



AN EXAMINATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEGREE AVAILABLE FROM THE NATA

The NATA assembled a panel of experts including representatives from the CAATE to examine the appropriate professional degree for professional (entry-level) athletic training education. The result was a "white paper" titled *Professional Education in Athletic Training: An Examination of the Professional Degree Level*. Although this is an [NATA document](#), the Commission is distributing the link to this document for program administrators of CAATE-accredited programs who wish to download the paper.

The CAATE will consider the findings presented in the white paper as we conduct our own deliberations regarding the level of the professional degree. Currently, the Commission accredits professional 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.

Currently scheduled CAATE updates, open forums and workshops through March are listed below. Conference schedules may be found on the respective websites for each district conference. As we finalize details for CAATE presentations at other meetings we will post those on our website.

Assuring and Enhancing Quality Education in Athletic Training: CAATE Accreditation Update, Open Forums and Workshops		
January 12th	9 AM – 10 AM EST	Open Forum at EATA Mashantucket, CT
February 7th	12 PM – 1:15 PM EST	Keynote Address at SEATA Educator's Conference , Atlanta, GA
February 8th	8 AM – 1 PM EST	CAATE Workshop at SEATA Educator's Conference Atlanta, GA
March 12th	5 PM – 8 PM CDT	CAATE Workshop at GLATA Wheeling, IL
March 14th	4 PM – 5 PM CDT	Open Forum at GLATA Wheeling, IL
March 27th	7:30 PM – 9 PM CDT	Open Forum at MAATA Des Moines, IA
March 28th	1 PM – 4 PM CDT	CAATE Workshop at MAATA Des Moines, IA

Assuring and Enhancing Quality Education in Athletic Training: CAATE Accreditation Update and Open Forum

Representatives from the Commission will be at each NATA District meeting to accept comment on the degree level for professional programs in athletic training as well as to provide program administrators and faculty with current and future accreditation direction.

