

**TOPIC: PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING**

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**I. SUMMARY**

Metropolitan State College of Denver has submitted a proposal for a Baccalaureate Degree in Athletic Training.

Athletic Training is currently a concentration area within the Human Performance and Sport degree program. Athletic Training was initially approved as an emphasis in the Physical Education major in 1981. The Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) gained accreditation in 2005 in response to a national move to require all Certified Athletic Trainers to graduate from an accredited program. New standards from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) require that accredited programs need to be distinct degree programs.<sup>1</sup>

**II. BACKGROUND**

The following is summarized from the MSCD proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree in Athletic Training.

The Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP), a concentration and extended major within the Department of Human Performance and Sport, is designed for the student desiring a career in the allied health care field of athletic training. The objective of the ATEP at Metro State is the professional preparation of athletic training students, qualifying them to sit for the National Athletic Trainers Associate Board of Certification (NATABOC) exam. Upon successful completion of the NATABOC exam, the athletic training graduate may practice as a certified athletic trainer (ATC).<sup>2</sup>

**ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT:**

The Baccalaureate Degree in Athletic Training supports the role and mission of Metropolitan State College of Denver. The statutory mission of MSCD is *“to be a comprehensive baccalaureate institution with modified open admission standards; except that nontraditional students who are at least twenty years of age shall only have as an admission requirement a high school diploma, a GED equivalency certificate, or the*

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<sup>1</sup> MSCD ATEP proposal, page 1.

<sup>2</sup> MSCD ATEP proposal, page 2.

*equivalent thereof. Metropolitan State College of Denver shall offer a variety of liberal arts and science, technical and educational programs. The college may offer a limited number of professional programs. Metropolitan State College of Denver shall not offer graduate programs.”C.R.S. 23-54-101.<sup>3</sup>*

#### **ADMISSION AND GRADUATION STANDARDS:**

For admission into ATEP, students must complete courses in the Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries, Emergency Rescue/1<sup>st</sup> Responder & CPR, and General Biology with a C or better.

Students must also complete a minimum 12 semester hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4-point scale, or a 3.0 or better in the last 30 credit hours completed.

Transfer students’ transcripts are evaluated on an individual basis in regards to acceptable athletic training specific courses. General studies transfer credits are determined by MSCD’s admissions staff. All transfer students must complete the required admissions standards listed in the catalog.

In order to graduate, all ATEP students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and a GPA of 2.75 in the major classes. Students are also required to meet accrediting requirements which call for a physical exam, evidence of current immunizations, and proof of malpractice/liability insurance.<sup>4</sup>

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:**

The goal of the MSCD ATEP is to academically and experientially expose students to a diverse array of instructional paradigms that encompass the competency areas of the practice of athletic training as an allied health field. The professional preparation is to be achieved within the context of the School of Professional Studies at MSCD to develop critical thinkers and ethical practitioners.

The underlying philosophy of athletic training education at MSCD involves judicious background in the natural sciences, vigorous scholarly activity in athletic training theory, and varied clinical and field experiences. Aggressive attempts are made to diversify the clinical experiences via assigning students to various athletic training clinical sites, on and off the MSCD campus. The

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<sup>3</sup> MSCD received statutory authority to offer graduate masters level programs effective August 2009.

<sup>4</sup> MSCD ATEP proposal, page 16.

athletic training faculty are committed to providing mentor type relationships with athletic training students and to be readily available for academic and professional advising.

The goals and mission of the MSCD ATEP coincide with the college's mission to provide a high quality, accessible, enriching education that prepares students for rewarding careers, post graduate education and lifelong learning in a multicultural, global, and technology-driven society.<sup>5</sup>

#### **PROGRAM FACULTY:**

The program currently has four tenured and tenure track faculty, two visiting faculty, and two adjunct faculty with master's degrees, or terminal degrees in Exercise Science, Biomedical Science, Physical Education, Health Promotion and Exercise Science, and Education. No additional faculty are needed to implement the Athletic Training degree program.

#### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

The Department staff has reviewed this proposed program and letters of assurances from academic administrators to ensure that the degree program meets the State's performance measures outlined in C.R.S. 23-5-129.6. The program meets all performance measures set forth by the state.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Commission approve the Baccalaureate of Science Degree in Athletic Training submitted by Metropolitan State College of Denver.**

#### **V. STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

C.R.S. 23-5-129.6

#### **VI. ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS**

The program proposal materials are attached.

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<sup>5</sup> MSCD SLHS proposal, page 6.