



Commission on Accreditation
of Athletic Training Education

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Overview of the Commission

The Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Athletic Training (JRC-AT) was incorporated in Texas in October 1991. The JRC-AT was a Committee on Accreditation under the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educational Programs (CAAHEP); effective June 30, 2006, the JRC-AT became independent from CAAHEP and changed its name to the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The CAATE is the agency responsible for the accreditation of 360 professional (entry-level) Athletic Training educational programs. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM), and the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc. (NATA), cooperate to sponsor the CAATE and to collaboratively develop the *Standards for Entry-Level Athletic Training Educational Programs*.

These *Standards* of education, which include objective criteria and academic requirements for accredited programs in Athletic Training, require not only specific and defined processes, but also programmatic outcomes for the evaluation. The *Standards* are reviewed on a periodic basis to assure currency and relevance; input of not only the sponsoring agencies, but also the colleges and universities, as well as Athletic Trainers who utilize the services of the CAATE or who employ the graduates of CAATE accredited programs.

Imbedded in the *Standards* are the NATA Educational Competencies and Clinical Proficiencies (*NATA Competencies*). The *NATA Competencies* are the intellectual property of the NATA and are designed to delineate a standardized educational content required by an entry-level Athletic Trainer. The review process for the *NATA Competencies* is similar to that of the *Standards*.

Successful completion of a CAATE-accredited educational program is a criteria used to determine a candidate's eligibility for the Board of

Certification (BOC) examination. To assure continued acceptance of CAATE-accredited program graduates, the BOC also reviews and accepts the CAATE Standards as sufficient to prepare entry-level Athletic Trainers to meet the required *Standards of Practice* and to contain all pertinent learning and skills needed to protect the public. The Board of Certification is a NOCA-recognized certifying agency for Athletic Training. NOCA (National Organization for Competency Assurance) promotes excellence in competency assurance for practitioners in all occupations and professions.

As a member of CAAHEP, the JRC-AT was recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and was a member of the trade association for specialized accreditors, Association of Specialized Professional Accreditors (ASPA), as well as was recognized by the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). In 2007, CAATE will apply to become an independent member of ASPA and already has been invited to participate in several ASAHP forums. The CAATE also will continue to attend all CHEA-sponsored events and will begin the necessary steps to gain CHEA-recognition, often a two to three year process.

The CAATE has defined policies and procedures which can be found attached to this document, as well on the Commission's website (www.caate.net).

Mission

The mission of the CAATE is to provide comprehensive accreditation services to institutions that offer Athletic Training degree programs and verify that all CAATE-accredited programs meet the acceptable educational standards for professional (entry-level) athletic training education.

Goals of the Commission

- I. Comprehensive accreditation review processes will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations with respect for institutional autonomy.
- II. Annual accreditation processes will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations.
- III. Accreditation decisions will be defined, consistent, and free of personal biases, conflicts of interest, and non-sanctioned interpretations.
- IV. There will be consistency between the documents and requirements for accredited education and entry-level practice as an Athletic Trainer.
 - i. *NATA Educational Competencies and Proficiencies*
 - ii. *BOC Role Delineation Study and Standards of Practice*
 - iii. *CAATE Standards for Accreditation of Entry-Level Athletic Training Education Programs*
- V. The educational opportunities related to program development and quality will be assured with respect for institutional autonomy.
- VI. Quality assurance processes and reviews will be objective, regular and consistent, and will be designed to assure content, construct, and criterion-related validity in their measures.
- VII. Collegial relationships and regular communication with the institutions and other stakeholders will be maintained.
- VIII. Relationships with organizations that sponsor the CAATE will be developed, promoted, and maintained.
- IX. Financial resources consistent with the needs and goals of the CAATE will be provided and monitored.

Current Leadership of the Commission

The Commission shall consist of BOC-certified athletic training representatives and a university administrator representative from the institutions offering athletic training educational programs. The Commission also shall include a designated representative from each of the sponsoring organizations, as well as one (1) public member. The current leadership, which consists of outstanding and well-respected individuals including athletic training professionals, administrators, and physicians, is defined below. All of the Athletic Trainers currently serving on the Commission have been appointed by the National Athletic Trainers Association, and the physician representatives have been appointed by their respective professional association.

