Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education

Special Bulletin

Winter 2010 Update

Degree in Athletic Training

The CAATE, in agreement with the National Athletic Trainer's Association (NATA), supports the NATA Degree Task Force recommendation that by the 2014-2015 academic year individuals entering the profession must have "a degree in Athletic Training". Moving towards defining a degree in Athletic Training is a necessary step in the ongoing maturation of Athletic Training education as well as the profession of Athletic Training itself. After much deliberation, the CAATE consulted several individuals to assist the Commission in clarifying the application of the "degree standard". Those consulted were:

Dr. Dave Perrin, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC
Dr. Greg Frazer, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
Ms. Sara Brown, Boston University, Boston, MA
Dr. Frank Walters, Broward Health, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Ms. Karen Moynahan, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Reston, VA

The participants were selected on the basis of their academic background, experience with accreditation standards, and higher education administration perspective. CAATE Commissioner Maria Anderson led the conversations. Ms. Anderson is the public member of the CAATE with over twenty years of experience in higher education and is currently an independent educational consultant.

The CAATE does not intend to waiver from the recommendation put forth by the NATA Degree Task Force. Rather, the individuals contacted were asked to provide input on how to best determine what constitutes a degree in Athletic Training. Following the consideration of that report for purposes of accreditation:

The CAATE defines a degree in Athletic Training to be **a degree with the primary disciplinary designation of Athletic Training.**

Previously, the CAATE had operated on the basis that the degree must be a Bachelor's of/in Athletic Training if another similar specialized or so-called tagged degree existed within that institutional system, (e.g. Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) or Bachelor of Nursing (BN)). The report from the degree-working group indicated mandating a specialized or tagged degree such as a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (BSAT) or Bachelor of Athletic Training (BAT) is misplaced precision. Thus, after careful consideration of the report, the CAATE's position has broadened. If the institution awards a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, with no other identifier (such as Kinesiology) the ATEP will be considered in compliance ***if*** the Athletic Training major can be identified on the transcript with no accompanying "tag".

Operationally this definition will vary based on individual campus norms. Examples of acceptable degrees include:

- Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree – Major in Athletic Training
- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree – Major in Athletic Training
- Bachelors Degree – Major in Athletic Training
- Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training (BSAT or BAT)

Examples of degrees that would NOT be acceptable beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year include:

- Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree – Major in Kinesiology with a secondary concentration in Athletic Training (reason: AT is not primary disciplinary designation)
- Bachelor of Athletic Training/Sports Medicine (reason: dual disciplinary designation)
- Bachelor of Science in Education – Major in Athletic Training (reason: AT is not primary disciplinary designation)

We understand that there are a number of different ways in which institutions name their degrees and different conventions for indicating majors and concentrations. Program Directors who have any questions about how the degree issue will be handled beginning in the 2014-2015 academic year are urged to contact the CAATE Office for clarification.

The CAATE would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank those individuals who were contacted for their wise counsel and the time and effort they devoted to this project.