

Proposition: 14-19/20

Title: Master of Science Athletic Training (MSAT)

Date Submitted: March 17, 2020

Sponsor(s): Kim O'Donnell-Brock (KIND), Phil Post (KIND), Henrietta Williams Pichon (CoEd), Julia Parra (EDUC), Heike Lehnert-LeHouillier (CD)

Proposed Committee: Scholastic Affairs

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals: All approvals from department faculty to ADAC have been obtained.

Proposal Type (please check one):

- Memorial
- Proposition to change policy (please include ARP/RPM reference(s) from <https://arp.nmsu.edu/>)
- Proposition for curriculum addition/change (please include all curriculum change forms and signature pages as outlined here: <https://provost.nmsu.edu/forms/>)
- Other (please describe below)

Proposal: The College of Education proposes to create a Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT). We are attempting to create a Master of Science in Athletic Training. It is a 60-credit professional degree program that is delivered face-to-face, hybrid/online over 24 months. Currently, the CAATE, the accrediting body, will no longer accredit undergraduate degree programs (as of 2022); therefore, students will need a master's degree in order to sit for the national board of certification examination and practice. Athletic Trainers practice in various settings (i.e., high schools, universities, hospitals, military, industry, and performing arts).

Rationale:

The need to provide a MSAT program at NMSU is three-fold:

1. Beginning in the fall of 2022, CAATE will no longer accredit professional undergraduate programs, thus only route to national certification will be through an accredited Masters level professional degree program (CAATE, 2018). In order for NMSU to continue to provide an accredited professional degree in AT, the current undergraduate program must be replaced with a graduate level professional program. This transition is well justified based on the outcomes from our current undergraduate program. In our 2018 performance report to CAATE, the current NMSU undergraduate program demonstrated an overall 58% passing rate and a 54% three-year aggregate of first time passing rates on the Board of Certification (BOC) Exam (the national certification exam for Athletic Training) as well as 100% placement rate for program graduates.

2. A Masters in AT will also provide training and employment for a rapidly growing profession. In 2019, the US Department of Labor predicted that the national job market for athletic trainers will grow by 19% between 2018 and 2028 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, Athletic Trainers, 2019). This represents the generation of 5,900 new jobs nationally. The proposed MSAT program will provide students with the opportunity to obtain employment in a variety of fields and disciplines including traditional high school and college settings, professional sports, hospitals, military, performing arts and industrial settings. The long-term employment outlook for ATs has been projected by the US Bureau of Labor to grow by more than 19% over the next 10 years and is predict to be among the fastest of all US job markets.

3. A significant national need to increase diversity within the AT community. In 2018 the National Athletic Training Association reported that ~80% of AT professionals identify as white and non-Hispanic (NATA, 2018). This is not in line with emerging regional or national demographics. According to recent US census statistics, over 50% of high school graduates in the State of New Mexico are members of underrepresented student groups and this trend will grow as the population in New Mexico increases. As a HSI institution, NMSU is well positioned to take a national lead in the profession's desire to increase diversity within the AT workforce.

See full proposal attached.