

# Joint Review Committee on Athletic Training Education

**2006 Update**

**Volume 5: Issue 1**

*This document provides the most current information and interpretation(s) of CAAHEP Standards and JRC-AT policies and procedures, and information contained herein replaces any past interpretations or policy(ies)/procedure(s). It also provides clarification of the structure and function of the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).*

## **Information found in this issue....**

**JRC-AT Business:** \*Candidacy, \*4<sup>th</sup> Edition NATA Competencies, \*Resources added to website, \*Deadline Requirements, \*Electronic Submissions

**CAATE Business:** \*Implementation of Standards, \*Upcoming Site Visitor Training, \*Structure of CAATE, \***NEW POSITIONS with CAATE**, \*Degree in Athletic Training, \*Professional Document Ownership, \*Submission of Questions for Commission Response, General Reminders, CAATE Standards J3.5

## **JRC-AT Business:**

### **+ JRC-AT Candidacy Service Discontinued**

- ▶ In response to the 2004 elimination of the internship route to BOC certification, Candidacy was developed to assist athletic training “internship” programs that wished to transition to meet CAAHEP-accreditation Standards. Candidacy was a term-limited service that was not intended to be offered on a long-term basis. Since over 175 new educational programs were developed during this transition period, there is evidence to support that the original goal of Candidacy has been met. Therefore, **effective immediately, Candidacy will no longer be a service offered to new programs by the JRC-AT.**

All programs, currently recognized as officially pursuing Candidacy, have received official correspondence from the JRC-AT to clarify this Candidacy procedure, as well as to solicit institutions’ desired status. For more questions concerning this action, please refer to the JRC-AT website ([www.jrc-at.org](http://www.jrc-at.org)) or contact the JRC-AT Office.

### **+ Implementation of 4th edition of the NATA Competencies Implementation**

- ▶ The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the NATA Competencies will be **implemented in Fall 2007 and be reviewed during the Fall 2007-08 site visits.** This implementation may be validated via the Annual Report **AND/OR** a comprehensive review (self-study and site visit) during the 2007/2008 academic year. The JRC-AT was encouraged by the NATA to accept and implement the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the NATA Competencies in an expedited time period, because **there are only 27 minor additions to the 3rd edition of the NATA Competencies, as well as several deletions.** In the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, there is a comparison document to assist program directors and administrators in identifying these differences.

- ▶ Accredited programs, except those seeking comprehensive accreditation reviews during the 2006/2007 academic year, are encouraged to adopt the competencies as soon as possible, because **the “new” competencies are already components of NATA position statements** and, therefore, potential content areas for the BOC examination. The NATA Education Council is in the process of developing an appropriate tracking matrix to be used with the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the NATA Competencies. This matrix is expected to be released before Summer 2006.

#### ✚ **Helpful Information Added to JRC-AT Website**

- ▶ The JRC-AT Office has received several requests for information to assist in program administration and management. This information has been added to the JRC-AT website in the form of both policy statements, as well as helpful hyperlinks. Topics added include
  - ▶ Policy regarding **change of professional program level**
  - ▶ **Communicable Disease Policy** (CDC Website)
  - ▶ **Overview of new CAATE Structure**
  - ▶ Examples of **Medical and Allied Health Personnel** (AMA Website)
    - *Please note that three allied health disciplines (Nursing, Chiropractor, and Physical Therapist) are missing from this site, but are acceptable as allied health professionals for CAATE-accredited programs.*

#### ✚ **JRC-AT Deadlines – Submission Deadlines Identified by Postmark**

- ▶ Effective immediately, **accreditation materials, reports, and questions must be post-marked** (date/time stamped if materials are submitted electronically) **on or before the required date of submission**. All materials postmarked (emailed) after the deadline will not be considered until the next regular review of materials and/or may be associated with an Administrative Probation action. Delays of accreditation actions, and the subsequent effects of those actions on the ATEP's students that occur, as a result of this missed deadline, are fully the responsibility of the institution and the accredited educational program.

#### ✚ **On-line Submission and Reporting Forms Improve Program Communication**

- ▶ During 2005, the JRC-AT began its first of many improvements in facilitating the communication between ATEPs and the JRC-AT. The 2005 Annual Report process allowed ATEPs to submit their Annual Reports electronically for the first time. While a few minor glitches occurred with this new process, this method of submission has been determined to be very effective. Based upon the feedback received, the Annual Report Committee has already made improvements in the tracking of submissions, as well as the notification provided to programs when a report has been successfully submitted.

- ▶ The JRC-AT also has facilitated submissions of rejoinder responses during 2005-06 with the creation of an electronic template which contains the non-compliant Standard(s) as well as the rationale provided by the site visit and/or review teams. A similar format is being developed and will be implemented for Progress Reports in the near future.

