

**Docket Item:**

University Program Approval: Oregon State University, Master of Athletic Training degree.

**Summary:**

OSU proposes a new program leading to a Master of Athletic Training degree. Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) staff completed a review of the proposed program. After analysis, HECC staff recommends approval of the program as proposed.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The HECC recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Higher Education Coordinating Commission approve the following program:

Master of Athletic Training degree at OSU.



**Oregon State University seeks the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s approval to offer an instructional program leading to a Master of Athletic Training.**

1. *Describe the purpose and relationship of the proposed program to the institution’s mission and strategic plan.*

Oregon State University (OSU) is proposing a new Master of Athletic Training degree program and it will be located in School of Biological and Population Health Sciences and the College of Public Health and Human Sciences. Since the 1973-74 academic year, OSU has offered one of the most recognized and well-respected undergraduate professional athletic training education programs in the United States. The mission of the OSU’s Athletic Training program has been to prepare students for the challenges of the ever-expanding allied health profession of athletic training. Through a combination of extensive didactic, laboratory and clinical education experiences, program graduates with a Master of Athletic Training degree will attain the entry-level educational competencies and clinical proficiencies necessary to take and pass the certification examination offered by the Board of Certification, and to embark on careers as certified athletic trainers. Program graduates will gain employment in a wide variety of venues including, sports medicine patient care for professional, college and high school athletic teams, and in hospitals and outpatient physical therapy clinics. The purpose of this proposal is to create a new professional master’s degree program that will replace the existing undergraduate degree program in athletic training. This programmatic change is necessary due to: (a) a shift toward the professional master’s degree being the mandated “point of entry” into the athletic training profession, and (b) several key challenges related to OSU’s capacity to continue to deliver professional athletic training education at the undergraduate level given an ever-increasing number of program competencies that are required to be taught and assessed to meet accreditation and professional practice standards. This program proposal represents OSU’s desire to not only continue to offer a long-standing educational program that aligns with the signature area of the University’s mission of *Improving Human Health and Wellness*, but in a manner that will allow the School of Biological and Population Health Sciences to effectively deliver the additional content that is required of entry-level athletic training clinicians by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

2. *What evidence of need does the institution have for the program?*

Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 21.2% increase in Athletic Training jobs (4,900 new jobs) and 11,100 total Athletic Training job openings due to growth and replacement needs between 2012 and 2022. Despite this projected growth, OSU’s

undergraduate Athletic Training major was one of only three accredited professional (entry-level) programs in the state of Oregon (along with Linfield College and George Fox University). The professional program in Athletic Training has been offered at the undergraduate level at OSU since 1973. Every year more students than could be accommodated have applied for admission to the program. The projected growth in Athletic Training jobs over the next decade coupled with a long history of student interest that exceeds program capacity demonstrates that there will likely be a continued demand for athletic training education programs in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

3. *Are there similar programs in the state? If so, how does the proposed program supplement, complement, or collaborate with those programs?*

The proposed professional master's program in Athletic Training will be the only one of its kind at a public institution of higher education in the state of Oregon. There are currently two other CAATE-accredited professional undergraduate athletic training education programs (Linfield College and George Fox College) and one graduate professional program (Pacific University). The University of Oregon (UO) sponsors a *post-professional (advanced clinical training)* master's degree program in athletic training. However, the proposed *professional* master's degree program at OSU will not compete or conflict with the UO's program. The *post-professional* master's program at the UO requires entering students to have completed a *professional* athletic training program (i.e., what OSU currently and would continue to offer) and to hold the Athletic Trainers Certification (ATC) credential. As such, the two programs will draw from and serve separate pools of students.

4. *What new resources will be needed initially and on a recurring basis to implement the program? How will the institution provide these resources? What efficiencies or revenue enhancements are achieved with this program, including consolidation or elimination of programs over time, if any?*

The Athletic Training program has a long history as a program of distinction within the College of Public Health and Human Sciences. The new Master of Athletic Training program will leverage existing resources (e.g., faculty, data, library, etc.) such that no additional equipment, facilities, nor technology will be necessary to supplement current commitments to the program from the School of Biological and Population Health Sciences and the College of Public Health and Human Sciences.

All appropriate University committees, the OSU Board of Trustees, and the Statewide Provosts Council have positively reviewed and approved the proposed program.

### **Recommendation to the Commission**

The Statewide Provosts Council recommends that the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission authorize Oregon State University to establish an instructional program leading to a Master of Athletic Training, effective Summer 2016.

**Institution: Oregon State University**  
**Program: Master of Athletic Training**

Action: At the November 5, 2015 meeting, the Statewide Provosts Council approved a new program for Oregon State University, Master of Athletic Training, to move forward to the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission for its review/approval. All eight university provosts approved the new program. The OSU Board of Trustees approved it at their October 16, 2015 meeting.

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**Eastern Oregon University**

Sarah Witte, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Health & Science University**

Jenny Mladenovic, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon State University**

Sabah Randhawa, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Oregon Tech**

Brad Burda, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Portland State University**

Sona Andrews, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Southern Oregon University**

Susan Walsh, interim provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**University of Oregon**

Scott Coltrane, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained



**Western Oregon University**

Steve Scheck, provost

Approved  
 Opposed  
 Abstained

