

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Clinical Education Plan

The athletic training student's (ATS) clinical skills and proficiencies are developed based on the Learning over Time Model. Clinical education experiences are assigned based on the ATS progression through three specific phases: Observational student (first year), pre-professional student (second year), professional student (third and fourth years). Pre-professional and professional students are assigned to clinical education experiences that are part of five laboratory courses, practicum I, practicum II, and a field experience. The athletic training student will participate with the assistance of the program director in choosing an affiliated site for the practicum II and field experience.

Advancement through each phase of clinical education is dependent upon the ATS completing all of the clinical proficiencies required in their particular laboratory assignment.

Level I Observation student – basic skill acquisition

During level I, the athletic training student is enrolled in the pre-requisite courses (Anatomy & Physiology I and II with labs, FA/CPR for the Professional Rescuer, Introduction to Athletic Training, and Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries and Lab). During the Introduction to Athletic Training and the Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries courses, athletic training students will shadow and observe practicing athletic training professionals for a minimum of 50 hours. The observations will include athletic rotations on UA campus as well as shadowing a professional outside of The University of Akron. During this semester, athletic training students will have the opportunity to observe and practice basic skills associated with the Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries course. The athletic training students will progress through 2 week observations with a variety of the staff athletic trainers.

Level II Pre-professional student – intermediate skill acquisition and application

Level II of the athletic training student clinical experience involves instruction and evaluation of fundamental athletic training skills specific to an intermediate student. Athletic training students will spend a minimum of two semesters (each 15 weeks) in the pre-professional level. The experiences will consist of approximately 20 hours per week with an Approved Clinical Instructor (ACI) and his/her assigned sport. These pre-professional students have limited abilities and are permitted to practice and/or assist with tasks that are supervised by an ACI. During these experiences students are enrolled in 5550:442/443 Therapeutic Modalities and Therapeutic Modalities Lab, and 5550:475/476 Advanced Athletic Injury Management LE and Advanced Athletic Injury Management LE Lab.

Level III Professional Student – advanced skill application and integration

Level III of the athletic training student clinical education experience takes place in the final four semesters when the ATS engages in clinical experiences focused on advanced skill application and integration under the direct supervision of an approved clinical instructor (ACI) or clinical instructor (CI). During these 4 semesters, the athletic training student will be enrolled in the following courses:

**Year 3
Fall**

5550:441 Advanced Injury Management UE
 5550:439 Advanced Injury Management UE lab
 5550:305 Clinical Experience I
 5550:360 Practicum I AT

**Year 4
Fall**

5550:432 Therapeutic Exercise & Rehab UE
 5550:433 Therapeutic Exercise & Rehab UE Lab
 5550:405 Clinical Experience II

Spring

5550:445 Therapeutic Exercise & Rehab LE
 5550:444 Therapeutic Exercise & Rehab UE Lab
 5550:467 Practicum II AT

Spring

5550:395 Field Experience

Each athletic training student will be assigned to an approved clinical instructor (ACI) and an off-campus affiliate site(s) during this phase of clinical education. The athletic training student is assigned to these clinical experiences based on the type of clinical exposure the ACI provides. The hour requirement and time commitment will vary depending on the type of course the ATS is enrolled in during this experience. During these clinical experiences, the athletic training student will be presented the opportunity to demonstrate integrated knowledge and skills while enrolled in the above listed courses.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCNE SETTINGS

On-campus Clinical Experience Settings

The athletic training room located in the Fred & Frieda Stiles Athletics Field House serves as the primary clinical experience setting. The other on-campus clinical experience settings include the training room located in the James A. Rhodes Arena, and Health Services located in the Student Recreation & Wellness Center.

Off-campus Clinical Experience Settings

The clinical experience settings listed below will provide you with exposure to the many roles and responsibilities of certified athletic trainers and other health care providers who work in environments other than intercollegiate athletics. Athletic training students will be afforded the opportunity to develop specific skills in any of the following settings. It is the responsibility of the athletic training student to arrange for transportation to and from the affiliated clinical sites. Sites range from one to twenty miles away from The University of Akron campus.

