



## CAATE to Discontinue Post-Professional Degree Program Accreditation

At the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) meeting in December 2019, the Commission voted to discontinue accrediting post-professional degree programs. This decision was due, in part, to the very limited number of programs who have voluntarily chosen to pursue this accreditation (only nine currently with two in voluntary withdrawal status).

Subsequent to this decision the Commission formed a Post-Professional Degree Taskforce that was charged to formulate a strategy for exiting the accreditation of Post-Professional Degree Programs and to provide a recommendation to the Commission regarding how to discontinue Post-Professional degree program accreditation in a manner that is respectful to the needs our stakeholder programs. This plan, detailed below, sought to allow flexibility for program's that may want to remain accredited while also being responsive to those who may choose to discontinue their accreditation in an accelerated fashion.

Please be advised that programs are encouraged to maintain their current Post-Professional athletic training degree program at their institution's discretion. The CAATE will have no governing authority to impose program closures or degree name changes. Institutions are able to continue offering post-professional masters and doctoral degrees in athletic training, regardless of CAATE accreditation. The decision to discontinue our accreditation services in this space should not be interpreted as any kind of value statement regarding formal Post-Professional education in athletic training. In fact, the CAATE believes that there is significant value in the availability of quality Post-Professional degree programs (MS and DAT) to allow for formal academic progression within the athletic training profession. The CAATE will continue to monitor the Post-Professional academic degree landscape. If, in the future, circumstances change in such a manner whereby formal accreditation of academic degree programs in the Post-Professional space becomes a viable option, the Commission will reconsider this decision.

### Details Regarding Discontinuation of Post-Professional Program Accreditation

The CAATE is no longer accepting new program applications for Post-Professional degree programs effective February 28, 2020. The final date of accreditation for all Post-Professional degree programs will be the end of the 2025 – 2026 academic year for those who choose to continue their accreditation and are successful in the continuing accreditation processes (e.g., Annual Reports, annual accreditation fees). To ensure that all matriculated students in the 2025 - 2026 cohort have the opportunity to graduate from a CAATE accredited program, the final date for any program to indicate that they are CAATE accredited will be **December 31, 2026**.

If a Post-Professional program's accreditation expires prior to the December 31, 2026 discontinuation of accreditation date, the program still has the ability to complete their normally scheduled comprehensive review, however, the maximum award of Continuing Accreditation would not be granted past the 2025-2026 academic year. If a program chooses to complete a comprehensive review in order to extend the program's accreditation through the maximum available time, they will not have to write a self-study to address all of the [Standards for the Accreditation of Post-Professional Athletic Training Degree Programs](#), instead the program will write a mini self-study with no onsite visit required. Details about the mini self-study will be sent to programs who wish to submit for continuing accreditation. The fee for the mini self-study

review would only be \$1,500 instead of the typical \$5,000 fee because there will be no associated site visitor travel costs.

Additionally, to maintain Post-Professional degree program accreditation, programs will be responsible for continuing to [pay annual accreditation fees](#) of \$1500 and submitting the required Annual Reports. The annual fee covers eAccreditation usage, annual report submission and review, annual analytics report publishing, student certificates printing, and program public visibility for marketing and recruitment via the [CAATE website](#).

If a program chooses to pursue Voluntary Withdrawal of their Post-Professional degree program accreditation before their current accreditation cycle ends, the program will need to provide official notification (signed and dated by the President/CEO) submitted via the Substantive Change tab in eAccreditation. The program will not be required to complete a teach-out plan. Additionally, programs seeking Voluntary Withdrawal must continue to submit Annual Reports and pay annual accreditation fees until the program's requested closing date. For example, if a program's current accreditation cycle ends during the 2024 – 2025 academic year and they choose to voluntarily withdraw at the end of that cycle, they would continue to submit Annual Reports and pay annual accreditation fees through the 2024 – 2025 academic year.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this notice, please contact the CAATE Office at (512-733-9700).