



UPDATE

April 1, 2013

Professional Program Updates

Examining the Appropriate Professional Degree Level

After the Athletic Training Educator's Conference, AT educators have had much discussion about the appropriate level of the professional degree. Specifically, our stakeholders are asking when and if the Commission will require all accredited programs to be at the post-baccalaureate degree level. In response to our stakeholders, the Commission has begun to formally examine the appropriate level of the professional degree to better answer these questions. The Commission is collaborating with the ECE on a report about the professional degree level that will be used as part of the examination process. The Commission has also requested the professional opinions of the physician member groups on how the level of the degree is viewed amongst our physician colleagues. These groups are: The American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine. As more information becomes available, we will ask for public comment from institutions, individuals and other professional organizations.

Currently, the Commission accredits programs at both the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate levels. There has been significant stakeholder interest in transitioning accredited programs to the post-baccalaureate level, but there is no requirement or mandate from the Commission to do so. Such a requirement would only be implemented if the Commission were to determine that it is consistent with our mission of transforming the profession through quality education and that it was in the best interest of our patients, programs, and the profession. Such a significant change would require adequate notice to programs and an adequate transition period for programs to comply with any required changes. The Commission will continue to notify our stakeholders about the evolution of this process and welcomes comments as we begin our examination of this important issue.

Substantive Change Document

In response to program requests, the Commission is pleased to announce a new process available to programs seeking to **voluntarily** transition their professional athletic training program from a baccalaureate degree to a post-baccalaureate degree.

Programs voluntarily transitioning from a baccalaureate to a post-baccalaureate degree who are in good standing with the Commission and in mid-cycle for accreditation may apply for continuing accreditation through the Substantive Change Application (degree change) available on the Commission website (<http://www.caate.net>, drop-down menu for Professional Program Documents). The Substantive Change Application does not extend continuing accreditation past the program's current comprehensive review date. Application for a Substantive Change does not guarantee the change will be accepted. After review of materials, the Commission may deem that an on-site visit is necessary to ensure compliance with the *Standards*. If an on-site review is required, the institution will be charged a site visit fee in addition to the fee for review of the Substantive Change Application. The fee schedule is available on the application.

The Substantive Change Application will become electronic later in the year. Therefore, **only programs intending to apply prior to August 1, 2013 for consideration **this year** for continuing accreditation with Substantive Change should use the paper version on the website.**

Please contact the CAATE office if you have questions regarding the Substantive Change Application or process.

Increasing Transparency of the Site Visit Process: Program Administrators Invited to Attend Site Visitor Training.

In an ongoing effort to increase transparency and to educate program administrators on the Site Visit and accreditation processes, we are once again inviting administrators to attend our site visitor training. As you may be aware, the Commission has made concerted efforts to select and train our Site Visitors to assure quality accreditation services. The administrators who attended previous Site Visitor Training indicated that it was a very positive experience and helped them understand both the site visit and accreditation processes.

Therefore, we would like to invite program administrators (Program Directors, Chairs, Deans, and Clinical Education Coordinators) who are scheduled to have a Site Visit within next 3 years to attend our next Site Visitor Training. Site Visit Training is scheduled for Sunday, June 23, 2013 from 5pm to 8pm and Monday, June 24, 2013 from 8am to 12pm in Las Vegas, NV prior to the NATA Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium. This is a pre-conference workshop with limited seating. The fee for the workshop will be \$200 per person.

Sunday evening's session for the administrators will consist of two parts. The first part will focus on the administrative portion of the Site Visit process and will be held with the Site Visitors. Administrators will be observers only in this session. The second part Sunday night will be a breakout session for administrators only to discuss strategies for a successful site visit. Monday's session will include both groups for a discussion of the *2012 CAATE*

Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs including cases to illustrate compliance and non-compliance with the *Standards*.

Please RSVP to Sheila (sheila@caate.net) April 22, 2013 if you would like to attend. There are a limited number of administrator slots available for this workshop, so the first 40 registrations will be accepted. Payment can be made prior to, or at the time of the workshop. We look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas!

