Educational Pathways in Athletic Training

Plentiful options allow ATs to chart their own course

1. Board of Certification credential
2. Applicable state credential

**Residency:** Formal educational programs that offer structured curricula and mentorship, including didactic and clinical components, to educate athletic trainers in a specialty area.

**Fellowship:** A post-professional training program in a highly specialized area of athletic training used to further focus the clinician’s area of specialization. Fellowships require formal training beyond the successful completion of a residency program.*

**Specialty Certification:** A voluntary post-professional education and training process by which an athletic trainer demonstrates he/she has met defined standards beyond that required for professional-level certification.

**Post-Professional Master Degree:** Available to learners who are already credentialed as athletic trainers, a master’s degree expands the depth and breadth of the applied, experiential and propositional knowledge and skills of athletic trainers through didactic, clinical and research experiences.

**Academic Doctoral Degree (e.g., PhD, EdD):** The academic doctoral degree is the highest degree awarded by universities and is usually the credential necessary for appointment in academia, typically as a tenure-track faculty member or as a research scientist.

**Clinical Doctoral Degree (e.g., DAT):** A clinical doctoral degree is a post-professional degree requiring both a research and clinical component that develops knowledge and skills within a certain discipline to provide service or care within the scope of a particular profession’s clinical practice.

**Professional Bachelor Degree Program** OR **Professional Master Degree Program**

For more information, visit:
caate.net/search-for-accredited-program
www.bocatc.org
www.nata.org

Infographic handout provided by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association

*This is not associated with the NATA Fellows, which is an award program.