

CAATE ANNOUNCEMENT

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CAATE Statement on Coronavirus and Programmatic Outcomes: March 13, 2020

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) continues to monitor the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on all levels of our accredited programs (professional, post-professional, and residencies). Previously, the Commission released a limited statement regarding travel, as well as further guidance specific to potential impacts on the delivery of athletic training programs. In an effort to consolidate past and future updates, all Coronavirus updates are now being posted on a dedicated Coronavirus Updates and FAQs landing page on the CAATE website (www.caate.net). A new frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has also been created that will be updated as we continue to receive inquiries. Future updates will continue to be distributed to institutional administrators via email.

In response to concerns regarding potential negative impacts on programmatic outcomes as a result of institutionally required responses to the Coronavirus, the Commission provides the following guidance. Should individual programs be required by their institutions/organizations to make changes that they believe negatively impact student/resident learning in the short term, they should seek to implement supplemental learning opportunities, at the appropriate time prior to program completion, to ensure learners are able to obtain satisfactory programmatic outcomes. Some institutions are making decisions that will likely lead to delayed completion of programmatic requirements for their learners and will need to develop contingency plans in such instances. Each program is responsible to ensure that all required content is taught in a manner consistent with adequate student learning to achieve the required programmatic outcomes, including those specific to the Board of Certification (BOC), pass rate for professional programs.

At this time, it is too early in the process to make specific determinations about how our outcomes standards will be evaluated based upon institutional changes undertaken in response to the Coronavirus, such as moving courses to distance learning. However, programs are expected to continue to maintain compliance with all accreditation standards in a manner that is consistent with preparing them to practice as competent healthcare providers. The Commission will be carefully monitoring and

evaluating any potential negative impacts on programmatic outcomes due to COVID-19 imposed alterations in educational delivery strategies. This will include continual analysis of future BOC examination results. Future decisions regarding interpretation of, or alterations to, any accreditation standards will only be made at the appropriate time based upon careful consideration of the best available data and thoughtful deliberation regarding what is in the best interest of our athletic training students/residents and the patients they serve.

The Commission remains committed to the health, safety, and well-being of our stakeholders and appreciates your ongoing commitment to student/resident learning and quality assurance. Additional information will be disseminated by the Commission as deemed appropriate. Should you have specific questions or additional concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the CAATE Office (512-733-9700).