

# DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES AND ATHLETIC TRAINING

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## Mission

The mission of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and Athletic Training at Sam Houston State University promotes a team based student-centered curriculum that will encourage personal growth, life-long learning and community engagement, advancing future physician assistants that are capable of distinction in caring for the underserved and marginalized population of Texas and beyond.

## Highlights

- Wide variety of laboratory and practical experiences including an anatomy dissection lab
- Clinical rotations at many world-renowned facilities
- Outstanding faculty and staff with extensive experience in their professional fields
- Small group, team-based learning seminar sessions
- Interprofessional activities with medical, nursing, physical therapy, dietetics, and athletic training students
- Professional development and simulation activities with high-fidelity models
- PANCE Prep software and resources

## Career Opportunities

- Certified Physician Assistant (with completed MPAS degree and successful completion of certification and licensure)
- Direct patient care roles in a variety of settings from family medicine to palliative care
- Hospital based in-patient care to include hospital medicine, ICU critical care, emergency medicine, cardiology and more
- Academia/PA Education
- Research
- Clinical Operations
- Leadership
- Public Health
- Postgraduate training and certifications

## SHSU Graduate School Opportunities in Related Disciplines

### College of Health Sciences

- Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/athletic-training/>)
- Master of Science in Kinesiology (Sport and Human Performance) (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/kinesiology-sport-and-human-performance/>)
- Master of Science in Sport Management (<https://www.shsu.edu/programs/graduate/sport-management/>)
- Master of Public Health (MPH) (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/majors-programs/public-health-mph/>)

### College of Osteopathic Medicine (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/osteopathic-medicine/>)

- Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/majors-programs/osteopathic-medicine-doctor/>)

Additional graduate program opportunities outside of Sam Houston State University may include Master's or Doctorate in Occupational Therapy, Master's in Orthotics and Prosthetics, Doctorate in Physical Therapy, Doctorate in Osteopathic Medicine, Doctorate in Chiropractic Medicine, Doctorate in Pharmacy, and other allied health and exercise science-related areas at other institutions (currently not offered at SHSU).

- Master of Science in Athletic Training (<https://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2025-2026/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/health-sciences/physician-assistant-studies-and-athletic-training/ms-athletic-training/>)

## Scholarships

The SHSU Graduate School (<https://www.shsu.edu/academics/graduate-professional-school/>) provides opportunities for interested students pursuing their graduate degree to receive scholarships and funding for course work.

These opportunities are listed below:

- Financial Aid for Graduate Students
- The General Graduate School Scholarship Application
- Graduate A.S.P.I.R.E. (Academic Success Program in Research Empowerment) Program
- Graduate School R.O.A.D. to PhD program

### College of Health Sciences

- Cady/Huskey-Health Scholarship: \$2,000
- COHS Bridge Scholarship: \$2,000
- Crowley/Gilbert Family Scholarship: \$1,000
- William (Al) and Elizabeth Rampmeier Endowed Scholarship: \$1,000

### National Physician Assistant Scholarships

- Physician Assistant Foundation Scholarship: \$1,000-\$2,500
- AAPA Veterans Caucus Scholarship: \$1,500-\$6,500
- PAs in Hospice and Palliative Medicine (PAHPM) Scholarship: \$1,500
- Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology Scholarship: \$2,000
- California Academy of Physician Assistants
- Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants Scholarship: \$2,000
- Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont Scholarship: \$1,000
- Physician Assistants in Orthopaedic Surgery Scholarship: \$5,000
- Society of PAs in Otorhinolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery Scholarship
- Society of Army PAs Scholarship: \$1,000
- Connecticut PA Foundation Scholarship

## Athletic Training (ATTR)

### ATTR 5111. Lower Extremity Injuries Lab. 1 Hour.

Students apply practical skills in the areas of evaluation, diagnosis, care, and referral of lower-extremity musculoskeletal pathologies. Course content includes evaluation skills and clinical decision-making that allow for the development of a clinical diagnosis, appropriate referral strategy, and a plan of care for lower-extremity injuries and conditions. Co-requisite: ATTR 5311.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5310.

### ATTR 5112. Upper Extremity Injuries Lab. 1 Hour.

Students apply practical skills in the areas of evaluation, diagnosis, care, and referral of upper-extremity orthopedic injuries. Course content includes evaluation skills and clinical decision-making that allows for the development of clinical diagnoses procedures including the assessment of various musculoskeletal conditions, the selection of appropriate referral strategies, and the development of plans of care for upper-extremity injuries and conditions. Co-requisite: ATTR 5312.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5310, ATTR 5311, and ATTR 5111.

### ATTR 5115. Non-Orthopedic Pathologies Lab. 1 Hour.

Students apply practical skills and techniques required to assess, manage, and refer non-orthopedic pathologies that occur in active populations. Course content includes evaluation skills and clinical decision-making that allow for the development of clinical diagnoses procedures including the assessment of various non-orthopedic conditions, the selection of appropriate referral strategies, and the development of plans of care for the conditions that may occur in the cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, integumentary, and reproductive body systems. Co-requisite: ATTR 5315.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5300, ATTR 5310, and ATTR 5320.

