

## Non-Major Modification Program Changes

1. Program: Athletic Therapy Certificate Program (ATCP)
  2. Degree Designation: Certificate in Athletic Therapy
  3. Type of Modification: Changes to admission requirements
  4. Effective Date: February 1, 2023
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5. State what the changes are (Example: increase / decrease to the number of major credits)

The proposed changes are to the admission criteria for eligible applicants to the ATCP. The proposal seeks to reduce the barriers for students to apply to the certificate program; upon careful review of the admissions from the past three years, we have found the barriers outlined below have not resulted in significant benefit to the students regarding their success in the Athletic Therapy program. Proposed changes include reducing the required referees, removing the 40 experiential hours criteria, and removing the standard first aid criteria. Please see item 6 for rationale.

6. Provide the rationale for the proposed changes that are rooted in the program learning outcomes.

It has been 3 years since the implementation of the new Athletic Therapy Program in 2019. Since then, the ATCP Faculty and Staff have had the opportunity to reflect on the admission criteria over three student intakes. The restrictions imposed by the current pandemic resulted in necessary adjustments to the admission criteria for the most recent cohort; student success has not been negatively impacted by these pandemic-necessary adjustments. The proposed changes below reflect the adjustments implemented and we would now like to change these permanently moving forward. As a result, the following changes are proposed with respective rationale:

1. Propose the removal of the 40 experiential hours prior to application to the ATCP. This has presented to be the most significant barrier, even prior to the pandemic, as students have continued to report significant difficulty in obtaining community volunteer opportunities directly related to the field. This is resulting in increased student anxiety as well as deterring students from applying. The intent of the community service hours was to have incoming students obtain some experience and familiarity with the clinical and field aspects of athletic therapy, but since the majority of applicants are unable to secure a volunteer position with a practicing athletic therapist, these goals are not being attained. Indeed, many applicants volunteer instead with physical education teachers or coaches, which does not give them insight into the work of an athletic therapist. Successful student applicants will obtain plenty of experience within the 3-year ATCP and it will not affect their ability to achieve the required program competencies, nor will it reduce the quality of students entering into the ATCP. Indeed, many other AT programs in the country have already removed this requirement.
2. Propose to reduce the referee requirement from two to one referee. The main premise to reducing from two (one academic and one community) to one referee is because students were finding it difficult to find an academic referee having only completed two

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years of studies prior to their application. As such some professors, did not feel comfortable providing a reference, thus becoming a barrier for students. In fairness to students, we want to provide more flexibility for students to be able to find a referee, be it academic or not. With the removal of the requirement for community service hours, and the challenges surrounding the ability of students to connect with academic faculty in their first two years of their degree (due to large class sizes), a single referee is deemed more appropriate.

3. Propose the removal of the Standard First Aid and CPR-C certification or the HH/PKIN 0750.00 Emergency Care I entrance requirement. This criterion is no longer required prior to entry to the program as students will develop these skills as well as more advanced skills at a health care professional level through the required courses embedded within the ATCP. With the new program structure now in place, students will not be in placement alone in first year and thus will not require this criterion prior to entry as in the past. Also, our Program Faculty teaching these skills have noticed a varied discrepancy with the previously taught skills as the level/quality of First Aid courses can vary causing more learning challenges with first year students.

As the ATCP program continues to grow, eliminating these current barriers will encourage more applicants from the Kinesiology and Health Science student population, thus providing a larger applicant pool to select the top candidates from.

7. Provide an updated mapping of the program requirements to the program learning outcomes to illustrate how the proposed requirements will support the achievement of program learning objectives.

The proposed admission changes will not impact this.

8. If relevant, summarize the consultation undertaken with relevant academic units, including commentary on the impact of the proposed changes on other programs. Provide individual statements from the relevant program(s) confirming consultation and their support.

The Athletic Therapy faculty and staff have met and discussed the implications of the proposed changes as well as discussed with our relevant academic unit and have determined that it will not impact other academic units. The greatest impact will be to those students wishing to apply to the Athletic Therapy Program; it will have a positive impact as it will reduce the current barriers for application to the program. Such barriers have not resulted in high benefit to the students in relation to their success in the ATCP. As well, the ATC program director, Dr. Loriann Hynes, has consulted with the other accredited institutions across Canada and the proposed changes would align with the other accredited institutions thus remaining competitive and current as a program. These changes will provide more equity for students in the Kinesiology & Health Science program at York University who apply to the ATCP. They will not be required to source (and pay for) external First Aid certifications should the timing of PKIN 0750 not align with the application deadline for the ATCP, nor will they be ineligible to apply if they have been unable to secure a volunteer placement with a Certified Athletic Therapist due to the challenges outlined above in finding such experiential opportunities.

