

Wichita State University

Athletic Training Program

Technical Standards

Program Policy:

The Athletic Training Program (ATP) at Wichita State University (WSU) supports the University's mission by providing an educational experience to undergraduate and graduate students that prepares an individual to be a knowledgeable, informed, effective, reflective, service-oriented and sensitive practitioner capable of multiple styles of thinking and learning in a diverse global world.

The ATP at WSU is a rigorous and intense academic program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. In addition to the academic requirements for admission, students must possess skills and abilities that will allow them to successfully complete the curriculum and safely practice the profession of athletic training. The technical standards set forth by the ATP establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The purpose of this document is to broadly delineate the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills deemed essential for completion of this program and performance as a competent athletic trainer. All students admitted to the ATP must meet the requirements for the following abilities and skills, with or without reasonable accommodations consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student who is unable to meet these technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation may be denied admission to or be dismissed from the ATP.

Technical Standards:

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the Board of Certification (BOC). Candidates for selection to the ATP must demonstrate cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills.

A. Cognitive skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory, and clinical situations:

1. The athletic training student must possess the ability independently to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, retain, synthesize and assimilate concepts and problem-solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgements and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
2. Examples are:
 - a. Students must be able to read, write, and understand at a level consistent with successful course completion and development of positive patient/athlete-athletic training student relationship.
 - b. Students must exercise sound judgements.
 - c. Students must be able to plan and supervise intervention procedures in a safe manner.
 - d. Perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the athletic training program as outlined and sequenced.
 - e. Students must have the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgements and treatment information effectively.
3. The athletic training student must maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
4. The athletic training student must possess the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.

B. Affective skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory, and clinical situations:

1. The athletic training student must possess the emotional health and stability required to fully utilize their intellectual abilities, to adapt to changing environments and to function effectively in stressful situations.
2. The athletic training student must demonstrate ethical behaviors in compliance with the ethical standards of the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA).
3. The athletic training student must be able to communicate in both oral and written form with patient/athlete and other members of the health care community to:
 - a. effectively and sensitively elicit information.
 - b. convey information essential for safe and effective care.
4. The athletic training student must be aware of and interpret non-verbal communications.
5. The athletic training student must be able to acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions to foster harmonious working relationships with colleagues, peers, and patient/athletes.
6. The athletic training student must possess appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional etiquette and quality patient care.

C. Psychomotor skills to be demonstrated in all classroom, laboratory, and clinical situations:

1. The athletic training student must have sufficient motor function as reasonably required to:
 - a. Safely provide general assessment/evaluation, treatment procedures, and rehabilitation/reconditioning intervention procedures as identified in the NATA Educational Competencies 5th Edition.
 - b. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation according to the guidelines of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
 - c. Perform basic first aid according to the guidelines of the American Red Cross.
2. The athletic training student must have sufficient coordination and balance in sitting and standing positions to safely engage in athletic training procedures such as:
 - a. Moving and positioning patients/athletes.

- b. Gait training.
 - c. Stabilizing and supporting patients/athletes.
3. The athletic training student must have sufficient coordination and balance in sitting and standing positions to engage in fine muscular movements required for safe and effective manipulation of equipment and tools used in patient/athlete assessment/evaluation, treatment procedures and rehabilitation/reconditioning intervention procedures.
 4. The athletic training student must have visual acuity necessary to obtain accurate information from patient/athlete and the treatment environment in performance of routine athletic training activities such as:
 - a. Observing and inspection of patient/athlete movements and postures.
 - b. Reading dials/displays on equipment.
 - c. Reading digits/scales on diagnostic tools.
 - d. Ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately.
 5. Sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; and accurately, safely, and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatments of patients.

Reasonable Accommodation for Students with a Disability:

WSU is committed to the principles of equitable and accessible education and to providing reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations. A reasonable accommodation is a strategy, agreed upon by the student, ODS, and ATP, which enables the student to meet a technical standard. In the event that a student determines that the student cannot meet a technical standard due to a disability, either upon admission to ATP or at any point thereafter, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the WSU Office of Disability Services (“ODS”) to request a reasonable accommodation.

ODS determines qualified disability status and assists students in obtaining appropriate accommodations and services. Decisions regarding reasonable accommodation are determined on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration each student’s disability-related needs, disability documentation, and program requirements. The ATP will make every effort to work with students with a disability to reasonably accommodate their disability-related needs. An accommodation may be considered unreasonable if it (1) poses a direct threat to the health or safety of the student or others; (2) causes a fundamental alteration of the ATP; (3) does not meet the ATP academic or technical standards, or (4) poses an undue hardship on the ATP.

Students should contact ODS directly at disability.services@wichita.edu or 316-978-3309.

Candidates for selection to the ATP will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe they can meet the standards, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Statement of students *NOT* requesting accommodations:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for each selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with reasonable accommodation, I will be dismissed from the program.

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Statement for students requesting accommodation:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with accommodation. I will contact the Office of Disability Services to determine what services may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with reasonable accommodation, I will be dismissed from the program.

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____