INTRODUCTION:
The Master of Science degree in Athletic Training at Texas State University is a 2-year degree with an emphasis on therapeutic interventions that offers the opportunity to combine 34 to 37 semester hours of graduate courses in Athletic Training, Exercise Science, and Physical Therapy. We offer exciting coursework that allows students to gain advanced, evidence-based knowledge and skills in the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal injuries. Courses include an emphasis on anatomy, bioenergetics, biomechanics of injury, proprioception & neuromuscular control, evidence-based practice, and rehabilitation interventions including manual therapies. All students engage in the research process whether through a culminating project in the 37-hour degree tract or through a thesis in the 34-hour degree tract. We have four core graduate athletic training faculty members (five starting in the 2015-2016 academic year) with research expertise in neuromuscular aspects of injury, ACL injury prevention, chronic ankle instability, ergogenic aids and overtraining in sports, evidence-based practice, clinical outcomes assessment and clinical reasoning.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS
Competitive graduate assistantships are awarded to highly qualified individuals. Selection is based on the graduate student’s academic background and professional experience. Currently the M.S. in A.T. program has 26 graduate assistants who complete 2-year assistantships. There are 5 types of assistantships, which include 12-month DI Athletics positions; 9-month or 10-month combined Academics/DI Athletics positions; 9-month teaching assistant positions, research assistant or combined teaching assistant/research assistant positions; 9-month DII and DIII Athletics positions; and local High School Athletics positions. Graduate Assistant stipends vary from $11,850 to $15,800 and include out-of-state tuition remission (all students pay in-state tuition rates). Healthcare benefits are available to purchase through the University as well. All positions are two year positions pending satisfactory academic and job performance.

Graduate Assistant Clinical Sites
On-campus: DI Football, DI Soccer, DI Volleyball, DI Baseball, DI Softball, DI Cross Country/Track, DI Tennis/Cheer/Dance, DI Rehabilitation Specialist
Off-campus: DII St. Edwards University, DIII Texas Lutheran University, Sports Medicine Associates of San Antonio, Cornerstone Christian School, Hays High School, Lehman High School, St. Andrews High School

Graduate Assistant Position Descriptions
12-month DI Athletics positions – these positions start July 1st and last 12 months. GAs may be designated to help provide patient care during summer workouts, provide rehabilitation services to one or several teams and may also have a specific team assignment. GAs are expected to serve as preceptors for Texas State University.
9-month or 10-month combined Academics/DI Athletics positions – these positions start in August and run until May (or June for DI Baseball). Students are assigned a clinical assignment with a sport. In addition, students teach two laboratory sections per semester in the Athletic Training Division. GAs are expected to serve as preceptors for Texas State University.
9-month teaching assistant, research assistant or combined teaching assistant/research assistant positions – these positions have contracts that start August 15th and require teaching duties in labs/classes in the Athletic Training Division and/or research assistant duties to the Athletic Training Division Graduate Faculty and the
Biomechanics/Sports Medicine lab. TA/RA GAs are also tasked with inventory/maintenance of teaching spaces and help provide support during oral/practical testing. GAs are expected to serve as preceptors for Texas State University.

9-month DII and DIII Athletics positions – these positions start August 15th and students are assigned to provide athletic training services to athletes participating in Intercollegiate Athletics at either Texas Lutheran University or St. Edwards University. Typical positions include multiple sport assignments throughout the year. The GAs may also serve as preceptors for the respective programs.

High School Athletics positions – these positions start as early as August 1st and include providing athletic training services to designated high schools and/or middle schools. Students are assigned multiple sports throughout the year and they may serve as preceptors for Texas State University.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
Applicants to this program must complete two applications: 1.) the **Graduate Athletic Training Program Application AND 2.) the online Apply Texas Application for the Texas State University Graduate College.**

After all admission materials have been received by the Office of the Graduate College, an applicant’s graduate point average will be calculated and an admission recommendation will be made by the program’s graduate faculty. For most programs, an admission decision from the Texas State University Graduate College will follow within three to four weeks from the time all application materials have been received. The number of applicants for a particular program influences the response time for decisions. After an application decision has been made, the applicant will receive an email notification from the Office of the Graduate College stating the admission decision.

Admission requirements for the Texas State University Graduate College and selection of students for the M.S. in Athletic Training program are based upon the following criteria:

- Applicants must possess a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 GPA over the last 60 semester hours or last 90-quarter hours (According to departmental regulations, applicants with GPA ranging from 2.99-2.75 may be accepted on conditional basis but cannot be awarded graduate assistantships).
- Applicants must be a certified athletic trainer (or BOC eligible)
- The Athletic Training program does **not** require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) but applicants are encouraged to report their scores.

