

## NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINERS' ASSOCIATION

Professional Education Committee (*Formerly Entry Level Education Committee*)

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### **The NATA Board of Directors has made the following decisions regarding the above:**

Resolved: To accept the Education Task Force recommendations in concept as a package. (9-0-1, District VII abstained) The board emphasized Recommendation 2 (establishment of entry-level graduate AT programs) is a priority. (12/6/96)

Noted: Chair Starkey addressed the issues that have arisen since the EC put forth its entry-level clinical proficiencies, approved clinical instructor (ACI) education models and the clinical education guidelines. (6/16/98)

Noted: Clinical education is learning and practice – field experience is application. The entry-level clinical proficiencies will be integrated into the *Competencies in Athletic Training*. All levels of programs will be addressed. (6/16/98)

Noted: Larry Leverenz, president-elect of CAAHEP, will not be able to continue as chair of the Entry-level Education Committee. He will remain ex-officio on the EC Executive Committee and Dr. Starkey will seek a new chair for the EEC. Competencies Committee and Clinical Education Committee responsibilities will pass to the Entry-level Education Committee when their missions are completed. (2/7/99)

#### Clinical Education Committee Disposition

Noted: Tom Koto explained that the Clinical Education ad hoc Committee has finished its work and produced the CIE seminars. He suggested Tom Weidner and a couple of other CEC representatives designated by Dr. Weidner become members of the EC Entry-Level Committee to handle ongoing implementation of the CIE seminars. He recommended the ad hoc committee be disbanded. (5/4/02)

Voted: To disband the Clinical Education ad hoc Committee. Passed 10-0-0. (5/4/02)

#### Proposal for Specialty Certifications in Athletic Training

Noted: Denise Wiksten clarified what was initially termed Certificates of Added Qualifications is now an umbrella term that includes Specialty Certifications, as well as the CIE, and ACI designations. Dr Wiksten's committee represented relevant NATA committees, plus different occupational settings. She reiterated the need for specialty certifications and said accreditation, licensure, and certification will help to set the standards for assessing the professional role of certified athletic trainers as competition for health care dollars becomes increasingly intense. Much of the research for the proposal is based on reports by the Pew Health Professions Commission. Dr Wiksten stressed NATA needs to respond to changing times, new skills and be responsible in the use of resources.

The purpose of specialty certification in athletic training is:

- To add breadth to entry-level knowledge.
- To enhance marketability.
- To create jobs via an inter-disciplinary approach.
- To increase salaries.

Voted: To approve the Specialty Certification proposal presented to the board. Passed 10-0-0. (5/5/02)

#### Recommendations of the CAQ Ad Hoc Committee

Noted: The CAQ Ad Hoc Committee's proposal on specialty certifications was presented to the NATA board in May 2002. The proposal was subsequently sent out to all committee chairs and graduate program directors and a member survey was conducted. Chair of the CAQ Ad Hoc Committee Denise Wiksten, summarized data and feedback which indicated around 88% support for specialty certifications. (6/24/03)

Voted: To move ahead with the recommendations of the CAQ Ad Hoc Committee:  
1. To develop a specialty certification for the occupational health domain.

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2. To develop alliances with other agencies to recognize the ATC credential meets a significant proportion of the educational/background eligibility requirement for the examinations of those agencies, e.g. Orthopaedic Technician's certification.
3. To create "professional enrichment programs" that increase the depth of entry-level education that lead to "certificates of completion", e.g. Rehabilitation, emergency care, manual therapy and teaching/education. Passed 10-0-0 (6/24/03)

### Request for Approval

Noted: Students in a masters program should not be ACI or CI for that program. Some entry-level masters programs are accepting students who have the ATC credential. (6/24/03)

Voted: To adopt the Education Council Executive Committee recommendation that students in entry level programs should not function as an ACI or CI for that program. Passed 10-0-0 (6/24/03)

### Student Travel Issue

Noted: Chair Tom Koto, ATC reported the recommendations of the ad hoc task force, set up to examine the issue of unsupervised student travel.

1. NATA reiterates the current definitions of an athletic training student as defined by the NATA BOC and the JRC-AT.
  - a. (BOC) Athletic Training Student: An individual who is working toward fulfilling the requirements for certification.
  - b. (BOC) Supervision: Supervision involves daily personal/verbal contact at the site of supervision between the athletic training student and the certified athletic trainer who plans, directs, advises, and evaluates the student's athletic training experience. The supervising certified athletic trainer must be physically present in order to intervene on behalf of the individual being treated. Hours that are not supervised by a certified athletic trainer will not count toward certification requirements.
  - c. (JRC-AT) Athletic Training Student: a student enrolled in a CAAHEP accredited entry-level athletic training education program who functions as a "first responder acting with appropriate supervision and direction."

