

Exercise Science Accreditation Market Analysis

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Similar Programs

Accredited Programs in Tennessee and Surrounding State

Across the United States, a total of 102 bachelor's degree granting programs in exercise sciences are currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Furthermore, only 19 programs in Tennessee and the surrounding states are accredited. Among these 19 programs, seven have become accredited within the last five years.

The state of Tennessee currently has just one accredited bachelor's degree program in exercise sciences which is offered by Lipscomb University, a private institution in Nashville. This program's initial accreditation was only recently awarded in January of 2022.

Expanding to the nine surrounding states, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri do not have any bachelor's degree granting programs that are accredited by CAAHEP for Exercise Sciences. The state of Virginia has the largest number of accredited programs and Georgia closely follows. Of the 19 accredited programs provided, Georgia State University and Old Dominion University have the earliest accredited programs.

Accredited Bachelor's Degree Program

State	Institution	Current Accreditation Status	Initial Year of Accreditation
TN	Lipscomb University	Initial	2022
GA	Clayton State University	Continuing	2017
	Georgia Southern University	Initial	2024
	Georgia State University	Continuing	2007
	Kennesaw State University	Initial	2021
	Valdosta State University	Continuing	2015
KY	Murray State University	Continuing	2013
	University of Louisville	Continuing	2012
NC	Gardner-Webb University	Initial	2019
	North Carolina Wesleyan University	Continuing	2018
	Univ. of North Carolina Charlotte	Continuing	2009
	Univ. of North Carolina Greensboro	Initial	2023
SC	Winthrop University	Initial	2019
VA	George Mason University	Continuing	2014
	Liberty University	Continuing	2010
	Longwood University	Continuing	2013
	Marymount University	Initial	2023
	Old Dominion University	Continuing	2007
	University of Lynchburg	Continuing	2008

Similar Programs

Degree Production of Accredited Programs

Looking further at the accredited programs within Tennessee and surrounding states, the number of degree completions for the three most recent years of data available shows the size and success of these programs. The number of completions is not publicly available by degree concentration, therefore, the degree completions provided for the programs from University of Louisville and Marymount University are for the degree program overall.

The degree completions provided are identified by using the Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code that each of the 19 programs are classified within. If any program has changed CIP code, the completions data may have been effected. For example, the programs at the University of North Carolina Charlotte and Old Dominion University reported as not being offered for a year or two; however, each program has been accredited since 2009 and 2007 respectively.

Being the only accredited program within Tennessee, the BS Exercise Science program offered at Lipscomb University has had significantly less degree completions in 2020-2022 than many of the other accredited programs identified. Furthermore, this program has had less completions than a number of the other Exercise Science programs offered within Tennessee.

Bachelor's Degrees Awarded for Three Most Recent Years Available

State	Institution	Program	Degrees Awarded		
			2020	2021	2022
TN	Lipscomb University	BS Exercise Science	28	13	26
GA	Clayton State University	BS Health and Fitness Management	10	13	16
	Georgia Southern University	BSK Exercise Science	194	175	182
	Georgia State University	BS Exercise Science	132	148	91
	Kennesaw State University	BS Exercise and Health Science	106	111	139
	Valdosta State University	BS Exercise Physiology	48	19	16
KY	Murray State University	BS Exercise Science	26	26	18
	University of Louisville*	BS Health & Human Performance: Exercise Science	130	128	119
NC	Gardner-Webb University	BS Exercise Science	4	5	6
	North Carolina Wesleyan University	BS Exercise Science	9	14	15
	Univ. of North Carolina Charlotte	BS Exercise Science	—	74	183
	Univ. of North Carolina Greensboro	BS Kinesiology	146	186	156
SC	Winthrop University	BS Exercise Science	53	58	49
VA	George Mason University	BS Kinesiology	67	82	86
	Liberty University	BS Exercise Science	79	95	81
	Longwood University	BS Kinesiology	45	25	31
	Marymount University*	BS Health Sciences: Exercise Science	51	35	30
	Old Dominion University	BS Exercise Sciences	—	—	7
	University of Lynchburg	BS Exercise Physiology	36	25	40

*Degrees awarded are for entire program, not concentration.