9. Describe any resource implications and how they are being addressed (e.g., through a reallocation of existing resources). If new/additional resources are required, provide a statement from the relevant Dean(s)/Principal confirming resources will be in place to implement the changes.

Not applicable

10. Provide a summary of how students currently enrolled in the program will be accommodated.

Not applicable

11. Provide as an appendix a side-by-side comparison of the existing and proposed program requirements as they will appear in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendar.

See appendix A

Existing Calendar Copy (Change From)	Proposed Calendar Copy (Change To):
<p>Admission:</p> <p>Students must be degree candidates in <i>the Kinesiology and Health Science Honours program at York University</i>. The application process for this program includes a <i>completed application form</i> and <del>two reference letters, one of which indicates a completion of 40 experiential hours in the clinical and/or field setting with a Certified Athletic Therapist – CAT(C) or Sport Physiotherapist or a current York Athletic Therapy Certificate Program (ATCP) student enrolled in HH/KINE 4502.</del> Applicants, must have completed or be in the process of completing a minimum of 48 credits by the end of the Winter Term of the same calendar year as their application to the York ATCP, and achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 5.00 (C+), including minimum grade of C+ in each of HH/KINE 2495 3.00 (or HH/KINE 2490 3.00 and HH/KINE 3600 3.00), HH/KINE 2011 3.00 and HH/KINE 2031 3.00. <del>Standard First Aid and CPR-C certification (or HH/PKIN 0750 0.00) is also required.</del> Applications must be submitted to the Kinesiology Undergraduate Office by February 4. Upon review of submitted applications, eligible applicants will be contacted to complete an interview process. Successful applicants will be offered a letter of admission into the Athletic Therapy Certificate Program.</p> <p>Academic Standing:</p> <p>Students must complete the required academic and practicum Athletic Therapy courses in consecutive order over a 3-year period from the time of entry into the Athletic Therapy Certificate Program. Students in the Athletic Therapy Certificate must maintain an Honours standing (cumulative grade point average of 5.00 – C+) in the Kinesiology and Health Science program and a minimum grade point average of 5.00 (C+) in each of the required certificate courses.</p> <p>Graduating with a certificate (33 credits):</p> <p>HH/KINE 2500 3.00 HH/KINE 2501 3.00 HH/KINE 2502 3.00 HH/KINE 2503 3.00 HH/KINE 3500 3.00 HH/KINE 3501 3.00 HH/KINE 3502 3.00 HH/KINE 3503 3.00 HH/KINE 4592 6.00 HH/KINE 4593 3.00 HH/PKIN 0761 0.00 HH/PKIN 0762 0.00 HH/PKIN 0811 0.00 HH/PKIN 0812 0.00</p>	<p>Admission:</p> <p>Students must be degree candidates in <i>the Kinesiology and Health Science Honours program at York University</i>. The application process for this program includes a <i>completed application form</i> and <b><u>the name of one referee with their email address, who will be required to submit an applicant entrance recommendation form by March 1 (please note that the referee cannot be a family member, friend or fellow student).</u></b> Applicants, must have completed or be in the process of completing a minimum of 48 credits by the end of the Winter Term of the same calendar year as their application to the York ATCP, and achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 5.00 (C+), including minimum grade of C+ in each of HH/KINE 2495 3.00 (or HH/KINE 2490 3.00 and HH/KINE 3600 3.00), HH/KINE 2011 3.00 and HH/KINE 2031 3.00. Applications must be submitted to the Kinesiology Undergraduate Office by February <b>15</b>. Upon review of submitted applications, eligible applicants will be contacted to complete an interview process. Successful applicants will be offered a letter of admission into the Athletic Therapy Certificate Program.</p> <p>Academic Standing:</p> <p>Students must complete the required academic and practicum Athletic Therapy courses in consecutive order over a 3-year period from the time of entry into the Athletic Therapy Certificate Program. Students in the Athletic Therapy Certificate must maintain an Honours standing (cumulative grade point average of 5.00 – C+) in the Kinesiology and Health Science program and a minimum grade point average of 5.00 (C+) in each of the required certificate courses.</p> <p>Graduating with a certificate (33 credits):</p> <p>HH/KINE 2500 3.00 HH/KINE 2501 3.00 HH/KINE 2502 3.00 HH/KINE 2503 3.00 HH/KINE 3500 3.00 HH/KINE 3501 3.00 HH/KINE 3502 3.00 HH/KINE 3503 3.00 HH/KINE 4592 6.00 HH/KINE 4593 3.00 HH/PKIN 0761 0.00 HH/PKIN 0762 0.00 HH/PKIN 0811 0.00 HH/PKIN 0812 0.00</p>