

Athletic Trainer

■ Job Description

An athletic trainer is an allied health professional whose six domains are (1) prevention of athletic injuries; (2) recognition and evaluation of athletic injuries; (3) management and treatment of athletic injuries; (4) rehabilitation of athletic injuries; (5) organization and administration of an athletic training program; and (6) education and counseling of athletes. After successfully completing the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) certification examination administered by the Board of Certification, the Certified Athletic Trainer works under the direction of a physician when practicing the art and science of athletic training.

■ Job Settings

Colleges, universities, professional sports teams, high schools, community colleges, fitness centers, and sports medicine clinics

■ Projected Need

Nationally, the number of jobs for athletic trainers is expected to grow as fast as average through 2010. In Illinois, slower than average employment growth is expected for this occupation.

Projected growth varies by industry. The number of jobs for athletic trainers at hospitals and athletic training facilities is expected to decrease. However, gyms, doctors' offices, and professional sports teams are all expected to hire more athletic trainers.

Jobs at colleges are expected to be hard to find because the pay is good and there is little turnover. Jobs with professional athletes or teams will also be hard to find. Athletic trainers with many years of experience will have the best opportunities.

Some job openings will result from the need to replace workers who retire or transfer to other occupations.

Although athletic training was once considered a male-dominated profession, more than 40% of all members of the NATA are women.

■ Salaries

According to the National Athletic Trainers' Association, entry-level salaries averaged \$27,000 per year in 2000. With experience and a master's degree, college trainers can earn between \$45,000 and \$60,000 per year.

■ Related Careers

Advanced education in physical therapy, biomechanics, exercise physiology (college teaching), physician assistant, chiropractor, and other medically related specialists

■ Differences in Training

To become an athletic trainer, an individual completes a nationally approved curriculum in athletic training leading to a BS or MS degree; or completes an internship requiring a minimum of 1,500 hours of experience supervised by a NATA Certified Athletic Trainer over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years while obtaining a BS or MS degree.

■ Related Educational Programs

The programs of study listed below are the recommended areas of study to pursue for this occupation. Clicking on these will lead to files that show in-state and national schools that offer these programs.

The following link(s) will take you to CIS for more information. CIS requires an ID and password that can be obtained at <http://cis.ilworkinfo.com/loginhelp/>. You must log into CIS prior to clicking on the links below.

[Athletic Training](#)

■ Credentials

In Illinois, athletic trainers must be certified by the NATA and licensed by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation. To be licensed, individuals must graduate from an approved athletic training program; and successfully complete the NATA certification exam. Licensure must be renewed every two years.

■ Resources

National Athletic Trainers' Association
2952 Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, TX 75247-6196
Phone: 214.637.6282
E-mail: ellen@nata.org
<http://www.nata.org>
Select "Industry Resources" then "Brochures."
Click on "Career Information."

The NATA Research and Education Foundation provides about sixty \$2,000 scholarships annually to undergraduate and graduate students who are sponsored by an athletic trainer.

NATA Board of Certification
4223 S. 143rd Circle
Omaha, NE 68137
Phone: 402.559.0091
<http://www.nataboc.org>
Illinois Athletic Trainers' Association
P.O. Box 803
Wheaton, IL 60189-0803
(630) 682-2221
<http://www.illinoisathletictrainers.org>

Three \$500 and two \$250 scholarships are available to full-time undergraduate and graduate students in an athletic training educational program. Applicants must be members of the association. Other awards are available.