

Meet the author

Brett D. Bruininks, Ph.D.

Co-author of: BOT-2, BMAT, and BOT-Brief



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- Brett Bruininks, Ph.D.

Where did you study/what did you study?

My undergraduate years were spent at the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN) where I received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Upon graduation, I took a short time away from education to pursue a career in professional ice hockey. After three years (*and several injuries*), I went to graduate school at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN) and obtained both a masters and doctoral degrees in Kinesiology with an emphasis in exercise physiology.

Professional experience?

After receiving my doctorate in 2009, I went on to serve as an assistant professor in exercise science at Concordia College (Moorhead, MN). During my time at Concordia, I served the Department of Health and Physical Education in a number of capacities. As Director of the Program in Exercise Science, I was responsible for redesigning an outdated curriculum, developing one that aligned with national standards. As Director of the Human Performance Laboratory, we afforded our students' valuable hands-on practical assessment skills as well as provided a unique environment for research, departmental collaboration, and community education. In addition to serving the College on the academic side, I also held the position of head women's ice hockey coach.

After 4 years at Concordia, I left the traditional academic world for a 2-year commitment as an assistant women's ice hockey coach and associate graduate faculty at Minnesota State University-Mankato. The move provided an opportunity to directly apply my knowledge and training in an elite athletics setting. ***It also allowed me to attend to my established research agenda that culminated into several presentations and writings as well as the development and promotion of two standardized motor abilities assessments (Bruininks Motor Ability Test, BMAT; Bruininks-Oseretsky Test of Motor Proficiency, 2nd Edition, BOT-2).*** These experiences have and continue to afford me rewarding interactions with children and adults with special needs and their families as well as work alongside some of the most creative and innovative professionals in OT, PT, related medical fields, and test development. This fall (2015), I am thrilled to be joining the faculty at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), serving the Health & Human Performance Department as an assistant professor and researcher with a teaching emphasis in motor development, physiology and exercise physiology, and a research agenda examining the influence of external loading on musculoskeletal development and maintenance in children and adults.

What do you do away from work? Hobbies?

Away from work, I am an avid road cyclist and motorcyclist. In my mind, there isn't a better way to see the world than on two wheels. In addition, I am still heavily involved in ice hockey coaching and athlete training.