

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Assessment and Accountability

**NO.:** AAC 09-16

**COMMITTEE DATE:** May 29, 2009

**BOARD DATE:** June 4, 2009

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**MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS**  
**Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training**

**MOVED:** The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the application of **Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts** to award the **Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training**.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(b)

Contact: Dr. Francesca Purcell, Associate Commissioner for Academic and P-16 Policy

## **BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training

### **INTENT AND MISSION**

In March 2009, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) submitted an expedited proposal to offer a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (AT). An athletic training program has been in existence at MCLA since 1977 as a non-accredited sports medicine concentration within the biology major. The proposed program intends to bring the current program into alignment with new national accreditation standards which stipulate that in order for an athletic training program to be accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the program must be offered as a standalone major. MCLA is seeking CAATE accreditation, such that students will be eligible to sit for the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification examination (BOC).

Certified athletic trainers specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries. Athletic trainers are nationally certified through the BOC and are licensed in many states, including Massachusetts. Graduates from this proposed program may be employed at many settings—colleges and universities, secondary schools, professional sports, industrial and corporate settings, military, performing arts companies, hospitals, and physician's offices. In addition to the BOC, graduates may also pursue other certifications, such as the Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certification through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and the health fitness instructor certification and an exercise specialist certification through the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). Graduates will also have the opportunity to pursue other allied health careers that require advanced study.

The proposed program's intent reflects the mission of MCLA, which involves a challenging curriculum that provides "flexibility for motivated students to shape their own course of study and encourages them to combine traditional coursework with experiential learning, such as internships, study abroad and other field experiences" and developing "liberally educated citizens with the knowledge, perspectives, critical thinking abilities and values necessary to become active members of their communities and leaders in their chosen professions." The proposed program seems to integrate both liberal arts and professional studies to provide a comprehensive and challenging education program designed to prepare students for a career in the profession of athletic training. The program will also emphasize clinical experience within diverse settings and populations.

The proposed major has been approved by the College governance process, including the Board of Trustees. The required Letter of Intent was circulated on March 13, 2009. The University of Massachusetts Boston and Massachusetts Bay Community College wrote letters of support for the proposed program.

### **NEED AND DEMAND**

Many students who completed the current sports medicine concentration went on to graduate school, and others entered the workforce directly after becoming certified.

Employment opportunities in athletic training are continuing to expand and become more diverse, such as working in industrial and corporate settings, with military groups, and performing arts groups. The National Athletic Training Association recently posted 569 athletic trainer positions across the nation. Seventy-seven of these jobs were in the New England area, and 21 were in Massachusetts (information collected May 2008).

The proposed program at MCLA would be the only athletic training program in the immediate vicinity (tri-state area). The closest program in Massachusetts is Westfield State College, located 67 miles away; the closest program in New York is Marist College, located 104 miles away; and the closest program in Vermont is Castleton State College, located 85 miles away.

**ADMISSION AND ENROLLMENT**

MCLA’s admission standards are selective, and decisions are made on an individual basis after careful review of all academic credentials. Freshman applicants must meet the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education admission standards and possess a high school diploma or equivalency at the time of enrollment.

Students interested in athletic training will be admitted into MCLA as freshmen or as transfer students on a rolling basis. First-year students will declare athletic training as a major in their first year. First-year athletic training and transfer students must successfully complete their athletic training courses with a 2.5 or better and a 2.0 overall GPA. Students must also successfully complete a first aid and safety course. First-year athletic training students will complete a formal application into the program prior to registration for their third semester. Transfer students will do so during their second semester at MCLA. Formal admission into the program will assess the student’s GPA, clinical experience (100 hours of observation), psychomotor skills, professionalism, goals, and work ethic.

