



Commission on Accreditation  
of Athletic Training Education

Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education  
2201 Double Creek Drive, Suite 5006  
Round Rock, TX  
(512)733-9700  
FAX: (512)733-9701  
[caate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caate@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net)

## Overview of the Commission

The Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training (JRC-AT) was incorporated in Texas in October 1991. The JRC-AT was a Committee on Accreditation under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP); effective June 30, 2006, the JRC-AT became independent from CAAHEP and changed its name to the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The CAATE is the agency responsible for the accreditation of 357 professional (entry-level) Athletic Training educational programs. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM), and the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. (NATA), cooperate to sponsor the JRC-AT/CAATE and to collaboratively develop the *Standards for Entry-Level Athletic Training Educational Programs*.

These *Standards* of education, which include objective criteria and academic requirements for accredited programs in Athletic Training, require not only specific and defined processes, but also programmatic outcomes for the evaluation. The *Standards* are reviewed on a periodic basis to assure currency and relevance; input of not only the sponsoring agencies, but also the colleges and universities, as well as Athletic Trainers who utilize the services of the CAATE or who employ the graduates of CAATE accredited programs.

Imbedded in the *Standards* are the NATA Educational Competencies and Clinical Proficiencies (*NATA Competencies*). The *NATA Competencies* are the intellectual property of the NATA and are designed to delineate a standardized educational content required by an entry-level Athletic Trainer. The review process for the *NATA Competencies* is similar to that of the *Standards*.

Successful completion of a CAATE-accredited educational program is a criteria used to determine a candidate's eligibility for the Board of

Certification (BOC) examination. To assure continued acceptance of CAATE-accredited program graduates, the BOC also reviews and accepts the CAATE Standards as sufficient to prepare entry-level Athletic Trainers to meet the required *Standards of Practice* and to contain all pertinent learning and skills needed to protect the public. The Board of Certification is a NOCA-recognized certifying agency for Athletic Training. NOCA (National Organization for Competency Assurance) promotes excellence in competency assurance for practitioners in all occupations and professions.

As a member of CAAHEP, the JRC-AT was recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and was a member of the trade association for specialized accreditors, Association of Specialized Professional Accreditors (ASPA), as well as was recognized by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). Early in 2007, CAATE will apply to become an independent member of ASPA and already has been invited to participate in several ASAHP forums. The CAATE also will continue to attend all CHEA-sponsored events and will begin the necessary steps to gain CHEA-recognition, often a two to three year process.

The CAATE has defined policies and procedures which can be found attached to this document, as well on the Commission's website ([www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net)).

## **Mission**

The mission of the CAATE is to provide comprehensive accreditation services to institutions that offer Athletic Training degree programs and verify that all CAATE-accredited programs meet the acceptable educational standards for professional (entry-level) athletic training education.

## Goals of the Commission

- I. Comprehensive accreditation review processes will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations with respect for institutional autonomy.
- II. Annual accreditation processes will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations.
- III. Accreditation decisions will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations.
- IV. There will be consistency between the documents and requirements for accredited education and entry-level practice as an Athletic Trainer.
  - i. *NATA Educational Competencies and Proficiencies*
  - ii. *BOC Role Delineation Study and Standards of Practice*
  - iii. *CAATE Standards for Accreditation of Entry-Level Athletic Training Education Programs*
- V. The educational opportunities related to program development and quality will be assured with respect for institutional autonomy.
- VI. Quality assurance processes and reviews will be objective, regular and consistent, and will be designed to assure content, construct, and criterion-related validity in their measures.
- VII. Collegial relationships and regular communication with the institutions and other stakeholders will be maintained.
- VIII. Relationships with organizations that sponsor the CAATE will be developed, promoted, and maintained.
- IX. Financial resources consistent with the needs and goals of the CAATE will be provided and monitored.

## Current Leadership of the Commission

The Commission shall consist of BOC-certified athletic training representatives and a university administrator representative from the institutions offering athletic training educational programs. The Commission also shall include a designated representative from each of the sponsoring organizations, as well as one (1) public member. The public member has yet to be selected. The current leadership, which consists of outstanding and well-respected Athletic Training professionals, administrators, and physicians, is defined below. All of the Athletic Trainers currently serving on the Commission have been appointed by the National Athletic Trainers Association, and the physician representatives have been appointed by their respective professional association.