“—” means the program was not offered within that year.

Occupational Demand

Programs at Tennessee Public Institutions

To compare the success of the 19 accredited programs in Tennessee and surrounding states with similar, non-accredited programs within Tennessee, the table provided shows the degree completions for bachelor's degree granting programs offered by public institutions in Tennessee. The BS in Health and Human Performance (HHP) program at UTC has a history of being one of the largest undergraduate programs. This program is comprised of three main concentrations with Exercise and Health Science making the largest of the three. Many other public institutions in Tennessee offer a similar degree program and/or concentration.

The BS HHP program is not only one of the largest at UTC, but also has had the third highest number of completions among similar programs offered by public institutions in Tennessee. Degrees awarded are not available by major concentration from all of these institutions, so the data provided is for the entire degree program.

Each of the ten programs provided are not currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Therefore, seeking accreditation for the Exercise and Health Science concentration of the HHP program could allow UTC the unique opportunity to be the first public institution in Tennessee to offer an accredited Exercise Science program.

Bachelor's Degree Granting Programs at Tennessee Public Institutions

Institution	Program	Degrees Awarded		
		2020	2021	2022
Austin Peay State University	BS Kinesiology: Exercise Science	0	0	12
East Tennessee State	BS Kinesiology: Exercise Science	112	102	75
Middle Tennessee State University	BS Exercise Science	130	124	133
Tennessee State University	BS Human Performance and Sport Sciences: Exercise Science	50	47	39
Tennessee Technological University	BS Exercise Science	96	87	81
University of Memphis	BS Health Studies: Exercise, Sport, and Movement Science	343	437	375
University of Tennessee Chattanooga	BS Health and Human Performance: Exercise and Health Science	191	207	212
University of Tennessee Knoxville	BS Kinesiology	283	216	232
University of Tennessee Martin	BSHHP Health and Human Performance: Exercise Science and Wellness	100	94	100
University of Tennessee Southern	BS Human Performance and Physical Education: Exercise Science	20	16	11