Clinical Affiliates

Akron General Medical Center

- Tallmadge
- Stow
- Montrose
- Green

Summa Sports Health

- ST. Thomas Hospital
- JCC - White Pond
- Green
- Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium
- Hudson

The PT Center for Sports and Family Physical Therapy

High School Affiliates

- Barberton High School
- Buchtel High School
- Copley-Fairlawn High School
- Coventry High School
- CVCA High School
- East High School
- The Elms High School
- Firestone High School
- Green High School
- Highland High School
- Nardon High School
- Northwest High School
- Revere High School
- Springfield High School
- St. Vincent-St. Mary High School
- Tallmadge High School
- Walsh High School
- Woodridge High School

Professional Affiliations

- Akron Pro Racer Softball

Orthopedic Physician affiliations

- Falls Orthopedic Surgeons

University of Akron Health Services

ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS

ATHLETIC TRAINING POLICY:

Athletic training students are required to complete clinical rotations as a part of their clinical courses. The hour requirement is set for Practicum I, Practicum II, and Field Experience. The athletic training students are required to complete the clinical proficiencies with their ACI based on the academic course each semester. An athletic training student will spend approximately 200-250 hours with each sport assignment. The athletic training student and the ACI will create a schedule at the beginning of the sport assignment for the semester rotation.

ACADEMIC COURSE	REQUIREMENT
Practicum I	30 hours
Practicum II	30 hours
Field Experience	150 hours

ACADEMIC COURSE	APPROXIMATE COMMITMENT
Therapeutic Modalities Lab	200-250 hours
Advanced Injury Management UE Lab	200-250 hours
Advanced Injury Management LE Lab	200-250 hours
Therapeutic Ex & Rehab UE Lab	200-250 hours
Therapeutic Ex & Rehab LE Lab	200-250 hours

PROCEDURE:

1. Students should follow the four-year plan outline for clinical rotation courses.
2. Students should make a concerted effort to minimize conflicts such as: outside work and other activities, which should not interfere with athletic training obligations.
3. Athletic training students will meet with their ACI within the first 2 weeks of each rotation to develop and fill out the goal worksheets.
4. All athletic training students are responsible for meeting the demands of their specific clinical assignment. A minimum of 24 hours notice must be given to the ACI when absence is necessary.
5. All athletic training students are responsible for creating a calendar and schedule with their ACI. The schedule(s) should be turned in to the ACI as part of the academic course laboratory materials.
6. Students are responsible for maintaining copies of their calendar(s), goal worksheets, and evaluations for their own records.
7. All athletic training students will be evaluated by their ACI twice each semester. A meeting to discuss the evaluation will be held between each student and the student's ACI.
8. Students will evaluate the ACI at the end of each semester. The evaluations will be returned to the Program Director for review. The evaluations will be kept as part of the student records.

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Clinical Assignments

At the end of each semester, athletic training students will be given a clinical assignment for the following semester. This assignment carries the expectation that the athletic training student will assist with practices, games and other team requirements deemed necessary by the ACI of that sport.

It is expected that athletic training students become involved in the pre-participation physical examination, emergency procedures specific to a sport, evaluation of injuries, rehabilitation programs, injury documentation, and communications between athletes, coaches, and the ACI of the assigned sport.

Time Criteria

Athletic training students are required to spend a minimum of 5 semesters working in the Athletic Training Educational Program. It is also expected that athletic training students will commit between 200-250 hours per semester to your ACI, UA athletics or your clinical site by being active in the athletic training duties of the sport for approximately 15-20 hours per week. Some athletic training students, by the nature of their assignment, will be committing more than others and putting in more contact hours per week. Each athletic training student must understand that all athletic training students will have an assignment sometime in their five semesters that requires more time allocation and that other athletic training students will not be spending as much time in their assignment during that particular semester. Athletic training students must be aware that outside obligations should not conflict with the duties and responsibilities of the sport assignment.

Educational Priorities

Athletic training students must be aware that the primary reason they are attending UA is to complete their education. Classroom requirements are important and class attendance should be of paramount concern for the athletic training student. However, in the field of athletic training much can be learned in the practical application of the theoretical education process and clinical experience should be ranked just as important as the classroom.

