

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 2023

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available,” Perez said. “We need robust athletes that are adaptable. And so that's part of our deal.”

Athletic trainers are highly qualified health care professionals. In accordance with their education, training and the state’s statutes, rules and regulations, athletic trainers are often certified by a national governing body. A recently added requirement for certification is graduating from an accredited athletic training master’s degree program.

Munger says the master’s program at TTUHSC was one of the first in the country when it opened 23 years ago. “We try to hold a class to about 20 to 30,” he said. “And so, we're one of the larger programs.” The TTUHSC master’s program has graduated more than 400 athletic trainers to date who are working in settings nationally and internationally at all different levels.

The theme for this year’s athletic training month set by the [National Athletic Trainers’ Association](#) is, “There’s an AT for That.” Over the last few decades, job opportunities for athletic trainers have grown to include an increasing variety of settings beyond sports and clinical environments. Munger notes alumni from the TTUHSC Master of Athletic Training Program are working in corporate and industrial settings, with police and fire departments, in military settings and with NASA, to name a few examples.

Performing arts is another area where athletic trainers are in demand. After completing his MAT at TTUHSC and beginning his career in collegiate athletics, Perez worked with a cast of performers for *Cirque du Soleil* in Las Vegas for a few years. He said the unique perspectives he gained from that experience help in his current work with Texas Tech student athletes and students from the TTUHSC’s athletic training master’s program.

Perez said the demand for athletic trainers will continue to grow, especially as society adopts broader definitions of athletic training.
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