

HSU MAT Prerequisite Policy

I. Foundational Knowledge Domains

CAATE Standard IV.1 requires prerequisite knowledge in these areas:

- Human Anatomy & Physiology (Biology);
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Psychology

HSU's MAT program recommends prerequisite knowledge in these areas:

- Kinesiology/Biomechanics
- Exercise Physiology
- Statistics/Research
- Nutrition

Completion of prerequisite knowledge requirements/recommendations does not guarantee admission.

II. Pathways to Demonstrate Prerequisite Knowledge

- **Option 1:** Coursework completion; transcript demonstration successful coursework in each domain. Syllabi and/or catalog course descriptions may be necessary to verify course content. Successful completion is defined as:
 - Grade of C or above in Human Anatomy & Physiology (with lab -- 8 credit hours)
 - Grade of C or above in Psychology (3 credit hours)
 - Grade of D or above in Chemistry, Physics (3 credit hours each)
 - Grade of D or above in recommended domains
 - Coursework used to satisfy prerequisite or recommended domains must have been completed within the past 10 years or be supplemented by successful completion of the corresponding MKE
- **Option 2:** Minimal Knowledge Examinations (MKEs). The program has developed student learning objectives for these domains:
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Psychology
 - Kinesiology/Biomechanics
 - Exercise Physiology
 - *MKEs not currently available for Statistics/Research or Nutrition*

These objectives will be provided to prospective students requesting this option to complete prerequisite requirements. These objectives should be used to prepare for program-developed Minimal Knowledge Examinations in each domain. The passing score on the MKE is $\geq 75\%$. Applicants may attempt each MKE no more than twice within a 12-month period.

MKEs must be taken in a proctored environment, approved by the program. MKE questions & results will be reviewed annually, as will program performance for students who were admitted through the MKE option

College course completion is required for the Human Anatomy & Physiology domain (no MKE option); non-dual-credit courses preferred, due to inconsistent course quality.

- **Option 3:** Relevant Professional Certifications/Credentials: Prospective students with professional certifications/credentials may use those credentials to satisfy prerequisite knowledge requirements. To qualify, prospective students must:
 - Examples include licensed or certified professionals practicing in patient-care disciplines such as athletic training, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, paramedicine, physician assistant studies, or medicine. Other credentials may be considered by the faculty.
 - Three years of full-time clinical experience within the last five years involving direct patient evaluation, treatment, or rehabilitation responsibilities.
 - Volunteer or telehealth duties do not apply to this option
 - Credentials/experience must demonstrate domain-specific competency aligned with prerequisite areas; general clinical experience alone is insufficient.

If you believe you meet these requirements, you may submit a formal petition to the Program Director, including documentation of your relevant professional experience and credentials related to the specific knowledge domain. The program faculty will determine if the materials provided prove appropriate prerequisite knowledge in the relevant domain.

If the faculty do not approve the petition, the prospective student can attempt the Minimal Knowledge Examination for the relevant domain.

- **Option 4:** Combination of Options 1-3. Each prerequisite domain must be satisfied independently through one or more approved pathways.

Applicants must demonstrate at least acceptable-level competency across all required domains. Stronger evidence of domain mastery, such as completion of recommended prerequisite courses, higher prerequisite course grades or higher MKE scores enhances a prospective student’s application.

Minimally Eligible vs. Competitive Applicant Framework

To clarify expectations for admission readiness, the program distinguishes between *minimum eligibility* and *competitive applicant* profiles. Meeting minimum prerequisite requirements establishes eligibility but may be insufficient for competitive admission; admission decisions prioritize evidence of strong academic readiness and clinical reasoning capability. Applicants meeting minimum requirements may not demonstrate sufficient readiness for admission.

Integrated Readiness Framework

Profile Type	Characteristics	Interpretation
Minimum Eligible	Meets all prerequisite thresholds; GPA 2.75–3.0; MKE scores clustered 75–79; limited evidence of strength in any domain	Eligible but not competitive; requires strong performance in other areas (e.g., interview, experience) to advance

Developing	Meets preferred GPA OR demonstrates strength ($\geq B$ or MKE ≥ 80) in 1–2 domains; minor academic or prerequisite weaknesses	Competitive with additional supporting evidence
Competitive	GPA ≥ 3.0 ; strong prerequisite performance ($\geq B$ or MKE ≥ 80); consistent competency across domains	Strong candidate for admission
Highly Competitive	GPA ≥ 3.3 ; multiple domains demonstrating high mastery (≥ 85 – 90); strong academic trajectory and preparation	Priority admission candidate
Risk Profile	GPA < 3.0 combined with weak prerequisite performance or inconsistent domain competency	May be considered for conditional admission or may not be admitted

This process ensures students possess foundational knowledge for success using equitable, objective, and multiple assessment pathways and allows program faculty to use a more holistic application review process.

III. Documentation/Verification

Prerequisite knowledge verification will potentially include previous college/university official transcripts (typically submitted through ATCAS), catalog course descriptions, Minimal Knowledge Examination score(s) and applicant-provided evidence of relevant clinical experience and/or professional credentials.