## CAATE Business:

### + **Implementation of CAATE Accreditation Recognition and Standards**

- ▶ All currently accredited ATEPs will be **recognized by CAATE on July 1, 2006**. With the transition to CAATE, **all CAAHEP timeframes, accreditation status, and actions will remain the same under the CAATE**. All currently-accredited education programs will receive new CAATE Accreditation Certificates. The BOC will recognize all CAATE-accredited program graduates for the BOC examination.
  - ▶ **Programs visited in Spring 2006 will be reviewed using the CAAHEP Standards (2001)**; however, those programs will be accredited in July by the CAATE (Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education Programs). **All other CAAHEP-accredited Athletic Training Education Programs will be transitioned automatically to CAATE accreditation in July 2006.**
  - ▶ CAATE Standards for Accreditation of Athletic Training Education programs will be utilized effective with 2006-07 site visits. **HOWEVER, all accredited programs, regardless of timing of next comprehensive review, should be in compliance with CAATE Standards effective July 1, 2006.** This required implementation may be evaluated via Comprehensive Review Process (Self-Study/Site Visit) as well as through the Annual Report process.
- ### + **New and Improved Site Visitor Training**
- ▶ **All current JRC-AT Site Visitors are required to participate in new CAATE Site Visitor Training.**
    - ▶ CAATE Site Visitor Training is very different from the training held previously under CAAHEP, now requiring all site visitors to successfully **complete an on-line examination** on the content of the Standards.
    - ▶ **Site Visitors become qualified to participate in the *live* training sessions held in conjunction with professional meetings**, only after they have demonstrated a high level of knowledge and understanding of the content of the Standards via the on-line examination. This examination will be made available to all current site visitors during Spring 2006.
    - ▶ To accommodate all **current site visitors, three *Live* training sessions will be held; June 13<sup>th</sup> session will be in the afternoon, and there will be two sessions (AM & PM) to choose from on June 16<sup>th</sup> during the NATA National Symposium**; site visitors, who have passed the examination, must attend one session to be considered *Qualified* to participate in site visits during 2006-07.

- ▶ **Training for new Site Visitors will begin before the NATA Educators' Conference in January 2007** and culminate in *live* training during the Educators' Conference. Announcements will be forthcoming for submission of interest and application materials for new Site Visitors.

#### + **Information on new CAATE Structure available on JRC-AT Website**

- ▶ **It is the CAATE's plan to involve many more ATCs and those affected by accreditation actions in the business of accreditation** (e.g. public, administrators). Summary of the entire plan is available on the JRC-AT website in a PDF of a power point presentation developed for use by the CAATE for District meetings.

#### + **Seeking Candidates for CAATE Committees and Positions**

- ▶ **The CAATE is now accepting applications for the following CAATE Commission and Committee positions:**

- ▶ **CAATE Commission** – Vote on all final accreditation actions and oversee the business of the Commission

- Public Member
- Administrator (Dean or higher from institution with CAATE-accredited program)

#### ▶ **CAATE Committees**

- Review Committee

- ◆ Qualifications:

- Qualified and experienced site visitor (minimum 3 visits),
- Positive site visitor evaluations
- Maintained appropriate practice credential
- Must be willing to give up all ATEP consulting activities

- ◆ Duties:

- Work with site visitors to prepare report
- Review rejoinder materials and progress reports
- Make recommendations to CAATE on accreditation Actions

- Site Visit Committee

- ◆ Qualifications:

- Active site visitor for minimum of 5 years
- BOC-certified for minimum of 6 years
- Positive site visitor evaluations

- ◆ Duties:

- Assist in Site Visitor training and quality assurance related to Site Visits
- Assist with development and maintenance of Site Visitor exam
- Develop and maintain procedures for standards of practice for Site Visit
- Assist in development and refinement of site visit materials
- Act as third observer when needed on site visits if needed

▶ **CAATE Committees Positions Available** *(continued)*

- Ethics and Professional Standards Committee
  - ◆ Review professional behaviors of all representatives of CAATE
  - ◆ Make recommendations to the CAATE regarding professional behaviors of CAATE representatives

▶ **All CAATE positions are for 3 year terms;** individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same position. Service on CAATE Committees is a requirement for eligibility for the Athletic Training seats on the Commission. Interested parties must **submit all required materials to the JRC-AT Office by March 15, 2006.** No applications will be accepted if not postmarked by that the 15<sup>th</sup>.

▶ **Current Vitae**

▶ **Letter of Interest for a specific position**

▶ **One letter of recommendation** (May not be current JRC-AT/CAATE member)

▶ **List of three references (name, phone, and email)**

+ **Degree in Athletic Training**

▶ **The National Athletic Trainers' Association has asked the CAATE to take the lead in implementing a degree in Athletic Training.** The profession's recommendation, developed by the NATA Degree Task Force and Approved by the NATA Board of Directors, is that the entry-level degree in athletic training be at the bachelor's level. CAATE has agreed that a degree in Athletic Training is essential for the appropriate recognition of the education required of Athletic Trainers and has agreed to take on the responsibility of this implementation. During 2006, the CAATE will develop an Ad Hoc Committee, qualifications and responsibilities will be posted on the JRC-AT/CAATE website that will work closely with the NATA, Athletic Training educators, and university/college administrators to develop a plan for implementation of this professional standard. This group will gather data from institutions and examine models of academic structure to determine the most feasible method by which this requirement will be implemented. Finally, it will determine an implementation time line. Athletic Training education programs are encouraged to assist the CAATE in this process and provide the appropriate information and documentation as requested.