* Admission to the TXSTATE graduate program is contingent upon the submission and receipt of all required documents. A conditional admission status to the university may be given during the final semester of the senior year. An official transcript with the appropriate degree posted is required for final admittance.

FINANCIAL AID:
Other sources of Graduate Student Financial Aid: Loans, grants, and fellowships are available through the Office of Financial Aid at Texas State University.

General Graduate Assistant Application Process Timeline:

- **January 15th** – applications due
  - Applicants are screened by the Texas State University Athletic Training Division, assessed using a rubric (rubric assesses strength of all materials submitted), and ranked according to the overall score. The student’s choices for GA positions are taken into account and the lists are shared with the various GA sites.
- **Late January through February** – interviews
Each GA site uses the ranked list of students to begin scheduling interviews. Interviews may be face-to-face, phone or online interviews. A Graduate Student Visit Weekend will be designated for the early Spring ’15 semester (late February). Students are not required to attend the Graduate Student Visit Weekend, but those that do may complete interviews during this time.

**February through March – positions are offered**

- Students will receive a call from the Graduate Coordinator with a potential offer for a GA position. Although offers are typically made in March, Texas State University follows the resolution put forth by the Council of Graduate Schools that states “Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15.”
CHECKLIST OF ITEMS REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
M.S. IN ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

DEADLINE – JANUARY 15TH

___ Complete the Apply Texas Application to be admitted to the Texas State University Graduate College.

___ Complete the Graduate Athletic Training Program Application (below) and include:
   1. A copy of your position statement (see position statement prompt in the application)
   2. A copy of your resume (see resume format in the application)
   3. Include a copy of an unofficial transcript from each previous college or university attended, including community and/or junior college AND a copy of the BOC card for candidates that are already certified.
   4. Three recommendation forms (use the provided form), with at least one form from an academic faculty person and one form from the certified athletic trainer under whose supervision you obtained the majority of your clinical experience.
   5. Optional but recommended: GRE Scores

Please return the completed Graduate Athletic Training Program Application to:
   Luzita Vela, PhD, ATC, LAT
   Program Coordinator, Master of Science in Athletic Training
   Texas State University
   601 University Drive
   A145 Jowers Center
   San Marcos, Texas 78666

Texas State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.
NOTE: This is not an application for admission to the Graduate School at Texas State University. A separate application for admission to graduate study must be filed with the Graduate College. No action will be taken on this application until the applicant has been admitted to the Graduate School. Deadline for receipt of application materials is January 15th for Fall semester admission.

Name: _________________________________________________________  Date of Birth ___________________

Email

Current  _____________________________________________________   Phone: [        ] ______________
Address:  Street or P. O. Box

City     State   Zip Code

Permanent: _______________________________________________________________________________
Address  Street or P. O. Box

City     State   Zip Code

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UNDERGRADUATE/PREVIOUS GRADUATE EDUCATION
(reverse chronological order)

1. ________________________________________________________________
   Institution    Location    Dates

2. ________________________________________________________________
   Institution    Location    Dates

3. ________________________________________________________________
   Institution    Location    Dates

Date, or expected date of graduation ________________________________

Undergraduate Major(s): _________________________________

Undergraduate Minor(s): _________________________________

Degree(s) Awarded: _______________________________       Date: _________________________

Cumulative Grade Point Average (4.0 scale): __________  __________________

*Please include a copy of your most recent transcript (unofficial)*
Please indicate your area(s) of research interest. Limit up to three areas and rank them in order of interest (e.x. 1, 2, 3):

_____ Neuromuscular aspects of lower extremity injury (knee and ankle)
_____ Neuromuscular aspects of upper extremity injury (shoulder)
_____ ACL injury prevention
_____ Chronic ankle instability
_____ Functional assessment
_____ Ergogenic aids
_____ Overtraining and athletic sports performance
_____ AT education/professional issues
_____ Clinical outcomes assessment
_____ Evidence-based practice

Program Preference:
_____ Thesis option
_____ Non-Thesis option

Have you submitted an application to the Graduate College?   YES [ ] Date ___________   NO [ ]

Have you taken the Graduate Record Examination?   YES [ ] NO [ ]

Have you requested that official results of GRE scores be sent to Texas State?   YES [ ] NO [ ]

If known:  GRE Verbal ______  GRE Quantitative _____  GRE Analytical Writing _____

Are you a member of the NATA?  Yes ____  No ____  Membership #: _______________

Are you a certified athletic trainer?  Yes ____ No ____

If "yes", please answer parts (a) through (c) below; if "no", go on to the next question:

(a)  What is your certification number? _______________________
(b)  When were you certified? ________________________________
(c)  Via what route were you certified?
   ( ) CAATE accredited curriculum
   ( ) Internship route
   ( ) Other (please specify): ________________________________

If not certified, what is the date you plan to take the BOC examination? _______________________

Please rank your preference of assignment as a graduate assistant:
(1 = highest rank; 5 = lowest rank).