Chair	Paula Sammarone Turocy, EdD, ATC Chair and Athletic Training Program Director Associate Professor Department of Athletic Training Anna L. Rangos Rizakus Endowed Chair of Health Sciences & Ethics Duquesne University Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Vice-Chair	Patrick J. Sexton, EdD, ATC/R, CSCS Program Director – Athletic Training Education Associate Professor Minnesota State University – Mankato Mankato, Minnesota
Treasurer	David Kaiser, EdD, ATC Director of Pre-Medical Education Associate Professor Brigham Young University Provo, Utah
Member	Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC Associate Director – School of Nursing Clinical Associate Professor University of Tulsa Tulsa, Oklahoma
Member	Robert Moss, PhD, ATC Director, Athletic Training Education Program Professor Albion College Albion, Michigan

Member	Katie M. Walsh, EdD, ATC-L Director of Sports Medicine & Athletic Training Program Associate Professor East Carolina University Greenville, North Carolina
Administrator Member	Kaye A. Herth, PhD, RN, FAAN Dean – College of Allied Health and Nursing CCNE Accreditation Site Evaluator NLNAC Accreditation Site Evaluator Mankato, Minnesota
Public Member	Maria Doelger Anderson, MS Port Jefferson, NY
AAP Representative (American Academy of Pediatrics)	Douglas B. Gregory, MD, FAAP AAP Sports Medicine Committee JRC-AT Site Visitor Lakeview Medical Center Suffolk, Virginia
AAFP Representative (American Academy of Family Physicians)	Mia R. Griggs, MD Director of Sports Medicine Austin Medical Education Programs 1313 Red River Street, Suite 100 Austin, TX 78701
AAOSSM Representative (American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine)	Mark Pinto, MD Team Physician – University of Michigan 775 South Main Street Chelsea, MI 48118
NATA Representative	Sean Willeford, MS, ATC Athletic Training Program Director Assistant Professor Texas Christian University Ft. Worth, TX
Full-time Office Staff	Diana Lynn Caruthers, BS Sheila Caruthers

There are no full-time members of the Commission; all commissioners are volunteers, and the full-time office staff currently is managed through an educational management company owned by Mrs. D. L. Caruthers (CPES –

Caruthers Professional Education Services). In addition to the members of the Commission and office staff, there are committees, working groups, and site visitors who make recommendations to the Commission; however, the CAATE has final authority and responsibility for all activities and actions of the Commission. There is a publicly-accessible policy and procedure manual that describes fully the function of those committees, groups, and site visitors. Currently the breakdown of individuals serving on the CAATE Commission, standing Committees, and Site Visitors are as follows.

### **Standing Committees**

#### Review Committee –

William Biddington, EdD, ATC  
Carl Cramer, EdD, RKT, ATC, LAT  
Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC (Team Leader)  
Douglas Gregory, MD, FAAP  
Pamela Hansen, EdD, ATC  
David Kaiser, EdD, ATC (Team Leader)  
Paula Maxwell, PhD, ATC  
Robert Moss, PhD, ATC  
Thomas Palmer, MEd, ATC, CSCS  
Patrick Sexton, EdD, ATC, CSCS (Team Leader)  
Brian Toy, PhD, ATC  
Katie Walsh, EdD, ATC

#### Site Visit Committee –

Gregory Gardner, EdD, ATC (Chair)  
Brian Bogdanowicz, MS, ATC  
Mark Laursen, MS, ATC  
Tona Palmer-Hetzler, EdD, ATC, LAT  
Scott Unruh, EdD, ATC  
Katie Walsh, EdD, ATC

#### Annual Report Committee –

Patricia Graman, MS, ATC (Chair)  
Miguel Benavides, MS, ATC  
Marchelle Cuppett, EdD, ATC  
David Middlemas, MS, ATC  
Amanda Sinclair, EdD, ATC

Ethics Committee –

Michael Hudson, PhD, ATC (Chair)  
Matthew Kutz, MS, MEd, ATC, CSCS  
Michael Miller, EdD, ATC, CSCS  
Kimberly S. Peer, EdD, ATC, LAT  
Gretchen Schlabach, PhD, ATC

**Ad-Hoc Committees**

Technology Committee

Steve Cernohous, Ed.D., ATC, LAT  
R.T. Floyd, EdD, ATC  
Eric Fuchs, DA, ATC  
Christopher Huot, MS, ATC  
Eric L. Lippincott, PT, ATC

Site Visitors = 167

Number of site visits conducted annually = 50-60

Number of site visitors per visit = 2

Number of site visitors involved annually in site visits = 75-80

Number of currently accredited Athletic Training Education Programs = 357

## **Financial Information**

The CAATE currently owns no property and leases 834 square feet of office space in Round Rock, Texas. The CAATE is a financially-viable 501 (3) (c) company with sufficient resources to effectively meet all of its current and anticipated responsibilities.