



ELAC Collegial Consultation: New AA Degree and Certificate Program in Sports Medicine

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Good Afternoon, LARC Voting Members,

I'm sending this email to serve as a collegial consultation, as East Los Angeles College is applying for a new AA degree and certificate program in Sports Medicine.

The proposed Sports Medicine Program is a new academic offering under the TOP Code 122800: Athletic Training and Sports Medicine, with a projected launch date of January 1, 2026. It is designed to provide a comprehensive educational pathway for students interested in the health, safety, and performance of physically active individuals. Students will engage in a curriculum that combines theoretical instruction with hands-on clinical experience in areas such as injury assessment, rehabilitation, exercise prescription, and emergency care. The program will prepare graduates to pursue further certification or transfer to four-year institutions in related fields like athletic training, physical therapy, and kinesiology.

The AA Degree in Sports Medicine consists of a minimum of 60 units, with 28 units in the major. Students will take a range of kinesiology and health courses such as Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries, Introduction to Human Movement Anatomy, and Exercise Physiology. They will also participate in a clinical practicum and have the opportunity to choose from electives covering coaching, health equity, stress management, and diversity in sport. The Certificate of Achievement includes 19 core units and can be completed in two semesters, offering a shorter, focused path for students seeking immediate entry into the field.

The program's goals include providing interdisciplinary, ethically grounded, and evidence-based training aligned with national standards such as those from the APTA, NATA, and CAATE. Enrollment projections start at 30 students in 2025–2026, increasing to 40 by 2027–2028. The Sports Medicine program will support East LA College's mission by equipping students with critical knowledge and real-world experience to enter healthcare, education, or fitness professions.

Please let me know if you have any questions or feedback. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara E. Ortiz

Professor of Kinesiology

Department Chair | Department of Kinesiology

East Los Angeles College



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KINESIOLOGY

“If It Doesn’t Challenge You, It Doesn’t Change You.”

Check out our website: <https://www.elac.edu/Academics/Departments/Kinesiology>