+ **Essential Information: Responsibility and Ownership of Educational Documents**

- ▶ **CAAHEP:** Standards and Guidelines for the Athletic Trainer (2001 Standards)
- ▶ **CAATE:** Standards for the Accreditation of Entry-level Athletic Training Education Programs (2005 Standards)
- ▶ **NATA:** NATA Athletic Training Educational Competencies – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition
- ▶ **BOC:** Role Delineation Study

**All official communications with the JRC-AT and Committee members should be made through the JRC-AT office.** Due to the volume of communication and the growth in the number of accredited programs, **questions for the CAATE received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, will be acted upon by the CAATE during monthly conference calls.** Please remember that the members of the JRC-AT are volunteers who have the same responsibilities as program directors, clinicians, and administrators as do those we serve; therefore, adherence to this process is essential and will provide consistent responses developed and approved by the entire Committee/Commission. The official contact information is

**JRC-AT**  
**P.O. Box 460939**  
**Centennial, CO 80046-0939**  
**(303)627-6229**  
**Fax: (303)632-5915**  
[dlcaruthers@comcast.net](mailto:dlcaruthers@comcast.net)  
[www.jrc-at.org](http://www.jrc-at.org)

### **Important Reminders:**

1. Beginning with the 2006-2007 site visit applications, **a \$500 accreditation application fee will be required of both initial and continuing programs beginning with the 2006-2007 site visit applications.** In 2006-2007, the fees currently paid in two separate installments to the JRC-AT and CAAHEP in February and June, respectively, will be billed in one combined fee to CAATE in 2007. For more information on accreditation fees, check out the *Athletic Training Accreditation Fees* link on the JRC-AT website.
2. While currently accredited ATEPs may have been found in compliance with the **2001 Standards – Major Requirement**, all accredited programs are encouraged to review the requirements for a “major” in athletic training delineated in **Section I of the 2005 CAATE Standards.** Programs also are encouraged to check all University publications, as well as programmatic websites and materials to ensure consistency in evidence to support compliance with this Standard.

### **CAATE Standard J3.5 – Response to Questions**

The JRC-AT Office has received several questions and requests for clarification in regard to CAATE Standard J3.52. Please find below the official JRC-AT/CAATE response to the question about implications for program management.

**J3.5 The students’ clinical experience requirements must be carefully monitored.**

**J3.51 The length of clinical experiences should be consistent with other comparable academic programs requiring a clinical or supervised practice component. Such policies must be consistent with federal or state student work-study guidelines as applicable to the campus setting.**

**J3.52 Consideration must be given to allow students comparable**

relief (days off) from clinical experiences during the academic year as compared to other student academic and student activities offered by the institution (e.g., other health care programs, athletics, clubs).

**JRC-AT/CAATE Clarification:** If there are similar academic programs on campus with similar structure (e.g. clinicals conducted simultaneously with course work), the program should be consistent with those similar programs in its assignment of clinical experiences and any clinical hour requirement associated with the clinical courses. If there are no similar curricular models on the campus, the determination of the length of clinical experiences (i.e. hours) must be consistent with federal or state student work-study guidelines as applicable to the campus setting. To determine its applicability, ATEPs should evaluate their institution's work study policy. For example, if your institution's work study policy allows work study students to work an average of 20 hours per week as work study students, then this same policy can be used as a comparison document from which the ATEP should develop its requirements.

**Student Travel:** Only supervised clinical experiences may be required of students as a part of their educational program. Supervised educational experiences entail that students are under the direct auditory and visual supervision of a BOC certified athletic trainer (ATEP ACI/CI) at all times. **The JRC-AT/CAATE does not support unsupervised education.** Unsupervised clinical experience is not/can not be a requirement of an accredited program; therefore, unsupervised activities, of any kind, are not sanctioned, nor governed by the JRC-AT/CAATE.

If a plan is developed for students to voluntarily function unsupervised, it must be assured that these experiences are fully voluntary and that the institution is fully aware of the liability (legal and student/institution insurance problems) associated with students performing any activity while unsupervised. ATEPs allowing students to voluntarily function in this capacity must assure that this unsupervised situation is completely voluntary, acknowledged and approved by the institution's legal counsel or risk management office, and that students are protected via liability insurance and are in compliance with state law functioning in this capacity. Students may not be referred to as Athletic Training students in unsupervised situations, and their work expectations cannot include professional Athletic Training skills.