



Commission on Accreditation  
of Athletic Training Education

## News Bulletin

Fall 2009 Update

### CAATE Customer Satisfaction Survey

***We Need Your Input*** -- The CAATE Commission will convene in November 2009 for a strategic planning meeting. As the Commission and staff work to develop key strategic operational initiatives, we want to ensure that there is an opportunity to solicit and include the **valued** input from our stakeholders.

We invite you to take a few moments to click on the link below and complete the customer satisfaction survey for ATEP accreditation services. Your feedback is necessary to improve accreditation processes and the customer service associated with those processes. Finally, the deadline for submission is November 3, 2009. All submissions are anonymous. Thank you!

Survey link:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5d5zQOICtVFfNOF19G\\_2biuw\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=5d5zQOICtVFfNOF19G_2biuw_3d_3d)

### Message from the CAATE President

Greetings from the CAATE!

As we move forward with various CAATE initiatives like the new accreditation cycle, Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition, refining accreditation processes via automation, and revision of the Standards for Accreditation, I want to take this opportunity to update you on our progress.

The new accreditation cycle, in which the CAATE meets once per year to make accreditation decisions, will become effective academic year 2010 - 2011. Many programs have expressed concern with the short turn-around time between the receipt of the Site Visit Report and the due date for the Rejoinder. By changing the accreditation cycle, programs will now have more time to make changes or gather data to show compliance. The new cycle will also provide more time for submission of Progress Reports. We are currently working with the Board of Certification (BOC) to ensure that the new accreditation award date does not create an undue hardship on graduates relative to their ability to sit for the BOC exam.

The work toward CHEA recognition is ongoing. The two – part process requires an application for eligibility, self-study and site visit. Given the work of past leadership in the JRC-AT, the CAATE, and the NATA, it is my belief that we are extremely well positioned for the eligibility decision. The time line for submitting the initial application for eligibility will be Spring of 2010.

Patsy House, CAATE Executive Director, is working with consultants to refine accreditation processes to ensure accessibility to information, consistency on application of Standards and quality assurance. We are implementing automated services in phases. The Annual Report process will be the first area of accreditation for automation.

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We anticipate that automation will decrease some of the clerical errors on the Annual Reports and result in less work for program directors and a more timely response on the Annual Reports.

The process of revising the Standards for Accreditation is beginning. While our intent is not to make widespread, substantive revisions, accreditation standards must be continuously examined and revised. Working groups focusing on specific sections of the Standards will be formed in Spring 2010. Various CAATE Commissioners and /or staff will chair each specific working group. Our aim is to ensure we obtain input from all stakeholders. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact the CAATE Office.

As the revision process for the Standards for Accreditation begins, I would also like to take this opportunity to update you on another Standards related project that is ongoing. The NATA Degree Task Force determined the Standard for Accreditation should be a degree in Athletic Training. Although the deadline for implementation of the "degree standard" is academic year 2014 - 2015, the CAATE has struggled with interpreting the application of this Standard. The challenge is due to differences in how degrees at different institutions are classified.

In an effort to clarify the application of the "degree standard" the CAATE has assembled an ad hoc group to address the issue. The individuals on this group include:

Dr. Dave Perrin, University of North Carolina Greensboro, Greensboro, NC  
Dr. Greg Frazier, Duquesne University, Pittsburg, PA  
Ms. Sara Brown, Boston University, Boston, MA  
Dr. Frank Walters, Broward Health, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Ms. Karen Moynahan, National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Reston, VA

These individuals were selected on the basis of their academic background, experience with accreditation standards, and higher education administration perspective. The group is led by CAATE Commissioner Maria Anderson. Ms. Anderson is the public member of the CAATE and is employed by Academic Analytics, Inc.

Finally, there is no intent to waiver from the requirement put forth by the NATA Degree Task Force. Rather, the group was asked to provide input on how to best determine what does and does not constitute a degree in Athletic Training. When the group has completed its work, the CAATE will carefully consider their input and reach a decision based on the best information we have available. The outcome of this process will be relayed to you as quickly as it becomes available.

## Accreditation Standards Survey

Refining accreditation standards is an on-going effort for any accrediting agency. Validation and verification of clarity of the standards is a key element of the process. Within the next couple of months, the CAATE plans to extend to ATEP leadership (e.g. program directors, department chairs, and deans) involved in a university's/college's athletic training program an opportunity to provide feedback on the CAATE Standards. We are excited at the possible amelioration that may come from this process. Please look for e-communication from the CAATE and encourage your administrators to participate. Linda Bobo, PhD, ATC and Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC will spearhead this initiative.

## Annual Reports

As we reflect on this year's Annual Report Process, the CAATE Annual Report Committee would like to address several issues and questions. The process is currently under review to ensure the intended purpose of providing an accurate update on program status is achieved and response time from the CAATE is optimal. Several important points have been identified by the Annual Report Committee and the CAATE Office as the process unfolded this year. The Annual Report Committee and the CAATE ask that you consider the following: There are a large number of programs that were not compliant with the Standards outlined within the Annual Reports.

