

February 1, 2019

TO: Graduate Curriculum and Catalog Committee
Graduate College

FROM: Philip E. Martin, Professor and Chair
Department of Kinesiology



SUBJECT: New program proposal - Master of Athletic Training (MATR)
Responses to GCCC questions and comments about MATR proposal

- **Missing College of Human Sciences approvals (item 6, p. 8 of Form A).**

The MATR proposal was reviewed and approved by the College of Human Sciences (CHS) Curriculum Committee, faculty, and Dean prior to our submission of our proposal to the Graduate College for the next phase of review. Item 6 has been revised to reflect these approvals.

- **Academic Program Approval Voting Record**

The form entitled Academic Program Approval Voting Record was submitted previously to the Graduate College as a separate document following the submission of Form A and related supplementary materials. Thus, the voting record form may not have been part of proposal materials shared with the GCCC for its January meeting. That form is included with this memo.

- **Thesis or creative component option**

When the MATR proposal was submitted to the Graduate College for review, the sample 24-month curricular plan included in the supplemental materials indicated that a thesis or creative component experience would be an optional experience for students (see sample 24-month curricular plan, p. 3 of the supplemental content). Based on the feedback from the GCCC at its January 2019 meeting, that option has been removed from our MATR proposal.

- **Development of classes for the MATR**

The 58-credit requirement of the MATR includes 22 500-level A TR classes and clinical experiences ranging from 1 to 3-credits each. Only six of these classes (A TR 520, 521, 522, 523, and 524, which are all 1-credit seminar experiences, and A TR 502 Emergency Care Procedures in Athletic Training) are new experiences that must be created. The remaining 16 A TR classes will be revisions of current 300 and 400-level classes and clinical experiences that serve the B.S. in Athletic Training. Revision of these A TR courses will be under the direction of the Athletic Training Program Director with assistance from the AT Clinical Education Coordinator and current instructors. KIN 501 Research Methods in Physical Activity and the courses offered as KIN

electives (KIN 515 Injury Biomechanics, 550 Advanced Physiology of Exercise I, and 572 Neural Basis of Human Movement) are existing graduate courses.

Requirements for educational and clinical experiences that are proposed for the MATR program are based on standards established by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the national athletic training education accrediting organization. These standards have been undergoing revision following the CAATE decision that athletic training education had to be elevated to the master's level. Compared to students in our current B.S. in Athletic Training, MATR students will begin the program with a stronger educational foundation in basic science, kinesiology, and movement science (e.g., human anatomy, biology, chemistry, physics, biomechanics, exercise physiology, nutrition) from their undergraduate experiences. While a significant emphasis on developing clinical skills will continue, graduate level courses and experiences for the MATR will have a stronger emphasis on research that underlies evidence-based practices. In addition, exposure to immersive clinical practices and experiences in the MATR will be expanded in breadth and depth compared to the current undergraduate program.

- **Instructional staffing for the program**

At the proposed initiation of the MATR we will have two full-time faculty dedicated to instruction and administration of the program. To meet accreditation requirements, a third faculty member dedicated fully to the MATR program will need to be hired no later than July 2023. These three faculty will be full-time Department of Kinesiology faculty (either on the clinical professor track or tenure track) and will serve as the core faculty of the program. In addition, members of the ISU Athletics Sports Medicine clinical staff are currently contributing to class and clinical instruction in the B.S. in Athletic Training. All are certified and licensed athletic trainers who bring many years of clinical experience to the program. Many of these individuals will continue involvement in delivering courses and clinical experiences.

Based on CAATE standards, a medical director for the program is also required. This person does not have to be an ISU faculty member. We expect this role will be fulfilled by a current team physician that supports ISU Athletics Sports Medicine and who will be an affiliate faculty member. The medical director will be advisory to the MATR Program Director and Clinical Education Coordinator to help ensure didactic instruction and clinical experiences meet current practice standards as they relate to the athletic trainer's role in providing client/patient care. Because the MATR is a clinical program, the clinical experience that these certified clinicians bring to the MATR are especially critical to the success of the program. These individuals will continue to be significantly involved in delivering MATR clinical courses and experiences. We anticipate utilizing all three categories for graduate faculty membership highlighted in the Graduate College Handbook, Appendix G (full membership, graduate faculty associate membership, and graduate lecturer) for faculty that will serve as instructors and supervisors of class and clinical experiences.

- **Internal vs. external applicants to the MATR**

A question was raised at the GCCC meeting in January 2019 as to whether an individual who receives a 4-year degree at an institution other than Iowa State University can be a competitive applicant and successful student in the program. The answer is yes. While we hope to develop a 3+2 plan that will facilitate the matriculation of some of our own undergraduate students into the MATR, the program is designed such that any applicant who meets the prerequisites for the MATR and is otherwise a competitive applicant is a viable candidate for admission. We have no plan to set any admission quotas for students internal or external to Iowa State University. We anticipate that each new matriculating cohort will be a mix of undergraduate students from Iowa State University and other institutions.