**PROGRAM ENROLLMENT PROJECTION**

	# of Students Year 1	# of Students Year 2	# of Students Year 3	# of Students Year 4*
New Full Time	21	10	12	14
Continuing Full Time	0	17	23	30

**CURRICULUM** (Attachment A)

The proposed program is seeking CAATE accreditation and must cover a broad range of specific content areas and use a competency-based approach in classroom, laboratory and clinical education.

The proposed program requires a total of 120 credits; 83 of these credits are dedicated to the major, with the remaining credits fulfilling general education requirements or serving as free electives. Each student will also be required to obtain 1,000 hours of clinical experience prior to graduation. The students’ clinical experience will be done under the supervision of an approved clinical instructor (ACI) at various sites. The ACIs will be trained by the program’s clinical coordinator, who will be in weekly contact with

the ACIs at each clinical site to ensure the student's progress in clinical proficiency. Current MCLA clinical sites are as follows:

- MCLA Athletic Training Room; North Adams, MA (primary clinical site)
- Physical Therapy of North Adams; North Adams, MA
- Williamstown Physical Therapy; Williamstown, MA
- Mount Anthony Union High School; Bennington, VT
- Adams Turners Gymnastics Club; Adams, MA (service learning partner)

Potential clinical sites are as follows:

- MCLA Performing Arts; North Adams, MA
- Williams College; Williamstown, MA
- SUNY Albany; Albany, NY
- UMass Amherst; Amherst, MA
- Berkshire School; Sheffield, MA
- Pittsfield American Defenders Baseball Club; Pittsfield, MA
- North Adams Steeplecats Baseball Club; North Adams, MA

Prior to graduation, students must successfully complete all classes in the approved curriculum with a 2.0 GPA, earn a 2.5 in athletic training specific classes, fulfill 1,000 hours of clinical experience, and successfully complete all clinical proficiencies outlined by the *NATA Athletic Training Educational Competencies 4<sup>th</sup> edition*.

## **RESOURCES AND BUDGET (Attachment B)**

### *Faculty and Administration.*

The proposed major will be housed in the Biology Department. The proposed program will utilize the clerical staffing currently in place for the Biology Department. Biology faculty, Peter Hoyt, is dedicated specifically to athletic training and will serve as the program director. Full-time faculty from Physical Education, Biology, Psychology, Chemistry and Math Departments will teach classes required for the proposed major as assigned by their chair. Also, three part-time faculty will support the program, and a new full-time faculty member will be hired.

### *Library*

MCLA reports that it has all the necessary library, information technologies, facilities, and equipment to implement the program. The current athletic training room will serve as the primary clinical experience site, and a designated athletic training lab will be used for lecture and lab activities.

### *Fiscal*

The College submitted a budget for the proposed program. A copy of the budget is attached as Appendix B.

**PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS**

MCLA submitted goals and objectives for the proposed Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training program as follows:

Goal	Measurable Objective	Strategy for Achievement	Timetable
BOC first-time passing rates for graduates above the national average	Collect data from graduates who take the exam for the first time and compare this to the BOC annual report	Use program evaluation forms that are completed by graduates to collect data on what areas of preparedness need to be improved upon in the program.	This can start the following fall semester after the first class graduates from the accredited program.
100 percent graduate school acceptance/ acceptance for advanced study	Collect data from graduates that have applied for graduate school or advanced study	Continue to keep admission standards and criteria to maintain in the major high. Continue to advise students to take pre-requisites for their chosen graduate school/advanced study program.	This can start once the program is approved for major/degree status
100 percent employment preferably in the health care field	Collect data from surveys to alumni on their employment status	Continue to keep admission standards and criteria to maintain in the major high. Continue to advise students to take certification/licensing exams.	This can start the following fall semester after the first class graduates from the accredited program
Increase enrollment of the program	Collect enrollment data and track from year to year.	Increase ACI and clinical sites (the CAATE standards state that ACI to student ratio must be at least 8:1, in order to increase enrollment ACI and clinical sites must increase). Continue to work with MCLA admissions on promoting the institution and the program. We will visit targeted high schools for career day and present the athletic training career.	The College will try every year to have the max number of students according to the CAATE standards; this can start the fall semester after accreditation.