_____ NCAA Division I University →
   Specify sport(s) preference(s): ________________________________

_____ NCAA Division II or III College

_____ Public High School

_____ Athletic Training Research Assistant

_____ Athletic Training Teaching Assistant
Are there any graduate assistant assignments that you would absolutely not be interested in pursuing? If yes, please check those that apply.

- [ ] NCAA Division I University
- [ ] NCAA Division III College
- [ ] Public high schools
- [ ] Athletic Training Research Assistant
- [ ] Athletic Training Teaching Assistant

**CANDIDATE’S POSITION STATEMENT:**

Please discuss why you have chosen to pursue graduate studies in Athletic Training at Texas State University, and describe your goals for graduate study, and areas of research interest. Please also discuss how the knowledge gained from this degree program will contribute to your future career and professional growth. Please limit your response to 2 pages.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:**

Please attach to this application a resume with the following information:

1. Education
2. Certifications or Licensures
3. Professional Affiliations
4. Clinical Education Experiences and/or Professional Work Experience
5. Honors and Awards
6. Community Service Activities
7. Professional Presentations/Publications

Please return the completed application to:

Luzita Vela, PhD, ATC, LAT
Program Coordinator, Graduate Athletic Training Education
Texas State University
601 University Drive
A145 Jowers Center
San Marcos Texas 78666
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – M.S. IN ATHLETIC TRAINING  
Confidential Recommendation

To the Applicant: Complete Section I below and forward this form to the individual who will provide the reference. Please gather all of the completed references and return them all with your application to: Luzita Vela, PhD, ATC, LAT, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, A145 Jowers Center, San Marcos Texas 78666

To the Evaluator: Complete Section II and hand over to the applicant in a sealed, signed envelope.

SECTION I  
Name of Applicant: _____________________________________________________________________

I understand my right under the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to review confidential appraisals in my file that are submitted with reference to admission to a graduate or other school.

I do _____ do not _____ waive my right to review this reference report.

Applicant's Signature: _________________________________________   Date: _____________

SECTION II  
Name of Evaluator:____________________________________________________________________________

Name      Title
_______________________________________________________________________________

Employer
_______________________________________________________________________________

Street
_______________________________________________________________________________

City     State  Zip   Phone
_______________________________________________________________________________

Signature of Reference     Date

How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Compare the applicant with a representative group of students with similar experience and training in the field of athletic training. How do you rate the applicant on a combination of clinical and scholarly ability (check one)?

_____ Outstanding (highest 5%)
_____ Very good (highest 10%)
_____ Good (upper 25%)
_____ Average (upper 50%)
_____ Below average (lower 50%)

Some gifted individuals do not perform to their potential. Is the applicant's scholastic record, as you know it, an accurate index of his/her academic ability? _____YES      _____NO
When completing the table below, use entry-level athletic training students as your basis for comparison. Please place an X in the rating column appropriate to your assessment of this candidate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>No Opportunity to Observe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability – ability to adjust to a changing, competitive environment</td>
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<td>Attitude and Personality – mannerisms, dispositions, ability to work with people</td>
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<td>Reliability and Character – dependability, willingness, honesty, moral character</td>
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<td>Personal Development - self-awareness, confidence, acceptance of criticism</td>
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<td>Interpersonal Skills – ability to utilize appropriate interpersonal skills to build relationships</td>
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<td>Work Habits and Industry – conscientiousness, follow through, resourcefulness, self-discipline, initiative</td>
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<td>Time Management – manages multiple tasks/responsibilities effectively and efficiently</td>
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<td>Emotional Stability – reaction to stress, poise, control, perseverance</td>
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<td>Capacity for Independent Thought – creative thought, curiosity, active learning</td>
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<td>Judgment and Common Sense – ability and foresight in everyday decisions, expression of opinion, maturity</td>
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<td>Communication Skills – verbal, non-verbal and written; can disseminate information to peers, colleagues and superiors</td>
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<td>Ability to Work Independently – independent, decisive, confident</td>
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<td>Mentoring Skills – leadership ability, displays positive image, develops appropriate relationships</td>
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Texas State University currently has graduate assistant providing healthcare services to athletes in the DI University, DIII University and high school settings. Can you please indicate the type of graduate assistant position that you feel the candidate would be best suited for and provide a brief explanation?

You may include an additional letter describing your overall impression of the suitability of the applicant for admission to the M.S. in Athletic Training program at Texas State University. Please be as candid and specific as possible.