

William Paterson University Launches Accelerated “3+2” Program in Sport Medicine and Athletic Training—Only Program of its Kind in the Region

William Paterson University has launched [an accelerated program](#) that results in students graduating with a bachelor of science degree in sport medicine in three years, and then a master of science degree in athletic training two years after that. As such, graduates of the “3+2” program will leave the University with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years total.

WP’s program, which is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), is the only such program both in the State of New Jersey and the surrounding region.

A “3+2” degree program in two, complimentary fields—sport medicine and athletic training—is beneficial to students’ overall education and professional preparation, creating very knowledgeable, well-rounded athletic training professionals, according to Professor Jaclyn Morrissette, who is director of the program.

Students have the option to complete the sport medicine degree without continuing onto athletic training. The sport medicine degree’s industry-focused, hand-on curriculum prepares students to work professionally in the field with sports teams or in hospitals, clinics, fitness centers, and doctors’ offices. The degree also serves as great preparation for students who want to pursue post-graduate studies in occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, and related allied healthcare fields.

To complete the sports medicine degree in three years, students must take courses over the summer. However, the three-year track is not mandatory, and students may choose a more conventional four-year option.

Only those with a 3.0 grade point average or higher in the sport medicine degree, or students who have graduated with a bachelor’s in a related field that meet all of the admissions requirements, are permitted to enroll in the masters-level degree program in athletic training.

William Paterson University has offered a highly regarded undergraduate program in athletic training for close to 50 years, and is now adapting that program into the “3+2” master’s-level curriculum due to updated policy from the Athletic Training Strategic Alliance that requires a master’s degree to practice as a certified athletic trainer going forward.

When choosing a sports medicine or athletic training program, it's important to know the qualifications and experience of the faculty who teach in the program. Faculty who are actively engaged in the profession are better able to educate students by introducing them to real-world issues and cutting-edge trends. William Paterson's world-class, industry leading Sports Medicine and Athletic Training faculty are unmatched.

The University's longstanding athletic training program has official agreements for internships with the New York Giants pro-football team, New York City Football Club (NYCFC) men's pro-soccer team, and NJ/NY Gotham FC women's pro-soccer team. Several WP graduates have gone on to work as certified athletic trainers with professional sports teams, minor league organizations, college/university athletic departments, and in non-traditional athletic training settings.

To apply to William Paterson University's BS in SMED [click here](#) (including the Accelerated 3+2 BS in SMED/MS in AT program).

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For more information about the sports medicine/athletic training program, email Professor Jaclyn Morrissette: MorrissetteJ1@wpunj.edu