Increase faculty/ACI/clinical sites	Collect data on number of faculty/ACI/ and clinical sites associated with the program from year to year	Continue to contact local health care professionals, specifically athletic trainers in regards to serving as ACIs. Place graduates in local athletic training positions that will be willing to serve as ACIs for the program. Increase student interest and enrollment to show a need for more ACIs and faculty for the program.	This can start once the program is approved for major/degree status.
Increase facility enhancement	Collect data from student, alumni, ACI, faculty surveys on the adequacy of the primary clinical site (MCLA athletic training room) and the athletic training lab, and other relevant labs	Increasing enrollment will provide evidence for need to increase funding for the program. The proposed science building has space earmarked for an athletic training lab and a human performance lab. Both will be used for the athletic training major. Supplies and equipment will be purchased to upgrade as needed.	The surveys can be submitted once the program is approved for major/degree status. The science building is on the ten-year plan of the College.
Increase program enhancement	Collect data from students, alumni, ACI, faculty on the effectiveness of the program from year to year	Implementing and/or emphasizing certain aspects into the program that were identified as lacking. This would relate to preparedness for the BOC exam, graduate school/ advanced study, and employment.	The surveys can be submitted once the program is approved for major/degree status.

**EXTERNAL REVIEW AND INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE**

Kent Scriber, Professor/Clinical Education Coordinator, Ithaca College, Athletic Training Education Program; and Bradley R. Jacobson, M.A., ATC Department Chairperson of Sports Medicine, Mercyhurst College, reviewed the petition. The reviewers stated that the proposed curriculum is sequenced appropriately and includes an adequate mix of coursework for meeting the institution’s mission as well as the objectives required for accreditation. The reviewers expressed concern that the curriculum did not address ethical, administrative, and special population issues, or the teaching and testing of clinical proficiency and psychomotor skills. There was also concern expressed over the clinical requirement of 1,000 hours as higher than other professional programs. Both reviewers strongly recommend that another faculty member be hired, particularly before seeking accreditation. There was also concern that requiring specific coursework for the

program immediately in the freshman year may not be conducive to the inclusion of transfer students.

The College responded appropriately to the concerns expressed by the reviewers. In regards to curriculum, MCLA clarified that the topics raised by the reviewers are incorporated into all clinical experience classes. Evaluating clinical proficiency and psychomotor skills will occur at least twice throughout the curriculum. The College explained that since it is in the mission of MCLA and the proposed program to emphasize experiential learning and clinical experience, a 1,000-hour clinical is appropriate. The MCLA administration will hire an additional faculty member to assume the clinical coordinator role and teaching responsibilities as the program develops. The MCLA athletic training program director will also meet individually with each transfer student to determine his or her academic plan.

### **STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION**

Board staff thoroughly reviewed all documentation submitted by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Staff recommendation is for approval of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science.

Upon graduating the first class for this program, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts shall submit to the Board a status report addressing its success in reaching program goals as stated in the application and in the areas of enrollment, curriculum, faculty resources and program effectiveness.

