Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
Update

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Procedure for Contacting CAATE©
All questions regarding CAATE Standards, or CAATE Policies and Procedures must be sent in writing or via e-mail to the CAATE office.

Message from the CAATE President
-Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC

Greetings to all of you who are committed to the profession of athletic training! Your dedication is demonstrated by your continued support and active engagement in the educational process. I commend each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication.

As I began serving my term as the CAATE President in August 2008, I did so knowing how challenging it would be to live up to the standard established by my predecessor, Dr. Paula Turocy. In the spirit of commitment and service, I assure you I will do my best to continue the precedent of improvement of accreditation services offered by CAATE. I greatly appreciate the opportunity and I’m eager to take on this challenging leadership role.

In keeping with the standard of excellence set by Dr. Turocy, the CAATE is continuing to move forward to deliver the very best accreditation services. During the CAATE meeting in August of this year, the Commission, as a part of the award process, agreed to adopt a ten (10) year maximum accreditation award. In part, the ten (10) year award allows the CAATE to better manage the number of Programs undergoing the Comprehensive Review process. Reducing the volume of information being dealt with will better enable the CAATE to refine other

Message from the CAATE Executive Director – Patsy Harris, MPA

As the new Executive Director for the CAATE, I look forward to continuing to build supportive and high quality accrediting services to institutions offering entry-level Athletic Training Education Programs. We are working actively, with the support and input of our constituency, to enhance our services so that the information we provide to you and to the public is current, accurate, accessible, and meets your needs to meet and exceed the Standards for ATEP accreditation. Over the course of the upcoming year, the notification of enhancements will be provided through e-mail, website, and newsletter updates. This is an exciting time for Athletic Training Education Programs as we partner and work together to support well-qualified entry-level athletic training programs, resulting in highly qualified athletic training professionals.

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processes associated with accreditation, resulting in the delivery of enhanced and high quality services.

We are also in the process of reducing volumes by extending the accreditation date for a few programs that are scheduled to submit the Self-Study document and have a site visit in the academic year of 2009-2010. Again, this will enable the CAATE to control the number of programs that are undergoing the Comprehensive Review process. The strength of the Annual Report process, directed by Pat Graman, is such that we are very confident in “pushing” the date to a longer time span. I have heard several comments that the annual report is very much like a “mini self study”. I concur with that and can tell you the annual report is exhaustive by design. The high level of scrutiny delivered by the Annual Report process allows the CAATE to safely extend accreditation award lengths. Ultimately, it is the CAATE’s goal to position the Commission to deliver relevant high quality accreditation services that support Athletic Training Education Programs.

I encourage each of you to become involved in the accreditation process as a site visitor if you have not already done so. We will be conducting new site visitor training in San Antonio in conjunction with the NATA annual meeting. I also encourage you to consider attending the seminar the CAATE is presenting as a pre-conference session at the NATA Educators Workshop. The focus of this Workshop will be best practices in accreditation. This will be a nuts and bolts session focusing on how to maintain accreditation and address all of the processes and documentation associated with it. The best practices session is scheduled to be presented in San Antonio as well.

Thank you for supporting athletic training education. On behalf of the CAATE, I thank you and encourage you to continue to move forward with us as we continue to improve!

Lengthening of Maximum Possible Accreditation Award supported by Annual Report Data

The CAATE voted in its August 2008 meeting to extend the maximum possible accreditation award from seven (7) to ten (10) years, effective with the Fall 2007-Spring 2008 site visits. Only those programs found to be in compliance with all accreditation Standards at the end of the comprehensive review cycle (Self-Study → Site Visit→ Rejoinder submission) may receive the maximum ten (10) year award. The CAATE believes that there is a relationship between the number of comprehensive reviews that have ended (after submission of the Rejoinder) with no citations and the improved rigor of the Annual Report and Annual Report Audit process. While no program or Program Director enjoys the Annual Report process, more non-compliances have been identified and then rectified through the Annual Review process than ever before. The CAATE believes that this early recognition and correction of non-compliances has decreased the number of citations identified through the Comprehensive Review process. It also believes that programs are maintaining their records and materials more consistently with what is required for the Comprehensive Review as a result of the Annual Review process.
Program Proliferation results in Change in Self-Study Submission Process

Effective with the comprehensive accreditation reviews scheduled for the 2009-2010 cycle, all ATEPs will be randomly assigned required deadlines for Self-Study submissions (either June 1 or September 15). All currently-affected programs were notified of this potential change during the 2007-2008 academic year. The first group to be affected by this policy change will be those institutions scheduled for a comprehensive accreditation review during 2009-2010. The policy requires the CAATE to notify a program of its mandatory submission deadline during the fall of the year before the Self-Study is due.

Degree in Athletic Training

The CAATE, in agreement with the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), supports the NATA’s Degree Task Force recommendation that by 2014-2015 academic year, individuals entering the profession must have a degree in athletic training. This means that, by 2014-2015, individuals completing entry-level programs in athletic training must be awarded a degree in athletic training. With regard to the type of degree required, as long as the degree is in Athletic Training and titled as such, each institution may determine the type of degree awarded (e.g. Bachelor of Arts in Athletic Training, Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training).

However, the degree title may not be dually-tagged with any other major unless this dual-tagged degree option is consistent with institutional policy/procedure and with all other major degrees offered at the institution. Again, if there is precedence for single-titled degrees at the institution, then Athletic Training must also be a single-titled degree.

With regard to the requirements for entry-level masters degrees in AT, the CAATE will be conducting a brief study of current entry-level masters programs to determine if there is already a trend that can be used as a model for these type of degree programs in the future. It was impossible to identify such a trend in traditional undergraduate degree programs in AT as there is such diversity of academic units in which AT programs are housed.