Athletic training students should not miss class to attend practice, nor should athletic training students miss an opportunity to learn at practice. The athletic training student is expected to take the initiative to query the athletic trainers with whom they are working about relevant athletic training topics and should do so on a regular basis.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETIC TRAINING STUDENT

You, the Athletic Training Student (ATS) will be learning in a variety of settings as part of the Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at UA. You will have different responsibilities based on the level of supervision that is provided. Definitions are provided below so that you will have a better understanding of these responsibilities.

Clinical Education: You will be assigned to a sport during each semester of the ATEP. When you are learning and providing care under the direct supervision of an approved clinical instructor (ACI) you are considered to be involved in clinical education. This direct supervision is defined as constant visual and auditory supervision and the intent is that the ACI will be readily available to intervene and protect the patient should this be needed. It is only the ACI that can formally evaluate the clinical proficiencies assigned to this experience.

Field Experience: If a health care professional other than your ACI provides direct supervision this is defined as a field experience. The supervision and instruction by other experts in the field should be valued. However, it is only the ACI who can formally evaluate your clinical proficiencies during a clinical experience.

Athletic training students are to be encouraged to communicate any problems they are having relative to their approved clinical instructor, the Director of Sports Medicine, and the Program Director. Questions about educational requirements should be directed to the Program Director.

Athletic training students must be aware that not meeting the expectations as set forth in this document and as explained in the classroom may result in suspension or expulsion from the Athletic Training Educational Program.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Although not required, athletic training students are encouraged to participate in special events, collegiate and professional events, NCAA Championship events, summer camp programs, Olympic or Junior National events or any other programs beneficial to your educational experiences.

From time to time, the UA clinical instructors will post such events. Students can "volunteer" or in some cases you may be compensated for your services.

In addition, the clinical staff encourages you to participate in public relations programs, career days or any other programs, which encourage or promote athletic training in the work place.

Also, it is strongly suggested that each athletic training student seriously consider applying for scholarship programs through the district or national levels.

As an athletic training student, these programs and awards help establish a resume which will separate you from the hundreds of other athletic training students who are seeking employment, graduate assistants positions, or other postgraduate opportunities.

Therefore, when you do engage in one of these special event programs or are awarded scholarships or academic awards, take time to document those experiences. This will help you remember all of your experiences and assist you in preparing a professional resume.

ATHLETIC TRAINING EDUCATION PROGRAM STRUCTURING OF ATHLETIC TRAINING CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Rotations for all students will include the following areas: lower extremity, upper extremity, equipment intensive, male, female, team, and general medical. In addition, students will have the opportunity for a rotation at a local high school via the practicum II, orthopedic physician office rotation via practicum I, or sports medicine clinic affiliated with UA via the field experience. The Program Director, along with the Athletic Training Staff, will see that the appropriate assignments in all of the above mentioned areas are made for each student in the Athletic Training Educational Program. Athletic Training Students with more experience and more favorable evaluations, in the judgment of the Program Director and Athletic Training Staff, will be given assignments with greater responsibility.

UA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS SPORT ASSIGNMENTS

Once the Program Director and the Athletic Training staff have assigned you a sport, your responsibility will be to contact your ACI for instructions regarding creation of a schedule, filling out a goal worksheet for the rotation, and policies and procedures for your sport rotation. You will learn under the direct supervision of the approved clinical instructor for the sport assigned.

If procedures are not clear for your sport, please inform the ACI/Director of Sports Medicine so that athlete safety is never in jeopardy.

Practicum I, Practicum II, and Field Experience Assignments

Athletic training students should consult the academic 4-year to schedule the Practicum I, Practicum II, and Field Experience. Athletic Training students will need to see the Program Director for admission to these clinical courses. In addition, the athletic training students and the Program Director will meet to evaluate student placement in these clinical courses. Placement will take into consideration transportation needs, ATS clinical skill needs, and ACI availability.

Summary

Athletic training students are assigned to work with a specific sport on a daily basis. The athletic training student is to become highly involved as an athletic training student through the entire season.

Athletic training students will spend a minimum of 5 semesters working in the clinical aspect of the educational program and spend a minimum of 200 hours and a minimum of 250 hours for each four following semesters.

Athletic training students are to be available for all practices and games balanced with proper class attendance. Athletic training students should not let outside obligations become their main priority. Additionally, athletic training students will take the necessary initiative to ensure they are learning in all phases of their education at UA.