2012 Standards Clarifications

Slight changes have been made to the wording of the 2012 *Standards* for clarification. Changes are highlighted in **red**. The revised *Standards* may be found on the website.

Standard 17:

Program Director must have **release time**. The **Program Director's** release time **must be equivalent to similar health care programs in the institution**. **If no such similar program exists at the institution, then benchmark with peer institutions.**

Standard 29:

Athletic Training Faculty Qualifications: All athletic trainers who are identified as the primary instructor for athletic training courses (as identified by the matrix) must be certified **and in good standing** by the BOC and, where applicable, be credentialed by the state.

Due to the amount of confusion regarding FTE, a substantial change has been made to Standard 30.

Standard 30: Athletic Training Faculty Number: In addition to the Program Director, there must be a minimum **one full-time (1.0 FTE)** faculty member as defined in the glossary, dedicated **(100% of 1 FTE)** to the athletic training program (revised March 1, 2013, **all programs must be in compliance by July 1, 2015**).

Standard 52:

An athletic trainer, certified **and in good standing** with the BOC who currently possesses the appropriate state athletic training practice credential must supervise the majority of the student's clinical education. The remaining clinical education may be supervised by any appropriately state credentialed **medical or allied** health care professional.

Standard 57:

All clinical education experiences must be educational in nature. The program must have a written policy that delineates a minimum **and** maximum requirement for clinical hours.

Standard 68:

Students must read and sign the program's active communicable disease policy as described in Standard **67**.

Standard 73:

Blood-borne pathogen training and procedures: **Annual** formal blood-borne pathogen training must occur before students are placed in a potential exposure situation. This includes placement at any clinical site, including observational experiences.

Glossary:

Health Care Professional: **Athletic Trainer**, Chiropractor, Dentist, Registered Dietician, Emergency Medical Technician, Nurse Practitioner, Nutritionist, , Occupational Therapist, Optometrist, Orthotist, **Paramedic**, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, **Physician (MD/DO)**, Podiatrist, Prosthetist, Psychologist, Registered Nurse or Social Worker who hold a current active state or national practice credential and/or certification in the discipline and whose discipline provides direct patient care in a field that has direct relevancy to the practice and discipline of Athletic Training. These individuals may or may not hold formal appointments to the instructional faculty.

Clarification on *Standards* without any Editorial Changes

Standard 3:

All sites where students are involved in patient care or observation-only experience (excluding the Program's sponsoring institution) must have an affiliation agreement or memorandum(s) of understanding that is endorsed by the appropriate administrative authority (i.e. those bearing signature authority) at both the sponsoring institution and site. In the case where the administrative oversight of the preceptor differs from the affiliate site, formal agreements must be obtained from all parties.

Please note that ALL sites must have affiliation agreements or MOU's. Any experience the student completes as part of their education as an AT student MUST have an agreement. Both for credit and non-credit experiences, including internships, in Athletic Training must have agreements.

Standard 98 and Standard 102 although not identical, are really duplicates. For reporting purposes, please report under Standard 102. Site visitors will look for evidence of these standards under 102 not 98.

Standard 98:

Program must maintain appropriate student records demonstrating progression through the curriculum.

Standard 102:

Program must maintain appropriate student records. These records, at a minimum, must include academic progression (e.g., grade tracking/completion forms, advisement forms).

Other Reminders and Updates

Calibrations/Safety Check

In the past, if a clinical site did not have current calibration and/or safety checks, alternate options were permissible in order to allow continued use of the site (for example, a site could require all students to sign a statement indicating they would not use the modality of concern). This practice is no longer acceptable. The Commission now requires current modality calibrations and safety checks at all sites where students are placed for clinical education (observation or hands-on learning experiences). Students cannot be placed at any site where verification of current modality calibration and safety check is not available.

Terminology

The acronym ATEP is no longer being used. Please use 'program' or 'athletic training program' or 'AT program'. The Commission only accredits education programs so it is inferred that an athletic training program is an education program.

