June 20, 2021.

### **What GPA do I need to be accepted to the MSAT?**

All applications must have a minimum overall (cumulative) GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on his/her last 60 credits of coursework completed at the time of application. Although the 3.0 GPA is the minimum required, applicants with higher GPAs will have a more competitive application

### **Do I need to graduate with a Pre-Athletic Training degree in order to get accepted to the MSAT?**

No, students can possess a degree from any discipline however all students must meet the program’s prerequisite courses and have a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in order to be admitted to the MSAT.

### **I have taken graduate coursework at another university.  Can any of those courses count (or be substituted) for courses in the MSAT?**

Courses will be considered for meet program prerequisite course requirements, however no courses will be reviewed for credit towards any courses in the MSAT.

### **How many students typically apply to the MSAT and how many are accepted to the program annually?**

Applications vary each year and because this is a new graduate program we do not have any data regarding total number of applicants to the MSAT at this time.

### **Do I need a bachelor’s degree to be accepted into the MSAT?**

Yes. All students applying to the program must possess and provide proof of a least a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution recognized by the LSU Graduate School. The degree must be completed prior to June 20 of the application year to begin the program in the Summer semester.

### **Does LSU limit admissions to Louisiana residents?**

We do not offer preferential acceptance to any students as our program seeks the most qualified applicants that will be successful in our rigorous program.

### **Do I apply to the graduate school first or to the AT program first?**

Students must first complete their initial application at the LSU Graduate School, and then submit all remaining materials into ATCAS to complete the application process. The application process will open in Summer 2020.

### **How do I know if my course credits will transfer in? Who do I need approval from?**

All courses will be reviewed after being submitted in the ATCAS portal. The program faculty will provide assistance in providing guidance in students conducting a self-appraisal applicant checklist. Applicants must complete a Prerequisite Review Form and submit into ATCAS as part of the application materials.

## **Observation Hours Requirements**

### **Where do I get observation hours?**

Students can complete their hours under any licensed athletic trainer or combination with a licensed physician (MD/DO); however at least 50 of the 75 hours must be completed under a licensed athletic trainer. One of the supervisors must be a BOC Certified Athletic Trainer. Students can utilize the sample documentation form or create their own form to document the hours. Hours can consist of any combination of volunteer, paid, or completed as part of an academic course as long as the applicant provides appropriate documentation.

### **Is there a time limit on how old my observation hours can be?**

At least 50 of the 75 hours must be completed under a licensed athletic trainer. The minimum # of hours required must have been completed within 4 calendar years from the date of application completed in ATCAS; applicants are asked to submit all observation hours (volunteer/free/paid) that may have been completed outside of the four-year time window).

Example: A student submitted all required information into ATCAS on November 2, 2020. Students will be able to submit all hours from November 2, 2016 – November 2, 2020.

### **I am/was a student-athlete in college.  Can I count the time I spent with my athletic trainers and team physicians as observation hours to apply to the program?**

No. While we recognize that student-athletes have spent extensive time with athletic trainers in their respective sports, the time spent was not for observing but rather receiving patient care under an athletic trainer and/or physician.

### **Can I get observation hours with LSU Athletics?**

At this time students are not permitted to obtain observation hours with LSU Athletics. The MSAT is currently working with LSU Athletic Training staff to develop a plan for students to obtain hours starting in the Fall 2020 through completion of academic coursework as part of the Pre-Athletic Training Concentration in the LSU School of Kinesiology.

### **What type of hours under healthcare providers can use to document observation hours?**

We ask that applicants submit any hours performed (paid, volunteer, and/or course credit) in the previous 4 years prior to submission of their application form to the LSU MSAT to be considered. Observation hours all healthcare providers, regardless of mode (paid, volunteer, and/or course credit) are valuable experiences from our applicants. Students must provide a minimum of 75 observation hours requirement to be considered for acceptance to the MSAT, however we do encourage the submission of all hours completed under any licensed healthcare provider for our application committee to review.

## **Curriculum (Classroom and Clinical)**

### **How long does it take to complete the MSAT?**

The program’s curriculum plan consists of a 23-month program in which all courses are taken in sequence.

### **How many credit hours is the MSAT?**

The program is 60 credits, and is a non-thesis degree program. Students are required to apply and successfully pass the BOC Certification Examination during the student’s last academic semester (Spring) in order to graduate in May of the second year of the program.

### **If I am accepted to the MSAT, when will I need to start my classes?**

All students will begin coursework in June 2021 per the program’s curriculum.

### **Will I need to take a graduate school comprehensive examination in order to graduate from LSU?**

Students must successfully sit for the national Board of Certification examination for athletic trainers and show proof of passing during the student’s final academic semester. This must occur prior to the LSU Graduate School graduation deadlines to qualify for Spring graduation. The BOC Certification Examination is offered in late January/early February and again in late March/early April.