According to these definitions, any non-certified student traveling unsupervised is not an athletic training student and should not be viewed as such.

2. Second, a student traveling unsupervised should be viewed as a first aid provider. The university sending the student must be aware of all liability issues involved with this practice and make decisions accordingly. Additionally, the student's supervising ATC should inform the student of his or her first aid provider status and responsibilities during travel.
3. In the future, the board may want to examine creation of a method where some sort of supervision can be established for this situation. (Such as a template agreement between schools in a conference or between individual colleges/universities.)
4. Any unqualified individual should not be performing the duties of an athletic trainer – whether that individual is a coach or a non-certified athletic training student.

(12/12/03)

### Competency Mid-Term Review and Revisions

Noted: As a result of earlier discussions between the board, the ECEC, the BOC and the JRC-AT, the Entry-Level Education Committee conducted a survey of program directors from CAAHEP accredited schools and schools in candidacy, in order to obtain feedback on the third edition of the NATA Educational Competencies. Competencies were deleted, added or modified only if that action was determined to be essential for the health and safety of the public and/or student or for the legal protection of the program and/or profession. (12/12/03)

Voted: To approve the changes to the NATA Educational Competencies recommended by the Entry-Level Education Committee. Passed 10-0-0 (12/12/03)

Noted: The revisions will be effective for the 2004-2005 academic year. Other changes will be considered when the new competencies are developed. (12/12/03)

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### Task Force to Investigate Degree Requirement:

Noted: The ECEC feels NATA must move its educational programs forward to maintain its competitive advantage in the marketplace. Since implementing major educational change can take up to ten years, the Education Council Executive Committee has requested the board of directors appoint a task force to investigate making a masters degree the entry-level requirement for athletic training with a possible implementation timetable of 2014. The task force could be as many as ten people, including representation from the JRC-AT and the NATA Board of Certification. It is expected the task force would take two years to complete its research and would require funding for 6-8 NATA members meeting three times a year (once at the annual meeting). The JRC-AT and the BOC would fund their representatives. (5/14/04)

Voted: To create a task force to investigate making a masters degree the entry level requirement for athletic training. Passed 10-0-0 (5/14/04)

### ELEC Student Member

Noted: The Entry Level Education Committee has two committee member vacancies. The ELEC wishes to appoint a student member to one of the positions. (5/14/04)

Voted: To approve the appointment of a student member to the entry-level education committee for a two-year non-renewable term. To amend the policies and procedures manual to reflect the change in committee composition. Passed 9-0-0 (5/14/04)

### Educational Degree Task Force

Noted: President Max commended Dr Chad Starkey for his efforts and achievements over the past ten years since the Education Task Force was created. His leadership of the Education Council has been instrumental in upgrading every aspect of the education of the athletic training profession. (6/14/04)

Noted: In May 2004 the board of directors approved the formation of a task force to examine the athletic training masters' degree. Dr Starkey outlined the primary issues the task force will investigate:

- A degree is required to become an athletic trainer, but that degree does not have to be in athletic training.
- Seventy percent of athletic trainers hold an advanced degree, but that degree is most often unrelated to athletic training.
- The NATA's mission is to enhance the quality of health care for *athletes and those involved in physical activity*. Many athletic training education programs' stated mission is the health care of interscholastic and intercollegiate athletes.
- Athletic training programs are primarily still aligned in physical education, sports sciences departments and are not discrete majors and/or degree programs. Many credit hours are used for unrelated courses, decreasing the professional course content of these programs.
- Our competitors are increasing their entry-level standard. This could place NATA in a legislative and marketplace disadvantage, although this is yet to be seen.

(6/14/04)

### Timeline:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • By September '04                  | Task force formed  |
| • September – December '04          | Task force members will work individually and share information via conference calls |
| • Between December '04 and June '05 | Face to face meeting   |
| • December '05                      | Task force presents recommendations to board of directors                            |

(6/14/04)

### JRC-AT Posting

Noted: The JRC-AT has recommended in the second draft of the JRC-AT accreditation standards that entry-level programs must have a degree in athletic training by the academic year 2010-11. Members

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are encouraged to submit comments to the JRC-AT during the comment period which ends November 15, 2004, and to their district directors. Board members will discuss member feedback to the proposal during the December 2004 board meeting, before submitting comments to the NATA Education Council for review and evaluation. (10/28/04)

### Preliminary Report

Noted: The task force made these preliminary recommendations.

