

1. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION MASTER DEGREE PROGRAM
2. BOARD OF CERTIFICATION CREDENTIAL
3. 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. Build upon and expand the AT's knowledge and experience acquired during professional education.

FELLOWSHIP
Formal education and training programs that offer structured mentorship, including didactic and clinical components, to educate Athletic Trainers in a sub-specialty area. Fellowships require formal sub-specialty training beyond the successful completion of a residency program. (This is not associated with the NATA Fellows which is an award program.)

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION
A credential earned through an education and training process by which an athletic trainer demonstrates they have met defined standards beyond that required for professional-level certification. May lead to its own credential and recertification requirement. The BOC Specialty Council oversees AT specialties.

**ACADEMIC DOCTORATE
(e.g. PhD, EdD)**
Highest degree awarded by universities and is usually the credential necessary for appointment in academia, typically as a tenure-track faculty member (e.g. assistant, associate or full professor) or as a research scientist.

**CLINICAL DOCTORATE
(e.g. DAT, DHSC)**
Post-professional advanced practice doctoral degree which may have either a research or clinical component. A primary purpose of attaining a post-professional advanced practice doctoral degree is to become a clinical scholar with advanced knowledge and skills needed for the leadership and delivery of patient care at the highest levels.