* In order to graduate from LSU, the student must pass the BOC examination. If a student does not pass the BOC examination then the student would be required to successfully complete a written comprehensive examination administered by the School of Kinesiology.
* The student may be permitted to graduate in the Spring semester without a passing attempt on the BOC examination during his/her final Spring semester if the comprehensive examination is successfully completed prior to deadlines to graduate per the LSU Graduate School.

## **International Students**

### **What are the minimum English proficiency requirements that I must demonstrate?**

Demonstrated English proficiency is necessary. You may be exempt from this requirement if have completed a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution or have a college-level degree showing completion of post-secondary education in a country where English is the primary official language.

* Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): minimum score of 550 (paper-based) or 79 (internet-based) OR
* International English Language Testing System (IELTS): minimum score of 6.5 OR
* Parson's Test of English (PTE): minimum score of 59

### **Are there additional documents that I need to submit in addition to the MSAT’s required documentation?**

The following materials should be sent to LSU International Services (**isodoc@lsu.edu**):

* A copy of the name page of your passport.
* A completed Affidavit of Support and supporting financial documents (if you require an I-20 or DS-2019 for F-1 or J-1 visa status). Note: Your application will be processed even if your financial documents are not included. If you prefer, you can wait to submit these items after an admission decision has been made. Please visit LSU International Services (<https://www.lsu.edu/intlpro/is/prospective-students/admissions/finances.php>) for more information about these documents.
* For international students who need to apply for the F-1 or J-1 student visas, there are deadlines for processing Initial I-20 or DS-2019 forms that are needed for visa applications. For LSU admissions applications that do not have a decision made before the following deadlines, no initial I-20s or DS-2019s will be issued.

## **Financial**

### **How much does the program tuition cost?**

Please refer to the LSU Office of Financial Aid (<https://www.lsu.edu/financialaid/index.php>) for information on required tuition and fees for graduate school students. Detailed information can also be found in the MSAT website ([www.lsu.edu/athletictraining](http://www.lsu.edu/athletictraining)).

### **Can I work while enrolled in the MSAT Program?**

The Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program is a very intense curriculum that demands a great deal of time. It is important that students strive to maintain good life-balance between social activities, recreation, rest, along with the classroom and clinical requirements of the AT program. Athletic training students are advised to forego employment concurrently during clinical coursework requirements. Students should consider and take advantage of various financial aid and scholarship opportunities offered internal and external to LSU. It is not permissible for students to be paid by their preceptor and/or clinical site for clinical tasks during clinical rotations.

### **Are there any scholarships available for MSAT students?**

Procedures for applying for financial aid are available from the LSU Office of Student Aid & Scholarships. Federal Scholarship guidelines include standards of maximum allowable award limits. If any portion of your aid would cause you to exceed federal limitations, your aid could be reduced or cancelled as appropriate. Also, there are several competitive scholarships available through various professional organizations such as the Louisiana Athletic Trainers Association ([www.LATAINC.org](http://www.LATAINC.org)) , the student’s appropriate Athletic Training District ([www.seata.org](http://www.seata.org)) and the National Athletic Trainers Association Research and Education Foundation (www.natafoundation.org). These do require students to be a “student member in good standing” with the above-mentioned organizations at the time of application of the scholarship. Scholarship opportunities are constantly changing so consult with the program faculty & staff regarding scholarship opportunities. At this time the program does not provide any merit-based scholarships.

### **Are graduate assistantships available?**

The program does not offer any specific graduate assistantships, however there are graduate scholarships that students may be eligible for through LSU. Visit the LSU Graduate School and LSU Office of Financial Aid websites for more information on criteria and eligibility for these types of financial support.

### **Will I need a car?**

Athletic training students are responsible for their own transportation to and from their clinical assignments. There is a campus bus however some on-campus and all off-campus sites may require you to arrange your own transportation.

### **What expenses will I be responsible for?**

There are a variety of required and estimated expenses that students will be responsible for during his/her participation in the MSAT. Details on the fees/expenses are outlined in the LSU MSAT website.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Does the program help students find jobs after graduation from the MSAT?**

Program faculty and preceptors work extensively with our students in locating employment. Our objective is that during his/her 2nd year our students are seeking jobs, sit and pass the BOC Certification Examination, obtain job offers, graduate in May, and then transition into a successful career in athletic training.

LSU graduates are highly sought after due to our long-time national reputation of our rigorous program and evidence of the quality of our graduates.

### **Can I be a part-time student in the MSAT?**

Due to the academic schedule students must be full-time students each semester of the curriculum.