**REMINDER:** All correspondence and mailings should be sent to the new CAATE® office.  
**CAATE®, 2201 Double Creek Drive, Suite 5006, Round Rock, TX 78664**  
**(512) 733-9700 FAX: (512) 733-9701 [www.caate.net](http://www.caate.net) [caate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:caate@sbcglobal.net)**

Many of the non-compliance issues are a result of inconsistent or missing information on Tables A4, B3.2a and B3.6a. Some of the errors may be clerical in nature; however, it is difficult for the Annual Report Committee to determine if it is a clerical error or a true non-compliance. For that reason, Program Directors are urged to use care to fully complete the Annual Report. Clerical errors that result in non-compliances will continue to be cited. If you are cited for a non-compliance that is a result of the report or tables being improperly completed, please submit the revised tables with a narrative detailing how the revisions change the program's compliance status.

**Recommended Suggestions** on how to decrease the number of errors on the Annual Report:

- ∞ All affiliated sites (including general medical sites and the institution) must be listed on Table A4. At least one site should be identified as a general medical site.
- ∞ All ACIs and CIs must be listed on Table B3.2a. This includes those medical professionals or MDs who are supervising the general medical experience. Be sure to identify a CIE on this table. The employers for ACIs and CIs should match the affiliated sites on Table A4. The reviewer cross checks the employers with the clinical sites, so be sure to list the name of the employer the same on both tables.
- ∞ Table B3.6a must include two MDs of differing specialties and two allied health professionals involved in the didactic (classroom) aspect of the program. This relates specifically back to Standard B3.6 which requires a minimum of two MD/DOs of differing specialties and two other health professionals to be involved in the DIDACTIC aspect of the program. These individuals may also serve in the clinical aspect. In that case, they would also be listed on Table B3.2a as a clinical instructor.
- ∞ **Note:** There will be some changes next year to Table B3.6a to clarify the roles of the individuals in the didactic aspect of the program.

The CAATE invites Program Directors and other AT Educators to attend one of the CAATE Best Practices Workshops. Two workshops for 2010 have already been scheduled. One in conjunction with the SEATA Educator's Conference and another at NATA National Symposium. The CAATE will schedule more workshops if interest is high. The purpose of the workshops is to educate Athletic Training Educators on common issues in accreditation, to provide instruction in properly completing the Annual Report and Self Study and to share best practices in AT education.

### **Annual Report Process FAQs:**

**Q:** If the employer of the ACI/ CI differs from the site, are we required to list both sites?

**A:** In the case where the employer of the ACI/CI differs from the site, then both sites need to be listed for the ACI/CI. Example: Michael Jordon is an ACI/CI for Jumping Jack Community School District but he is employed by Nike Rehab. He should be listed on Table B3.2a as: Michael Jordon Jumping Jack Community School District/Nike Rehab. Affiliation agreements are required from both the employer (Nike rehab) and the clinical site (Jumping Jack Community School).

**Q:** If a general medical site is listed on Table A4, is the program required to identify an ACI/ CI who is supervising that site?

**A:** If a general medical site is listed on Table A4 then there needs to be an ACI/CI who is supervising that site. Even if the student may observe mainly at a general medical (i.e., physician office), he/she is still being supervised so a CI must be listed for that facility.

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## ATrack

### JOIN ATRACK AT A DISCOUNT

The ATrack database is the answer to scattered paperwork, missing test records and preparation for accreditation audits. In one secure and easy-to-use place, you can add, edit and review clinical proficiency records for any student, from any browser. Students can use it, too -- to track their hours, access their proficiency results, read notes on their performance and chart their own progress through the program.

The ATrack system continues to evolve. One of the newest enhancements is the Form Management component that was developed and tested with the Indiana University Athletic Training Program. Form Management allows users to customize evaluations, surveys and exams and provides the use of an advanced Likert scale and varied field types including drop-downs, text boxes, and radio buttons. Existing forms and templates can be shared among campuses and access rights can be given to specific users or user groups to submit/view/edit entries. Reporting is easily managed and can be done through Excel if desired.

During the fall a discount is being offered to new users of the ATrack system. For those who sign up during October, the discount is \$75 off the regular price, \$50 off for sign up during November and \$25 during December.

To learn more about ATrack go to [atrackonline.com](http://atrackonline.com) to view a demo or to sign up for your subscription. For more information, call 972-532-8852 or email [anitaj@nata.org](mailto:anitaj@nata.org).

#### Disclaimer

The Commission for Accreditation on Athletic Training Education ("CAATE") is an independent and legally separate entity from the National Athletic Trainer's Association ("NATA"), and has no legal affiliation or association with NATA. Additionally, the CAATE does not control or endorse the information contained on the NATA educator resources page. The exam study modules, competencies/proficiencies tracking software and other offerings for educators are developed exclusively by NATA, the 501c6 membership organization of athletic trainers. CAATE has permission to share these useful resources with program directors and others who teach athletic training students.

## Use of CAATE Logo on Rejoinders and Progress 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://www.caate.net/>

## CAATE Holiday Tree

The CAATE was thrilled at the response we received last year regarding the Holiday Tree in the CAATE Office. We would like to invite those programs who were unable to send an ornament last year to send one in this year.

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