

Athletic Participation

Applicants to the ATEP will be provided with a copy of this policy statement early on in the application year. It will be discussed and explained again during the application process.

Many prospective athletic training students who express interest in the Defiance College Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) are also interested in participating in an intercollegiate sport during their college years. Many of the program's finest and most accomplished alumni were athletes while at Defiance College. Because the ATEP has a significant clinical experience component, which requires student commitment at various times throughout the week and on weekends; conflicts between sport demands and clinical experience requirements are not uncommon. The ATEP faculty is committed to encouraging athletic training students to take advantage of the rich co-curricular opportunities available on campus. They are also dedicated to ensuring students graduate on time, fulfill all major requirements, and have enough quality clinical experiences to enable them to become skilled health care professionals. The following guidelines are designed to help accomplish all of these purposes.

Policy:

1. Applicants to the ATEP will be provided with a copy of this policy statement early on in the application year. It will be discussed and explained again during AT 100/200.
2. The intention on the part of a prospective athletic training student to participate in intercollegiate athletics shall not factor into the admission decision for the ATEP.
3. Students admitted to the ATEP may participate in intercollegiate athletics.
4. Athletic training students shall limit their participation to **one** intercollegiate team per year.
5. Athletic training students may participate during their team's non-traditional season **ONLY** if participation **does not** conflict with the student's ATEP clinical experience responsibilities.
6. Athletic training students who participate in intercollegiate athletics must, like all students, fulfill **ALL** the didactic and clinical education program requirements before they can graduate. All student-athletes are strongly encouraged to consult the ATEP director early since effective planning is crucial to on-time graduation.
7. All athletic training students in the ATEP, including fall student-athletes, are required to perform at least one "equipment intensive" clinical experience (e.g. football). Student-athletes who participate in fall sports will have a conflict with this requirement as a result of their athletic participation. In order to meet this program requirement, athletic training students, who are also fall athletes will be required to a) complete a ninth semester, i.e. "equipment intensive" rotation prior to graduating from the college and the ATEP. b) work with an equipment intensive sport during a high school rotation, or c) make arrangements for an equipment intensive experience with the ATEP. This could be done as a summer internship for example.
8. Athletic training students who participate in basketball must also fulfill the equipment intensive requirements of that rotation. This means adjustments will be necessary to both the basketball and athletic training schedules to fulfill the requirements during the athletic training students' junior or senior year.

This policy will be in effect once a student has been accepted into the ATEP at the beginning of his/her sophomore year and will be in effect as long as the student remains in the ATEP. Students with questions regarding this policy are encouraged to speak with the PD for clarification of their situation. The PD makes the final decision on the appropriate situation/experience for the student. All CAATE guidelines will be strictly enforced.