## ATTACHMENT A: CURRICULUM OUTLINE

<i>Required (Core) Courses in the Major (Total # courses required = 32)</i>		
<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit Hours</i>
ATTR 100	Observation in Athletic Training I	1
ATTR 101	Observation in Athletic Training II	1
ATTR 200	Practicum in Athletic Training I	1
ATTR 201	Practicum in Athletic Training II	1
ATTR 220	Introduction to Athletic Training I	3
ATTR 221	Introduction to Athletic Training II	3
ATTR 300	Practicum in Athletic Training III	1
ATTR 301	Practicum in Athletic Training IV	1
ATTR 321	Lower Body Assessment	4
ATTR 322	Upper Body Assessment	4
ATTR 337	Modalities in Athletic Training	4
ATTR 338	Therapeutic Exercise	3
ATTR 340	Athletic Training Management	3
ATTR 400	Practicum in Athletic Training V	1
ATTR 401	Practicum in Athletic Training VI	1
ATTR 450	General Medicine in Athletic Training	1
BIOL 150	Foundations of Biology	4
BIOL 250	Nutrition	3
BIOL 307	Pharmacology	3
BIOL 310	Animal Physiology	4
BIOL 314	Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 316	Functional Human Anatomy	3
BIOL 440	Physiological Aspects of Exercise	4
BIOL 484	Biomechanical Analysis of Human Movement	3
CHEM 150	Introduction to Chemistry I	4
CHEM 152	Introduction to Chemistry II	4
MATH 232	Statistics	3
PHED 108	Community First Aid and Safety	1
PHED 160	Strength and Conditioning	1
PHED 215	Lifetime Wellness	3
PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	3



PSYC 230	Social Psychology	3
	<b>Subtotal Required Credits</b>	83
<b>Elective Courses (Total # courses required = 3 ) (attach list of choices if needed)</b>		
XXX	Free Elective	3-4
XXX	Free Elective	3-4
XXX	Free Elective	3-4
	<b>Subtotal Elective Credits</b>	9-12
<b>Distribution of General Education Requirements</b> Attach List of General Education Offerings (Course Numbers, Titles, and Credits)		# of Gen Ed Credits
Critical Reading, Thinking, Writing		3
Quantitative Reasoning (MATH 232 – required for Athletic Training major)		3**
Computing Technology/Problem Solving		3
Language Arts		3
Creative Arts		6
Human Heritage		6
Self and Society (PSYC 100, PSYC 230 – required for the Athletic Training major)		6**
Science and Technology (CHEM 150, CHEM 152 – required for the Athletic Training major)		8**
Capstone Experience		3
<b>Subtotal General Education Credits</b> <b>**of which 17 are covered by major</b>		40-41
<b>Curriculum Summary</b>		
Total number of courses required for the degree		43
Total credit hours required for degree		120
<b>Prerequisite, Concentration or Other Requirements:</b> A total of 1,000 hours of clinical experience is required prior to graduation.		

**ATTACHMENT B: Budget**

<b>One Time/ Start Up Costs</b>		<b>Annual Expenses</b>			
		<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
	<b>Cost Categories</b>				
\$0.00	Full Time Faculty (Salary & Fringe)	\$48,765.00	\$48,765.00	\$98,765.00	\$98,765.00
\$0.00	Part Time/Adjunct Faculty (Salary & Fringe)	\$8,200.00	\$12,600.00	\$12,600	\$12,600
\$0.00	Staff Support staff in place, Athletic Trainer presently covered by Student Affairs / Athletic Dept.	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
\$0.00	General Administrative Costs for accreditation consultant	\$1000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	Instructional Materials, Library Acquisitions	\$1600.00	\$1600.00	\$1600.00	\$1600.00
\$0.00	Facilities/Space/Equipment	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
\$0.00	Field & Clinical Resources	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
\$0.00	Marketing under general college budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	Other (Specify) NATA membership/certification and Massachusetts State licensure for the Program Director	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
\$0.00	<b>TOTALS</b>	\$105,915.00	\$109,315.00	\$159,915.00	\$159,915.00
<b>One- Time/ Start- Up Support</b>		<b>Annual Income</b>			
		<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
	<b>Revenue Sources</b>				
\$0.00	Grants				
\$0.00	Tuition	\$ 58,440	\$ 73,565	\$100,210	\$118,940
\$0.00	Fees	\$134,904	\$180,386	\$243,187	\$317,950
\$0.00	Departmental	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
\$0.00	Reallocated Funds	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
\$0.00	Other (specify)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	<b>TOTALS</b>	\$193,344	\$253,951	\$343,397	\$436,890