Occupational Demand

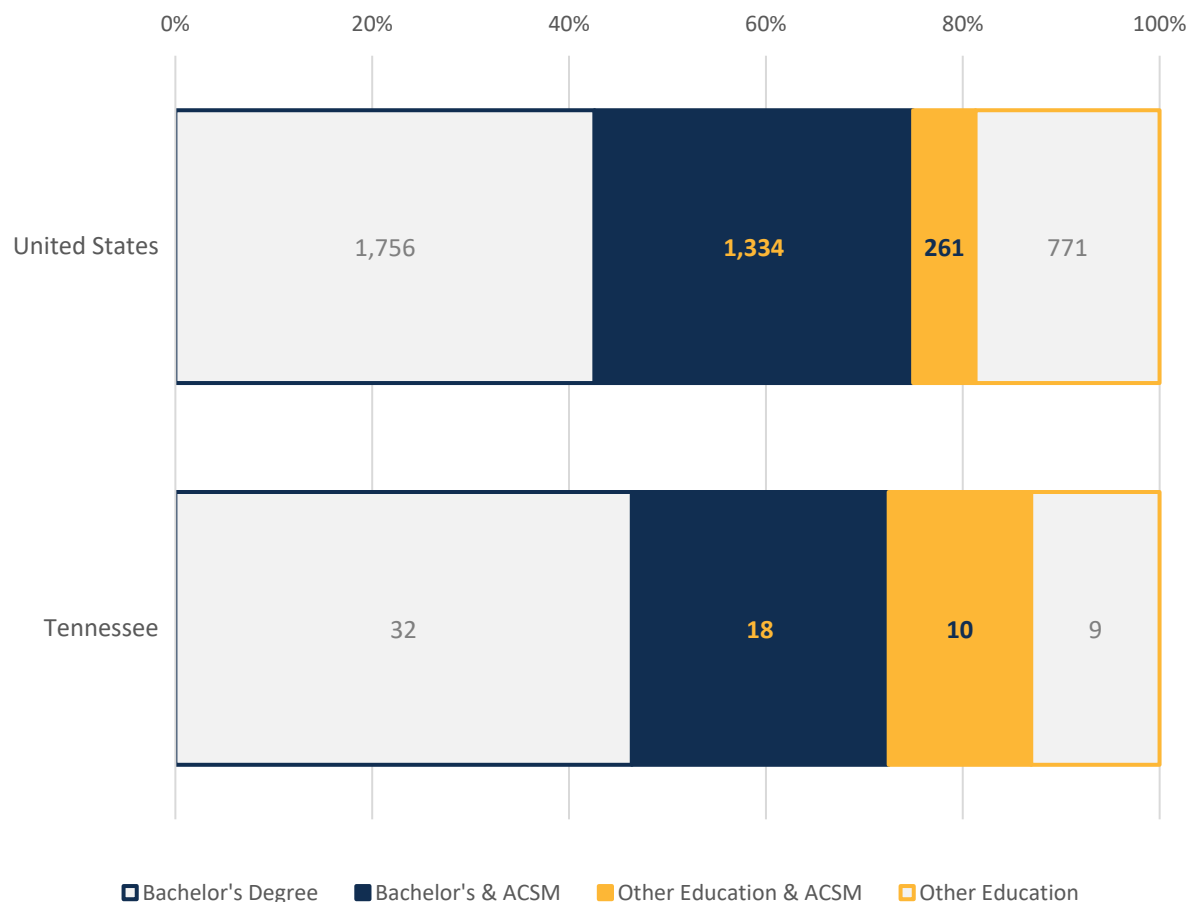
Demand for American College of Sports Medicine Certification 2023

Determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and National Center for Education Statistics, each CIP code has been matched to any Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code to determine appropriate career paths that one may take after completing a degree program. For degree programs focused on Exercise Science, one occupational category is identified as being appropriately matched, SOC code 29-1128, Exercise Physiologists.

Academic degree programs that are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs prepare students for certification by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). Using data provided by Lightcast's Job Posting Analysis system, which gathers information from more than 65,000 job posting sites worldwide, the unique number of posts for Exercise Physiologists across the United States and Tennessee from January 1 to December 31, 2023, were isolated to show those that mentioned a bachelor's degree as well as those that mentioned ACSM certification. In the US, 39% mentioned having ACSM certification compared to 41% of unique job posts in Tennessee. Therefore, a number of jobs for Exercise Physiologists in the past year across the state and nation listed ACSM certification as either a required or preferred qualification within their postings.

National and State Comparison of ACSM Demand for Exercise Physiologists

Job Postings from January 1 – December 31, 2023



Occupational Demand

Five-Year Trend in Demand for American College of Sports Medicine Certification

Using the same job posting data for Exercise Physiologists across a five-year span (2019-2023), the trend in which an ACSM certification has been mentioned is provided for job postings across the United State and Tennessee. Following a similar pattern, the number of unique job postings for this occupation have fluctuated from 2019-2023.

Across the US and Tennessee, 2020 had the lowest number of job postings, which can reasonably be contributed to the global Covid-19 pandemic causing a decrease in available jobs and hiring options. However, across the US in 2020, the percentage of job posting that mentioned ACSM certification decreased from 44% in 2019 to 37% in 2020, yet in Tennessee, this percentage remained the same even with a decrease in the number of job postings.

Although the percentage of job postings mentioning ACSM certification has not yet reached pre-pandemic numbers, this certification remains in high demand for employers hiring Exercise Physiologists. Aside from 2022, the state of Tennessee has shown a consistently higher demand for ACSM certification in job posts than the rest of the United States.

Change in ACSM Demand for Exercise Physiologists

Job Postings from 2019 to 2023

