

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM ACCREDITATION REPORT  
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Receive the accreditation report for the Athletic Training Education Program in the Department of Kinesiology in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University.

**Executive Summary:** The Athletic Training Education Program (1) underwent a self-study that addressed the standards and criteria defined by the accrediting body; and (2) had an on-site visit by peer evaluators. The program was accredited for a period of five years. However, there were a number of standards that were in non-compliance. The program was required to submit a progress report by June 1, 2012.

During the self-study and on-site visit process, the Athletic Training Education Program was not yet a stand-alone degree program. It was still part of the Bachelor of Science Program in Kinesiology and Health. Accreditation was awarded contingent upon the approval of the stand-alone degree program. This report addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to provide “educational excellence and impact” as well as Goal #8 – “Iowa’s public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive.”

**Background:**

- ◇ **Description of Program.** Athletic trainers are health care professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize physical activity and performance. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis, and intervention of emergency, acute, and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations, and disabilities. It involves the organization and administration of athletic training education programs, as well as the education and counseling of athletes. Program graduates seek employment in numerous settings, including secondary schools, colleges and universities, professional sports, sports medicine clinics, the military, and industrial and commercial settings.
- ◇ **Development of Program.** ISU has offered athletic training education since the 1980s. It existed as an option in the Bachelor of Science Program in Kinesiology and Health in the Department of Kinesiology. Initial accreditation for the Bachelor of Science Program in Kinesiology and Health was received in 2001. However, when the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education mandated that athletic training education programs had to be stand-alone degree programs to maintain accreditation, ISU began the process of obtaining Board of Regents approval for such a program. In February 2012, the Board of Regents approved the Bachelor of Science Program in Athletic Training/Athletic Trainer.
- ◇ **Purpose of Accreditation.** An accredited educational program is recognized by its peers as having met state and national standards for its development and evaluation. To employers, graduate schools, and licensure, certification, and registration boards, graduation from an accredited program signifies adequate preparation for entry into the profession. In fact, many of these groups require graduation from an accredited program as a minimum qualification. Accreditation is also intended to protect the interests of students, benefit the public, and improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and professional practice.

- ◇ Accrediting Agency. The accrediting body is the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).
- ◇ Review Process. The self-study prepared by the Athletic Training Education Program contained the responses to the standards required by the accrediting body – sponsorship; personnel; resources; physical resources; operational policies and fair practices; health and safety; student records; outcomes; curriculum and instruction; and clinical education.
- ◇ On-Site Team Report. In February 2011, the visiting team determined that the Athletic Training Education Program was in substantial compliance with the accrediting agency standards although a number of citations were identified to achieve full compliance with the standards.
- ◇ Standards in Non-Compliance Identified by the Visiting Team.
  - ⇒ *Curriculum and Instruction.* “The athletic training education program must be an undergraduate or graduate program that offers a major or graduate equivalent in athletic training. The proposed Bachelor of Science Program in Athletic Training has not been approved by the Iowa Board of Regents. To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must provide copies of institutional academic publications that list the Athletic Training program as a major.”
  - ⇒ *Curriculum and Instruction.* “The athletic training education program must be identified as an academic athletic training major program in institutional academic publications. The proposed Bachelor of Science Program in Athletic Training has not been approved by the Iowa Board of Regents. To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must provide copies of institutional academic publications that list the Athletic Training program as a major.”
  - ⇒ *Curriculum and Instruction.* “The athletic training education program must be indicated on the official transcript of the student as is normally designated for other undergraduate majors or graduate major equivalents at the institutions. The proposed Bachelor of Science Program in Athletic Training has not been approved by the Board of Regents. To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must submit official university transcript that clearly denotes a major in Athletic Training.”
  - ⇒ *Clinical Education.* “The athletic training curriculum must include provision for clinical experiences under the direct supervision of a qualified approved clinical instructor (ACI) or clinical instructor (CI) in an appropriate clinical setting. The ACI or CI must be physically present and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student to provide on-going and consistent education. The documentation submitted did not indicate awareness and understanding of the Clinical Supervision Policy. It could not be determined if the documentation related to any program policy or a policy that related to the ACIs/CIs understanding that unsupervised clinical activity is not compliant with the standards. Additionally, unsupervised clinical activity by athletic training students may be in violation of the State Practice Act for athletic trainers.

To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must immediately discontinue permitting unsupervised clinical activities; submit a current table that lists all ACIs and CIs associated with the program; submit a document signed and dated by all ACIs and CIs indicating they are aware and understand the Clinical Supervision Policy and attesting that they understand that unsupervised clinical activity is not compliant with the standards and may be in violation of the State Practice Act for athletic trainers. The signature page must make reference to the Clinical Supervision Policy.”

- ⇒ *Clinical Education.* “The length of clinical experiences should be consistent with other comparable academic programs requiring a clinical or supervised practice component. Such policies must be consistent with federal or state student work-study guidelines as applicable to the campus setting. The program submitted the requested information; however, the ACI/CI signature page did not indicate awareness, understanding and compliance with the Clinical Education Policy related to athletic training student clinical hours. This was evidenced by several students’ hour log sheets showing an excess of 30 hours a week. To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must submit a current table that lists all ACI and CIs associated with the program; submit a document signed and dated by all ACIs and CIs indicating that they are aware, understand and agree to comply with the Clinical Education Policy as it relates to athletic training student clinical hours. The signature page must make reference to compliance with the Clinical Education Policy as it relates to athletic training student clinical hours.”
- ⇒ *Clinical Education.* “Consideration must be given to allow students comparable relief (days off) from clinical experiences during the academic year as compared to other student academic and student activities offered by the institution. The program submitted the requested information; however, the ACI/CI signature page did not indicate awareness and understanding of the Clinical Education Policy related to athletic training student clinical relief days. To demonstrate compliance with this standard, the program must submit a current table that lists all ACIs and CIs associated with the program; submit a document signed and dated by all ACIs and CIs indicating they are aware, understand and are willing to comply with the Clinical Education Policy as it relates to athletic training student clinical relief days. The signature page must make reference to compliance with the Clinical Education Policy as it relates to athletic training student clinical relief days.”
- ◇ Institution’s Implemented or Planned Changes. Earn approval for a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training and improve the implementation of the Clinical Education Policy related to athletic training student clinical hours.
- ◇ Accreditation Status. In August 2011, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education awarded accreditation to the Athletic Training Education Program in the College of Human Sciences at Iowa State University for a period of five years. The Commission indicated that the non-compliance citations had to be resolved by the institution to maintain accreditation. Failure to respond satisfactorily to the citations by June 1, 2012 could result in a change of the accreditation status, including probation or withdrawal of accreditation.