

KINESIOLOGY

Undergraduate Program Information

The **Department of Kinesiology** at New Mexico State University offers a dynamic Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology designed to prepare students for a range of professional careers, advanced study, and meaningful engagement in health, human movement, and education. Grounded in scientific inquiry, applied practice, and experiential learning, our programs equip students with the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies to succeed in diverse fields such as allied health sciences (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, clinical exercise physiology, and pre-medicine pathways), athletic training, strength and conditioning, dance, physical education, performance psychology, and leadership roles within the fitness and wellness industries.

The **Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology** provides a strong scientific foundation in anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, motor behavior, and the psychology of movement, paired with applied learning experiences that build critical thinking, professional competency, and evidence-based practice. Students may tailor their studies through concentrations in **Exercise Science, Performance Psychology, and Physical Education**, each offering distinct pathways and outcomes. The Department of Kinesiology also offers a fully online Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a concentration in **Applied Exercise Science**.

The **Bachelor of Arts in Dance** provides focused and progressive training in dance technique, performance, choreography, and movement studies within a supportive and artistically rich environment. Students develop technical strength, creative expression, and cultural and artistic understanding that prepare them for careers in performance, teaching, community arts, and related professional pathways.

In addition, students may pursue **minors in Dance, Exercise Science, or Pre-Health**, which provide meaningful opportunities to explore movement, creativity, and human performance while complementing a variety of academic majors. These programs broaden students' professional skill sets, enrich their educational experience, and strengthen preparation for careers in health, education, performance, and community wellness.

Graduate Program Information

Master of Science in Athletic Training

The **Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT)** at New Mexico State University is a dynamic, professional graduate program designed to prepare students to become highly skilled, compassionate, and evidence-informed athletic trainers. This 60-credit hour, 2-year (24-month) program blends rigorous academic preparation with meaningful hands-on clinical experiences through a combination of traditional and hybrid coursework. Students develop advanced knowledge in injury prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, emergency care, rehabilitation, and patient-centered healthcare delivery while gaining practical experience in diverse athletic and clinical settings.

The program begins each June and prepares graduates to sit for the **Board of Certification (BOC)** examination leading to the ATC credential. The MSAT is **accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)**, ensuring that students are trained to the highest professional standards. Admission is competitive and applications are submitted through the **ATCAS centralized application system**, with a deadline of April 15. Prospective students are encouraged

to reach out for guidance and support as they explore the program. Questions can be directed to the Athletic Training Program Director, Kim O'Connell, at (575-646-5744).

Doctor of Philosophy in Kinesiology

The **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Kinesiology** at New Mexico State University provides students with the opportunity to engage in deep, meaningful scholarship across the physiological, biomechanical, psychological, and pedagogical dimensions of human movement. The program emphasizes the development of advanced research skills, innovative teaching practices, and scholarly expertise that prepare graduates to contribute new knowledge to the field and improve health, performance, and quality of life across diverse populations.

Doctoral students work closely with faculty mentors to design individualized programs of study aligned with their professional interests and career goals. Areas of specialization include **Exercise Physiology, Biomechanics, Sport Psychology, Motor Behavior, Aging, and Physical Education**. Graduates are prepared for academic faculty positions, postdoctoral research placements, and leadership roles in applied, clinical, educational, and performance settings, where they can shape the future of kinesiology research, practice, and education. Questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Coordinator, Larissa True, at (575-646-5873).

Admission

Applicants are encouraged to submit materials by **January 15** for priority consideration for fall admission. Admission is competitive and based on a holistic review of academic preparation, research potential, and alignment with faculty expertise. Applicants should identify and connect with a prospective faculty mentor as part of the application process. A complete application typically includes official transcripts, GRE scores, three letters of recommendation, a CV or résumé, a personal statement outlining research interests and career goals, and a faculty support letter from a Department of Kinesiology mentor. To apply, please visit the graduate school (<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/>) website.