### ATTR 5121. Prehospital Emergency Medicine and Acute Care Lab. 1 Hour.

Students perform the skills necessary to function as both an EMT-Basic and a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC). Students practice skills to provide care and transport for critical and emergent patients as part of an emergency medical team. Students will use specific systems that both EMTs and Athletic Trainers employ in the field. Upon completion of this course, students will be eligible to sit for the National Registry Certification for Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (NREMT-B).

**Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

### ATTR 5130. Therapeutic Intervention I Lab. 1 Hour.

Students apply practical skills in the application of skills in the areas of therapeutic exercise and therapeutic medications used to treat impairments due to injury or illness. This laboratory includes instruction, practice, and evaluation of clinical skills related therapeutic interventions in the treatment of pain and deficiencies in movement, strength, endurance, speed, neuromuscular control, coordination, agility, cardiorespiratory fitness, and activity specific skills. Co-requisite: ATTR 5330.

**ATTR 5131. Therapeutic Intervention II Lab. 1 Hour.**

Students apply practical skills in the areas of therapeutic modalities and manual therapies used to treat impairments due to injury or illness. Students demonstrate skills related to cryotherapy, thermotherapy, electrical stimulations, ultrasound, diathermy, light therapy, low level laser, traction, intermittent compression, and manual therapies. Co-requisite: ATTR 5331.

**ATTR 5140. Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training IV. 1 Hour.**

Students demonstrate skill proficiency in practice settings under the supervision and guidance of a clinical preceptor. Clinical skills practiced and evaluated in the course include injury prevention and protective strategies, care and management of acute injuries and emergency situations, assessment of lower and upper extremity pathologies, assessment of head, face, spine and pelvis injuries, and integration of therapeutic interventions. This course prepares students for the level-two designation to enable them to practice skills in real-patient contexts. The clinical placement of students must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Training Coordinator of Clinical Education. This course requires a minimum of 200 clinical education hours. Students cannot progress to the subsequent level in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program until all course program retention requirements are met. Course Equivalents: ATTR 5240

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Athletic Training Program, ATTR 5450, ATTR 5314, KINE 5374, and HLTH 5378.

**ATTR 5210. Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training I. 2 Hours.**

Students demonstrate skill proficiency in a practice setting under the supervision and guidance of a clinical preceptor. Clinical skills practiced and evaluated in the course include injury prevention and protective strategies, care and management of acute injuries and emergency situations, and assessment of lower extremity pathologies. This course prepares students for the level-one designation to enable them to practice skills in real-patient contexts. The clinical placement of students must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Training Coordinator of Clinical Education. This course requires 200 clinical education hours. Students cannot progress to the subsequent level in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program until all course program retention requirements are met.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Athletic Training Program, ATTR 5300, ATTR 5310, ATTR 5320.

**ATTR 5220. Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training II. 2 Hours.**

Students demonstrate skill proficiency in practice settings under the supervision and guidance of a clinical preceptor. Clinical skills practiced and evaluated in the course include injury prevention and protective strategies, care and management of acute injuries and emergency situations, assessment of lower and upper extremity pathologies, and integration of therapeutic modalities and medications. This course prepares students for the level-one designation to enable them to practice skills in real-patient contexts. The clinical placement of students must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Training Coordinator of Clinical Education. This course requires a minimum of 200 clinical education hours. Students cannot progress to the subsequent level in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program until all course program retention requirements are met.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Athletic Training Program, ATTR 5210, ATTR 5311, ATTR 5111, ATTR 5330, and ATTR 5130.

**ATTR 5230. Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training III. 2 Hours.**

Students demonstrate skill proficiency in practice settings under the supervision and guidance of a clinical preceptor. Clinical skills practiced and evaluated in the course include injury prevention and protective strategies, care and management of acute injuries and emergency situations, assessment of lower and upper extremity pathologies, assessment of head and face injuries, and integration of therapeutic interventions. This course prepares students for the level-two designation to enable them to practice skills in real-patient contexts. The clinical placement of students must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Training Clinical Education Coordinator prior to beginning the required 250 hours of the clinical experience.

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Athletic Training Program, ATTR 5220, ATTR 5331, ATTR 5131, and ATTR 5313.

**ATTR 5300. Injury Prevention and Protective Strategies. 3 Hours.**

Students examine athletic training through a public health lens and explore injury prevention and protection through data collection and implementation of evidence-based strategies. Course content includes strategies used in athletic training such as the application of protective equipment, taping, bracing, splinting, and casting.

**ATTR 5310. Clinical Evaluation and Assessment Fundamentals. 3 Hours.**

Students learn skills required for the effective palpation of anatomical structures, assessment of range of motion and strength, neurological screens, and functional assessment screens including qualitative postural and gait analysis. The skills, techniques, and processes taught in the course prepare students for successful completion of clinical examinations.