Are You Posting Your Program Outcomes?

The *2012 Standards for the Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs* must be fully implemented by July 1, 2013. Standard 8 requires that programs post outcomes data from Standard 7 on the program's home page or provide a direct link to the data on the program's home webpage. Check with your institution's assessment office as most regional accreditors also require that program outcomes be publicly posted on the website. Standards 7 and 8 are listed below.

Standard 7. Assessment Measures: The program's BOC examination aggregate data for the most recent three test cycle years must be provided and include the following metrics: Number of students graduating from the program who took the examination, number and percentage of students who passed the examination on the first attempt, and overall number and percentage of students who passed the examination regardless of the number of attempt

Standard 8. Assessment Measures: Programs must post the data from Standard 7 on the program's home page or a direct link to the data must be on the program's home webpage.

e-Accreditation

Annual Report

The annual report module in e-Accreditation is starting to take shape. The new AR will be much different than before, as it will provide both the programs and the CAATE with data across programs for benchmarking and will over time, populate some of the outcomes

Standards for the self-study. Because the new AR will be collecting information on graduates, the timeframe for completion of the AR for professional programs has been moved to the fall. **The due date for Annual Reports for 2013 will be October 1, 2013.** We anticipate the release of the AR and several other modules to go live around the 2nd week of May. This will allow PDs to enter information on graduates over the summer and early fall. We are excited to be close to launching this important step in the automation of our accreditation services. More information to come soon!

Other Modules

Student Cohort: The Student Cohort module will be released by the end of April! The student cohort module will allow PDs to enter their student information for each cohort. A cohort is defined by graduation year; so all students graduating in a particular year are entered in the same cohort. The student cohort module will allow student demographic information to be entered as soon as they are accepted into the program. If a student drops out of the program or is dismissed, that will be entered in this module. When the student graduates, the BOC candidate ID will allow data from the BOC to be recorded regarding exam attempts and results. Instructions and training will be available as well as a help link through eAccreditation.

Internal Program Review: This module encourages the Program to complete a very brief (e.g., two sentences and a qualitative pick-list selection) internal review of each Standard every year between Self-Studies. It offers a simple way to avoid last minute surprises by identifying problems, then tracking their resolution during the years prior to the next Site Visit. The IPR will be available to those programs NOT completing a self-study in the next two years.

File Cabinet: This utility provides each Program with private, online storage file folders that can be accessed at any time. Programs may file copies of documents in this location that may be useful during their re-accreditation process. This feature also provides Programs with some degree of confidence that accreditation-related documents won't be lost due to staff / Program Director turnover.

Post Professional Updates

A Historic Moment:

The CAATE is pleased to announce that in the February meeting, the Commission voted to accredit the first Athletic Training Residency Program. The New Hampshire Musculoskeletal Institute's Athletic Training Residency Program (<http://www.nhmi.net/residency.php>) was recently accredited and received a 5-year accreditation. Please help us to congratulate NHMI on this accomplishment!

The Commission feels that accreditation of residency training programs is of major importance in achieving our mission of transforming the profession through quality education

and encourages programs interested in residency training to seek accreditation. Information about residency program accreditation is available on the Commission website (<http://www.caate.net>, Residency tab)

Post Professional Degree Standards

A subgroup of the Commission met recently to continue work on completing the next edition of the Post-Professional Degree Program Accreditation Standards. Feedback from the online survey and additional information received from the ATEC focus group meeting guided the conversations. Structurally, the draft standards have been reorganized to better reflect the terminology and processes used by the Commission.

A few of the changes are as follows:

- Standards are now numbered consecutively to be compatible with e-Accreditation
- The terminology “Points of Distinctiveness” has been eliminated from the document; however the Program still revolves around faculty expertise and institutional resources.
- There is no “clinical education section”, but “advanced clinical practice” standards are located within the PROGRAM DELIVERY section of the Standards. Advanced clinical practice is mandated for all programs.

The next step is for the Standards revisions to go to the entire Post-Professional Transition Team for review. The Standards will then go out for public comment.