

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Accreditation Report for the Athletic Training Program,  
University of Iowa  
**Date:** January 31, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

Receive the report on accreditation for the Athletic Training Education Program, University of Iowa.

**Executive Summary:**

On October 15, 1999, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) voted to award continuing accreditation to the University of Iowa Athletic Training Education Program. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program, including an on-site review, is scheduled to occur in Academic Year 2005-2006.

Accreditation reviews are consistent with the Board of Regents' strategic plan, KRA 1.0.0.0, Quality. The accreditation process relates to Objective 1.1.0.0, "to improve the quality of existing and newly created educational programs."

The Athletic Training Education program requires at least four years of academic class work and three years of clinical experience. The purpose of the program is to prepare persons who will most likely be employed in schools, hospitals, and private clinics.

A number of strengths as well as concerns were noted, as described below.

**Background:**

The program was previously accredited in 1994. The Self-Study for this accreditation was prepared in 1997-1998. The on-site visit occurred May 12-14, 1999.

From 1993-1998, the program graduated 79 students. The Program Director of Athletic Training holds appointments in both the Department of Exercise Science and the Department of Athletic Training Services. At the time of the self-study, the program director was advising 45 undergraduate majors, serving as faculty advisor for five non-thesis M.S. graduate students, and conducting a pre-professional observation program.

In 1997-1998, there were five full-time clinical instructors, nine part-time clinical instructors, and five graduate assistants associated with the program. There are four facilities on campus which have clinical affiliation to the curriculum. Two high school facilities located within three miles of the Field House are also used for clinical purposes.

The On-site Report noted 10 strengths of the program. They included: strong leadership, access and support from the team physician and associates, central administration leadership, design of the student athletic trainer clinical rotation assignments, cooperative working relationship between education personnel and athletic department personnel, student selection process, availability of the hospital and orthopedic clinic, well-planned didactic and clinical experiences, state of the art facilities and equipment, and commitment of the athletic training staff.

All standards were met. The On-site Report also included a number of recommendations. They were:

- 1) Continue to pursue the tenure-track faculty position in Athletic Training to assist in teaching, advising, research, and clinical instruction.
- 2) Address the clinical educational needs of student athletic trainers in the recreation building athletic training facility.
- 3) Modify student evaluation instrument to meet staff and student needs.
- 4) Develop a follow-up health appraisal system of student athletic trainers to protect the students and student athletes.
- 5) Explore the possibility of incorporating faculty/student research into senior presentations.
- 6) Consider expanding the access of student athletic trainers to the orthopedic clinic.
- 7) Update the university's policy and procedures document for athletic training services.
- 8) Develop a formal plan to expose students to additional allied health professionals in the didactic component of the educational program.

The self-study identified several areas which faculty believed were in minimal compliance with the Program Standards of the national organization. It provided a plan for addressing those concerns. They were:

- Concern: Some students may be at risk of health or safety while in contact with University athletes.
- Plan: The Medical Director will review a health history form that each student completes at the beginning of the academic year and before clinical experiences begin in order to identify potential health hazards that would prevent students from meeting the technical standards of the program. Also, the student is to report any health problems that arise during the year to the Medical Director.
- Concern: University service policies and procedures have become outdated and not all staff and Graduate Assistants are oriented to the full document.
- Plan: The office of the Vice-President for University Relations is in the process of revising the current Policies and Procedures for appropriate format. When produced, they will be distributed.

**Analysis:**

The standards of the Commission on Accreditation of the Allied Health Education Programs were met.

The report of the on-site visiting team noted a number of strengths of the program. The recommendations of the team, as well as concerns identified by the self-study committee, are essentially modifications which can be made relatively easily.

A copy of the self-study report, on-site visiting team report, and correspondence between the accrediting organization and the University is available in the Board Office.

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Charles R. Kniker

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank J. Stork