**ATTR 5311. Lower Extremity Injuries. 3 Hours.**

Students learn the skills and techniques required to conduct a patient evaluation, develop a clinical diagnosis, refer the patient to appropriate health care providers, and design a plan of care for patients with common lower-extremity injuries and conditions. Co-requisite: ATTR 5111.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5310.

**ATTR 5312. Upper Extremity Injuries. 3 Hours.**

Students participate in a comprehensive overview of common musculoskeletal injuries and conditions related to the anatomical upper-extremity including the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, and fingers. Course content includes the proper evaluative procedures and assessments of various pathologies, the development of clinical diagnoses, the appropriate referral of patients, and the formation of plans of care for common upper-extremity injuries and conditions. Co-requisite: ATTR 5112.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5310, ATTR 5311, and ATTR 5111.

**ATTR 5313. Head and Facial Injuries in Sport. 3 Hours.**

Students examine head and facial injuries and related pathologies experienced in sport and exercise contexts. Course content focuses on the impact of guiding laws, rules, and current scientific evidence that influence the assessment, care, and return to activity decisions for patients.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5300, ATTR 5310, and ATTR 5320.

**ATTR 5314. Spine and Pelvis Injuries. 3 Hours.**

Students develop the skills and techniques required to assess and manage injuries to the spine, thorax, abdomen, and pelvis. Students perform patient evaluations and interventions to care for the spine and pelvic injuries most often associated with athletic injuries.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5310, ATTR 5311, ATTR 5111, ATTR 5312, ATTR 5112, and ATTR 5313.

**ATTR 5315. Non-Orthopedic Pathologies in Sport and Exercise. 3 Hours.**

Students examine the practical skills and techniques required to conduct an evaluation of the condition, develop a clinical diagnosis, appropriately refer, and develop a plan of care for non-orthopedic conditions experienced in active populations. Course content includes the following body systems: cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, integumentary, and reproductive. Co-requisite: ATTR 5115.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5300, ATTR 5310, and ATTR 5320.

**ATTR 5320. Acute and Emergency Care in Athletic Training. 3 Hours.**

Students learn the practical skills and techniques required to provide immediate care and appropriately manage acute and emergency conditions. Course content focuses on acute and emergency conditions that arise in sport and exercise contexts.

**ATTR 5321. Prehospital Emergency Medicine and Acute Care. 3 Hours.**

Students didactically acquire knowledge and skills necessary to cognitively understand emergency situations and care for and transport critical and non-critical patients as part of an emergency medical team. Students learn how to apply care for emergency conditions such as severe bleeding, multi-systems trauma, heat- and cold-related illnesses, allergic reactions, musculoskeletal injuries, cardiorespiratory emergencies, as well as a variety of conditions that may lead to sudden death. Upon completion of this course, students will be eligible to sit for the National Registry Certification for Emergency Medical Technician – Basic (NREMT-B).

**Prerequisite:** Graduate Standing.

**ATTR 5330. Therapeutic Interventions I. 3 Hours.**

This course includes the study of fundamental principles of therapeutic exercise, contemporary strength training and conditioning, along with pharmacological principles. Students acquire techniques and timing protocols associated with therapeutic interventions and are prepared to effectively implement, progress, and regress therapeutic exercises, during the patient healing and recovery phases, for pathologies that typically occur in active populations. Co-requisite: ATTR 5130.

**ATTR 5331. Therapeutic Interventions II. 3 Hours.**

Examines theories, principles, and clinical application of therapeutic modalities and manual therapies that are commonly utilized to treat pathologies in an active population. Students are prepared with the skills and theoretical knowledge required to determine appropriate interventions based on phases of healing, indications, contraindications, and precautions. A patient-centered approach is utilized to determine appropriate care plans. Co-requisite: ATTR 5131.

**ATTR 5340. Administration in Athletic Training. 3 Hours.**

Students investigate the organizational, professional, and management skills required to work in the athletic training profession. Course content includes risk management, budgeting, policy development, facility design, electronic medical records, medical billing, and management strategies.

**Prerequisite:** ATTR 5300, ATTR 5320, HLTH 5371, and HLTH 5378.

**ATTR 5450. Immersive Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training. 4 Hours.**

Students demonstrate skill proficiency in a practice setting under the supervision and guidance of a clinical preceptor. The practice-intensive clinical experience allows students to experience the totality of patient care provided by practicing Athletic Trainers. The clinical placement of students must be coordinated and approved by the Athletic Training Coordinator of Clinical Education. This course requires a minimum of 300 clinical education hours. Students cannot progress to the subsequent level in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program until all course program retention requirements are met. Course Equivalents: ATTR 5350

**Prerequisite:** Admission to the Athletic Training Program, ATTR 5210, ATTR 5220, and ATTR 5230.