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| President | Greg Gardner, EdD, ATC Associate Director – School of Nursing Clinical Associate Professor University of Tulsa Tulsa, Oklahoma |
| Vice-President | Katie M. Walsh, EdD, ATC-L Director of Sports Medicine & Athletic Training Program Associate Professor East Carolina University Greenville, North Carolina |
| Treasurer | David Kaiser, EdD, ATC Director of Pre-Medical Education Associate Professor Brigham Young University Provo, Utah |
| Member | William Biddington, EdD, ATC Chair – Department of Health Sciences & Sport Studies California University of Pennsylvania California, Pennsylvania |
| Member | Micki Cuppett, EdD, ATC Program Director – Athletic Training Education University of South Florida Tampa, Florida |
| Administrator Member | Kaye A. Herth, PhD, RN, FAAN Dean – College of Allied Health and Nursing CCNE Accreditation Site Evaluator NLNAC Accreditation Site Evaluator Mankato, Minnesota |

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| Public Member | Maria Doelger Anderson, MS Director of Business and Research Operations Academic Analytics, LLC Port Jefferson, NY |
| AAP Representative (American Academy of Pediatrics) | Douglas B. Gregory, MD, FAAP AAP Sports Medicine Committee CAATE Site Visitor Lakeview Medical Center Suffolk, Virginia |
| AAFP Representative (American Academy of Family Physicians) | Mia R. Griggs, MD Director of Sports Medicine Austin Medical Education Programs 1313 Red River Street, Suite 100 Austin, Texas |
| AAOSSM Representative (American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine) | Bradley J. Nelson, MD Associate Professor, Sports Medicine & Shoulder Division University of Minnesota R-200, 2450 Riverside Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota |
| NATA Representative | Sean Willeford, MS, ATC Athletic Training Program Director Assistant Professor Texas Christian University Ft. Worth, Texas |
| CAATE Executive Director | Patsy Harris, MPA |
| Full-time Office Staff | Lynn Caruthers, BS Sheila Caruthers |

There are no full-time members of the Commission; all commissioners are volunteers, and the full-time office staff currently is managed through an educational management company owned by Mrs. Lynn Caruthers (CPES – Caruthers Professional Education Services). In addition to the members of the Commission and office staff, there are committees, working groups, and site visitors who make recommendations to the Commission; however, the CAATE has final authority and responsibility for all activities and actions of the

Commission. There is a publicly-accessible policy and procedure manual that describes fully the function of those committees, groups, and site visitors. Currently the breakdown of individuals serving on the CAATE Commission, standing Committees, and Site Visitors are as follows.

Standing Committees

Review Committee –

Bruce Barnhart, EdD, ATC
Carl Cramer, EdD, RKT, ATC, LAT
Douglas Gregory, MD, FAAP (Team Leader)
Pamela Hansen, EdD, ATC (Team Leader)
Leamor Kahanov, EdD, ATC
Linda Bobo, PhD, ATC
Mark Laursen, MS, ATC
Paula Maxwell, PhD, ATC (Team Leader)
Sean Willeford, MS, ATC

Site Visit Committee –

Katie Walsh, EdD, ATC (Chair)
Tona Palmer-Hetzler, EdD, ATC, LAT
Scott Unruh, EdD, ATC

Annual Report Committee –

Patricia Graman, MS, ATC (Chair)
Miguel Benavides, MS, ATC
Bonnie Goodwin, MESS, ATC
David Middlemas, EdD, ATC
Amanda Sinclair, EdD, ATC
Stephanie Mazerolle, PhD, ATC
Paul Bruning, MA, ATC

Ethics Committee –

Michael Hudson, PhD, ATC (Chair)
Matthew Kutz, MS, MEd, ATC, CSCS
Michael Miller, EdD, ATC, CSCS
Kimberly S. Peer, EdD, ATC, LAT
Gretchen Schlabach, PhD, ATC

Ad-Hoc Committees

Technology Committee

Steve Cernohous, EdD, ATC, LAT

R.T. Floyd, EdD, ATC

Eric Fuchs, DA, ATC

Christopher Huot, MS, ATC

Eric L. Lippincott, PT, ATC

Site Visitors = 198

Number of site visits conducted annually = 60-70

Number of site visitors per visit = 2

Number of site visitors involved annually in site visits = 75-80

Number of currently accredited Athletic Training Education Programs = 365

Baccalaureate Level = 346

Entry-level Master = 19

Financial Information

The CAATE currently owns no property and leases 834 square feet of office space in Round Rock, Texas. The CAATE is a financially-viable 501 (3) (c) company with sufficient resources to effectively meet all of its current and anticipated responsibilities.

9-07, 9-08