

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REPORT
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Action Requested: Receive the accreditation report from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Athletic Training Education Program at the University of Iowa.

Executive Summary: The Athletic Training Education Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards and guidelines defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The Program was accredited for the maximum period of seven years allowed by the accrediting body. This report addresses the Board's Strategic Plan objective to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students" (1.1.).

Background:

- ◇ **Description.** The Athletic Training Education Program is an undergraduate program that provides concentrated studies and clinical experiences leading to national certification in athletic training. Athletic trainers work with physically active individuals to help prevent injuries, offer advice about appropriate equipment, recognize and evaluate injuries, administer emergency treatment, and determine need for specialized medical care.
- ◇ **Accrediting Agency.** The accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).
- ◇ **Review Process.** The self-study prepared by the Athletic Training Education Program contained the responses to the appropriate standards and guidelines required by the accrediting body – sponsorship; personnel; resources; physical resources; operational policies and fair practices; health and safety; student records; outcomes; curriculum and instruction; clinical education; program and sponsoring institution responsibilities; and administration.
- ◇ **On-Site Team Report.** In April 2006, the visiting team determined that the Athletic Training Education Program was in compliance with most of the standards and guidelines required by the accrediting body; five of the 60 standards and guidelines were not in compliance.
- ◇ **Standards and Guidelines Not in Compliance.**
 - ☑ "The program needs to ensure that graduate assistants/approved clinical instructors with less than one year of professional experience be mentored/supervised for at least one year by a qualified approved clinical instructor, and cannot be sole evaluator on NATA¹ educational proficiencies during that year. A document should be provided to the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training with date, time, signature of all graduate assistants and staff indicating that they have reviewed and understand the JRC-AT standard relating to approved clinical instructor qualifications."

¹ National Athletic Trainers' Association.

The specific approved clinical instructor qualification standard was sent to each clinical supervisor, including graduate assistants, asking them to familiarize themselves with the standard and to sign a form indicating they acknowledge, understand, accept, and agree to comply with the standard.

- ☑ “All references to unsupervised required travel in the student handbook and program materials must be removed. An updated copy of the student handbook policy regarding unsupervised required travel must be signed and dated by all clinical staff and athletic training students that they have reviewed and understand the policy. The policy must include a statement or statements explaining the voluntary nature of unsupervised travel and the expectations/role of the athletic training student.”

There are two travel policy sections – one in the Clinical Supervisor’s Handbook and one in the Student’s Handbook. Both policies were revised to remove references to required travel and both explain the expected role of the athletic training student when functioning clinically to achieve practicum objectives. All students and staff must sign and date a form stating that they acknowledge receipt of the policy, understand, accept, and agree to comply with the policy.

- ☑ “The athletic training curriculum shall include provision for clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a qualified clinical instructor or approved clinical instructor in an appropriate clinical setting.”

The clinical supervisor’s handbook and the student’s handbook both explain the expected role of the athletic training student when functioning clinically to achieve practicum objectives.

- ☑ “Supervised clinical experiences shall involve daily personal contact and supervision between the clinical instructor and the student in the same clinical setting. The instructor shall be physically present in order to intervene on behalf of the individual being treated.”

The clinical supervisor’s handbook and the student’s handbook both explain the expected role of the athletic training student when functioning clinically to achieve practicum objectives

- ☑ “Provide updated course materials with clearly written course objectives for two courses – Drugs – Their Nature, Action, and Use; and Physiological Nutrition.”

Course objectives that show course organization and competency compliance were included in the Spring 2006 syllabi.

◇ Recommendations Relevant to the Program. These items did not require a response from the university.

- ☑ “The Program Director should examine the assignment of advisors for incoming freshmen interested in obtaining a degree in athletic training.”
- ☑ “The Program Director should continue to evaluate the ability of the new Human Movement class to meet the Athletic Training Education Program’s needs, particularly in the area of biomechanics.”
- ☑ “A formal recommendation should be made concerning which semester the athletic training students should take the Human Movement class.”

- ☑ “Strong consideration should be given to hiring a tenure-track faculty member for the Athletic Training Education Program. That individual would assist in teaching, advising, and clinical instruction. The tenure-track faculty member would strengthen the research requirement for the senior athletic training students.”

- ◆ Accreditation Status. In April 2006, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education awarded accreditation to the Athletic Training Education Program for the maximum period of seven years.

Details about the accreditation report are available in the Board Office.