Major in Athletic Training

While this is no longer a new topic in Athletic Training Education, there still exists much confusion regarding how an “academic major” is/will be determined by the CAATE. In accordance with the CAATE Standards I1.1, I1.2, and I1.3, there are three (3) basic characteristics of programs that have majors in Athletic Training:

1. The major must be consistent with other majors offered at the institution and not just within the Department/Academic Unit;

2. Identified as a major in academic publications; and

3. Indicated as a major on the official transcript.

While your institution may believe that you already meet these criteria, we suggest that you follow these simple steps to verify the information in the same manner that the CAATE will verify the major requirement.

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1. Go to your University Catalog and your University’s webpage. Using the search engine, search for the term “majors” or “academic majors”. The list that appears will have main headings, and in many instances, main headings with sub-listings. Athletic Training with no qualifiers or other attachments/ majors, must be listed in the main heading/listing of majors. It may not be listed as a sub-major or specialization under any other major. For example, if Physical Education is the main heading, and Athletic Training is listed under that main heading/ major, it is not a major by CAATE Standards. Athletic Training with no qualifiers, was the allied health profession recognized by the American Medical Association in the early 1990s, like Physician Assistant or Speech Pathology, and just like this recognition, there is no need for qualification of the academic major that prepares Athletic Trainers.

2. Next, examine the transcript presented to your students upon completion of your academic program. If under the name of the degree awarded, there is any other information/names listed other than Athletic Training, it is not a major.

3. Finally, examine all academic majors offered by the University. Presence of other dual-tagged academic majors in your Department does not determine the major. If there is just one academic major at the University that is a “stand alone” (no qualifiers in the title of the major), then there is a precedent established at that institution that allows for Athletic Training also to be a “stand alone” major with no qualifiers in the title.

CAATE-approved Health Care Professional List – Further Clarification – B3.21, B3.41 and B3.62

In the 2007-2008 CAATE Update, the CAATE published a list of Allied Health Personnel with whom Athletic Trainers work that would be appropriate personnel to fulfill the requirements of CAATE Standard B3.62. This Health Professional List, which becomes effective Fall 2008, also must be used to define the qualifications of a “credentialed health care professional” under CAATE Standards B3.21 (ACI) and B3.41 (CI). The Standards for the Accreditation of the Entry-Level Athletic Training Education Programs have been adjusted to reflect this change.

CAATE-approved Allied Health Care Professionals: Chiropractor, Dentist, Registered Dietician, Emergency Medical Technician, Nurse Practitioner, Nutritionist, Paramedic, Occupational Therapist, Optometrist, Orthotist, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Physician Assistant, 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.
Athletic Training Participation Requested by the American Medical Association

The CAATE Accredited Athletic Training Education Programs recently have received a request from the AMA’s Health Care Careers Directory to participate in a survey that will be used in the 2009-2010 edition of the Directory. This career guide, developed and sponsored by the AMA, is a tool used by many high school students, guidance counselors, and individuals interested in careers in health care, and provides CAATE-accredited programs with a free means of advertising their programs. Program data are displayed in a chart format, allowing you to quickly and easily compare various programs and find the one you’re seeking. Chart data include class capacity, start dates, program length(s), tuition, academic award(s) granted, and availability of evening/weekend courses.

“The Directory is now more than ever the number-one resource for information on the diverse career opportunities in the health care field,” said Paul H. Rockey, MD, MPH, director of the AMA Division of Graduate Medical Education. In addition to a complete listing of all accredited programs, with program name, address, and contact information, the Directory includes a handy description of each profession’s job duties, required education, and average salary. A 2006 review by Doody’s Review Service awarded the Directory a perfect 5-star ranking (received by only 8% of books reviewed) and called the Directory an “outstanding resource,” a “must have” for all libraries, and a “highly recommended resource for healthcare professionals.” Similarly, the Brandon/Hill Selected List of Print Books and Journals in Allied Health, published in the Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, mentions the Directory as an essential reference and resource.

By simply completing the survey, your CAATE-accredited program will be included, with no expense to the program, as one of the over 8,000 different health professional educational programs listed in the next Directory. Athletic Training was highlighted in the most recent Directory as #6 in the “top 10 [health care] profession (by size)”. If you have any questions on the survey, please send an e-mail to hpsurvey@ama-assn.org or call Dorothy Grant-Bryant at (312) 464-4936 or Enza Perrone at (312) 464-5333.

Use of CAATE Logo on Rejoinders and Reports

Reminder to all Programs, that even though an ATEP may be submitting a report to the CAATE, the use of the CAATE logo, other than the logo developed specifically for program use, is restricted regardless of the purpose of the use. Please refer to the CAATE Policy, available on-line in the CAATE Policy & Procedure Manual, for CAATE Logo use (http://caate.net/documents/logo_policy.html).
CAATE Office – Hours of Operation and Holidays

The normal hours of operation for the CAATE Office remain 8:00 AM CST through 5:00 PM CST, Monday through Friday. The CAATE Office will be closed in recognition of the following holidays and meetings during the 2008 – 2009 academic year.

Friday, August 8, 2008 – CAATE meeting

Monday, September 1, 2008 – Labor Day

Thursday and Friday, November 27 – 28, 2008 – Thanksgiving

Monday, December 22, 2008 – Friday, January 2, 2009 – Christmas and New Year

Monday, January 19, 2009 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 9, 2009 – President’s Day

Friday, March 6, 2009 - CAATE Meeting

Friday, April 10 – Monday, April 13, 2009 – Easter

Monday, May 4, 2009 – Memorial Day

Friday, July 3, 2009 – Independence Day

Friday, August 7, 2009 - CAATE Meeting