What is ATCAS?

ATCAS is the Centralized Application Service (CAS™) for athletic training programs. It is supported by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and Liaison, the leading provider of admissions solutions. It simplifies both the application process for prospective students and the review and admission process for programs. Programs can review and evaluate applicants online, in real-time. Programs can also effectively manage communications with applicants. ATCAS allows for automated reports to be generated, based upon programs' and schools' unique review criteria.

How does ATCAS benefit students?

- ATCAS streamlines the application process and reduces duplicative efforts by providing a standardized online interface that allows students to use a single application to apply to multiple programs.
- Official transcripts need to be requested only once by students for programs participating in ATCAS, saving students time and money.
- Program-specific admissions requirements are tracked in one online location. Students no longer have to keep track of program-specific requirements on their own and can send in all materials electronically.
- Students receive dedicated customer service for all ATCAS inquiries throughout the application process.

How does ATCAS benefit programs?

- Time and effort dedicated to administrative tasks (e.g., opening mail, coordinating reviews, etc.) is reduced by the single online interface offered by ATCAS.
- Participating programs gain exposure to a broader range of applicants through a searchable directory in ATCAS.
- Robust communication tools allow programs to send targeted communications to prospective applicants throughout the process.
- Flexible and customizable analytic tools enable programs to compare data and rank applications on various self-determined criteria.
- ATCAS provides a user-friendly and modern interface adaptable to programs' existing application review workflows.

How much does it cost?

Programs do not pay any fees to participate in ATCAS. Students create an account and pay $85 to receive one application designation and then pay $50 for each additional application designation that they make.

How is this different from the process we have now?

Participating programs gain access to a suite of powerful analytics through ATCAS. Reviewers and staff members are able to gain efficiencies, viewing an application once created by a prospective student. Throughout the application process, they can send emails to prospective students, invite selected applicants to interview or send reminders to applicants who have not completed their submission. Unlike traditional processes, transcripts, recommendation letters and supplemental materials are all contained securely within the online platform. Customized settings ensure that only those individuals involved in the review process have access to the relevant information and that they have it at the appropriate phase in your workflow.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can we keep our own review process?

Yes, the flexibility of ATCAS allows individual programs to maintain their unique review process within the online platform. Common information from students is collected in a root application and each participating site has a unique space within ATCAS where applicants can submit any additional information requested by that particular program. Programs will only see the root application and their own additional information when reviewing an applicant's materials.

Is it possible for our program to accept applications outside of ATCAS?

A department may elect to use ATCAS for as many of its programs as it chooses. However, all applications to those programs must be submitted through ATCAS. As one of the benefits of participation, students who may not be aware of your program can search for programs by name and state. Additionally, using only ATCAS will make it clear to students which application to use to apply to your programs. Schools and programs will also have a single repository for applicant data making reporting, analysis and forecasting easier and more consistent. Thus, it is to your advantage to direct all of your program's applications through ATCAS.

Why is CAATE advocating for a centralized graduate study application process?

ATCAS will span the breadth of education across athletic training. This permits CAATE and the profession to access data necessary to generate studies and analyses of the nascent disciplinary workforce and demographics of the application pool. It also allows CAATE to capture changes in the subfield and areas of study that students pursue. In turn, these data will be useful to programs' and departments' strategic planning efforts and benefit the discipline and profession with greater understanding of its workforce.

What programs are eligible to participate in ATCAS?

ATCAS is open to all CAATE accredited and developing professional and post-professional member programs.

Will I still be able to download complete applications from prospective students?

Yes. ATCAS permits downloads of complete student applications in PDF format. This is an option for programs that wish to save documents for internal workflow needs or institutional requirements.

Does ATCAS help staff and students with submitting recommendation letters?

ATCAS participating departments will have the option to accept a common recommendation form for faculty to evaluate a prospective student's potential for graduate study. Students will only need to request that their evaluators complete the common recommendation form once and upload it to ATCAS. The process is entirely online, streamlining the experience for evaluators.

How do data from ATCAS integrate with my school's current student information system?

All ERP and SIS systems tailored for institutions of higher education have the ability to import external applicant data via one or more configurable tools native to each system. ATCAS provides simple-to-configure exports of any subset of applicant data an ERP/SIS system needs, filtered by any criteria schools may choose to apply. These exports are available in numerous formats to simplify the import process for the school. The most common systems used by CAS schools include Banner™, Datatel™, PeopleSoft™ and Jenzabar™, among others.