



Sterling College announces record incoming class

Sterling College celebrated another record-breaking year in fall 2017 after recruiting the largest incoming class in its history with 218 first-time freshmen. The total headcount of 703 students places the overall number as the College's fifth largest enrollment. Sterling College also grew in diversity through its ethnicity statistics and international students, publishing 34 percent of students claiming an ethnicity other than white.

"We are thrilled to have the largest incoming class this year at Sterling College. As a small college in Kansas we are particularly pleased at our minority percentage and international student numbers. With the increase in new students there is a palpable energy and excitement on campus that can be felt in the classroom and dorms and certainly on the playing field and stage. Sterling continues its strong emphasis on activities with about two-thirds of the on-campus population involved with athletics and almost one-third in arts,"

said Dennis Dutton, vice president for enrollment.

Students at Sterling College came from 32 states and 14 foreign countries. The top five states continue to be the same as the past two years, including Kansas, Texas, California, Colorado and Oklahoma. The percent of Texans increased this year, displacing Californians for second place. Kansans make up 49 percent of the College community. Countries outside of the United States include: Spain, Paraguay, South Korea, Italy, United Kingdom, El Salvador, Bahamas, Hungary, New Zealand,

Canada, Angola, France, Panama, and Norway.

Sterling College also saw an increase in dual-credit students. With new agreements with Berean Academy High School and a renewed commitment with Sterling High School, there are 87 high school students taking classes at Sterling College.

Sterling College is a Christ-centered, four-year college located in Sterling, Kansas, with a mission to develop creative and thoughtful leaders who understand a maturing Christian faith. For more information, visit www.sterling.edu.

Sterling College launches its first graduate programs

Sterling College has announced the creation of two master's programs in athletic training and sports ministry, becoming the first graduate-level programs offered in the College's history. The programs begin summer 2018.

"Adding master's programs is a momentous occasion for Sterling College. We are eager to fulfill a growing need for master's programs in athletic training and in sports ministry, while emphasizing servant leadership and a Christ-centered education. I want to congratulate those who worked tirelessly on the accreditation process as we celebrate their success," said Dr. Scott Rich, president of the College.

The news comes after Sterling gained approval for these programs from the Higher Learning Commission as regionally accredited programs.

"As we move forward with these new programs, we are excited to widen our sphere of influence as we prepare creative and thoughtful leaders who understand a maturing Christian faith. With Dr. Pete Manely, Dr. Erin Laudermilk, Dr. Roy Millhouse and several others leading the way, our applications for both programs were approved in May (2017). We are grateful to the many other faculty and administrators who have also worked to ready our programs," said Dr. Ken Brown, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College.

Master of Science in Athletic Training

The addition of the Graduate Athletic Training Program and the Master

of Science in Athletic Training comes at a time when major players in the industry have pushed for a higher level of education to become standard. The Strategic Alliance, a joint effort involving the Board of Certification, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the NATA Research and Education Foundation made a public announcement in May of 2015 noting that the profession of athletic training will move to the master's degree for the professional degree level. All students must now earn a master's degree in athletic training to be Board Certified.

Master of Arts in Sports Ministry

The graduate program in sports ministry was born out of interest by individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree in ministry-related athletic organizations. This online program would fit those working in sports ministry organizations, public and private school settings, among other vocations.

For additional information about graduate study at Sterling College contact Dennis Dutton in the Office of Admissions at (800) 346-1017 or graduateprograms@sterling.edu.

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SC Athletic Training Program receives graduate accreditation

Sterling College received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) to award master's degrees in athletic training, making Sterling

College the first accredited master's program in the state of Kansas. The news from CAATE came in December 2017, just a few months after the College announced their master's in athletic train-



ing was accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and will begin in the summer of 2018.

"We are thrilled to receive news of our accreditation from CAATE. Our faculty and staff have been driven to achieve this status since the beginning of creating our master's program, and there was no doubt in my mind that they would fulfill the requirements. We cannot wait to begin classes this summer," said Dr. Ken Brown, vice president of academic affairs.

The accreditation of the Master of Science in Athletic Training program for Sterling College means that students can become Board Certified athletic trainers upon passing the BOC exam and graduating from Sterling's master's program. The governing bodies of certified athletic training programs decided in 2015 to move to the master's degree for the professional degree level in the coming years.

"I cannot express how excited I am to be a part of the first accredited mas-

ter's of athletic training program in the entire state of Kansas. There are a lot of people within and surrounding this institution that have helped carry us to this place. I want to thank all of those who helped, including our alumni and current students. Our students will benefit most by this program, and I'm excited to move forward with our first class as a master's program as we develop the skills and abilities of these future athletic trainers," said Dr. Ryan "Pete" Manely, director of the Athletic Training Program.

The master's in athletic training through Sterling College is a two-year program and is currently accepting applicants who have met the admission requirements to begin the program in July 2018. Students can enter the program via two avenues: graduating with a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or by going through Sterling College's 3+2 program. The 3+2 track is an accelerated program in which the student graduates with a bachelor's in health science and a master's in athletic training in five years instead of the traditional six.

In addition to athletic training, Sterling College also offers a graduate program in the Master of Arts in Sports Ministry. For additional information about graduate study at Sterling College visit www.sterling.edu/graduate-programs or contact Dennis Dutton in the Office of Admissions at (800) 346-1017 or graduateprograms@sterling.edu.

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