1. Athletic training without modifiers must be listed in the degree subject area in institutional academic publications and on student official transcripts, effective for the 2014-2015 academic year.
2. Entry to the profession remain at the undergraduate level.
3. More dialogue and study is needed on how to achieve better communication and coordination between accredited undergraduate and the advanced master's education programs, and how to incorporate specialty certifications as part of accredited graduate programs.

Feedback on these recommendations will be collected from the program directors and discussed by task force members at the Indianapolis convention. Final recommendations will be considered by the Board at its December '05 meeting. (3/24/05)

### Educational Degree Task Force

Noted: Chair Frank Walters presented the preliminary recommendations of the Educational Degree Task Force. The task force was representative of various constituents of the accreditation process, and included administrators, an insurance representative and a physician.

The task force developed some operational definitions and made the following preliminary recommendations:

1. Accredited programs will offer a degree in athletic training by the academic year 2014-15.
2. The entry point for the profession will remain at the undergraduate level
3. Coordination and communication between accredited undergraduate and graduate programs should be improved and specialty certifications should be incorporated into accredited graduate programs.

A 15-question web-based survey was sent to 325 administrators of accredited programs. 171 program directors responded to the survey (52.3%). The findings will be discussed at the Education Council session Fireside Chat at the Indianapolis convention. (5/13/05)

### Approval of 2005 Standards

Noted: The Entry Level Education Committee has approved the 2005 standards for the accreditation of entry level athletic training programs. The Education Council Executive Committee supports the ELEC recommendation. (5/13/05)

Voted: To accept the ECEC'S recommendation to approve the 2005 standards for the accreditation of entry level athletic training programs. Passed 10-0-0 (5/13/05)

### Collegiate Sports Medicine Foundation

Noted: Collegiate Sports Medicine Foundation president Brian Anderson reported on foundation projects over the last year. Anderson requested board approval to establish unfunded liaison relationships between the Collegiate Sports Medicine Foundation and three NATA committees, the College/University Athletic Trainers' Committee, the Council on Employment and the College/University Athletic Training Students' Committee.

This was acceptable to the board, assuming the committee chairs are in favor. Board liaisons to the committees will ascertain that this is so. (6/11/05)

### Discussion and Approval of Competencies, 4<sup>TH</sup> Edition

Noted: Entry-level education committee chair Dan Sedory reported to the board summarizing the changes to the third edition of the competencies. (10-27-05)

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Voted: The board approves the fourth edition of the competencies and commends the ELEC for its excellent work, simplifying and refining the document. Some minor formatting, non-substantive changes, (shifting material from the preface into an introductory chapter) will be made. The next step is final review and approval by the JRC-AT. Following production and printing, copies of the Competencies will be available early in 2006. Passed 10-0-0 (10-27-05)

Noted: Education Council representatives will present and explain the changes at the upcoming district meetings. (10-27-05)

### Post Professional Education Committee

Voted: to approve the following from the post professional education committee:

- 1) new committee mission statement, objectives, and outcomes
- 2) athletic training specialty board certification purpose, philosophy, outcome, timeline
- 3) NATA accredited post-professional residency program recommendations. Passed 10-0-0 (6/13/06)

### Rename the Entry Level Education Committee

Noted: The Education Council has asked the board to approve changing the name of the Entry Level Education Committee. (6/13/06)

Voted: to change the name of the entry level education committee to the professional education committee. Passed 10-0-0 (6/13/06)

### Engaging Our Members

Noted: Larry Commons and Sandy Ward spoke to the board about programs and services being offered to NATA members:

1. Members pay a reduced cost for meeting registrations, brochures, videos, salary survey results, virtual library courses and online journal quizzes.
2. The NATA blog was launched in August 2006.
3. Members can pay their 2007 dues in three installments.
4. Beginning February 2007, renewing members will receive 9 free CEUs in NATA's virtual library.
5. An incentive program for educators, which includes gift cards, money for schools and free convention registration, was launched this fall.
6. A new curriculum for educators covering NATA, NATA's strategic plan and current issues was developed.
7. The new online student forum, CHATS, currently has more than 200 students registered.
8. A new student mentor program, NATA Rising Stars, is in the process of being implemented.
9. CAUSE, a new online forum for college/university setting, was launched and currently has more than 100 members registered.
10. An incentive program was launched for all members who refer new members.
11. An ASAE study, "Why some people join associations and some don't" is in progress. Members and non-members are responding to the survey.
12. NATA has a new affinity program: Liberty Mutual Insurance. (12/1/06)