



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Master of Science in Athletic Training

**Program Handbook
2020-2021**

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ABOUT THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed to assist students as they progress through the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program (MS in AT Program) at Ball State University. It is a centralized location for important information relative to the AT Program. Furthermore, this handbook is designed to assist faculty, staff, and preceptors in the education, guidance, and experiences of the students. Important policies, guidelines, and resources are presented.

Once admitted in the MS in AT Program, students are responsible for the information contained in this handbook, and will sign the *Ball State University Athletic Training Program Handbook Acknowledgement* (Appendix A). Students are encouraged to read it and keep it as a reference while an athletic training student at Ball State University. Every student will be required to take and pass (at least 80%) a quiz via Canvas regarding the content of this handbook at the beginning of the program. If changes are made to the handbook, students and preceptors will be notified via email and the revised handbook will be placed on Canvas and in Typhon. This information is an adjunct to, not a replacement for, the Ball State University Graduate Catalog and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Additional information is available on the university's website at www.bsu.edu or the Athletic Training Program's website at www.bsu.edu/athletictraining.

MISSION STATEMENTS

Mission of Ball State University

We engage students in educational, research, and creative endeavors that empower our graduates to have fulfilling careers and meaningful lives enriched by lifelong learning and service, while we enhance the economic, environmental, and social vitality of our community, our state, and our world.

Mission of the College of Health

Our College embraces an innovative, collaborative, and interprofessional environment for learning, discovery, and engagement. The learning environment is shaped by core content that enhances understanding of health and well-being throughout the life span. Discovery occurs across the health-related disciplines that comprise the college and readily engages students and faculty in a collaborative manner. Our commitment to interprofessional development and community engagement unites our faculty and students while strengthening our educational programs and serving the needs of the region, state, and nation.

Mission of the School of Kinesiology

As a leader in professional preparation and scientific inquiry, the School of Kinesiology provides high-quality educational experiences for our students, contributes to the scholarly advancement of our academic disciplines, and serves our professional societies and the community-at-large.

Mission of the Ball State University Athletic Training Program

The mission of the Ball State University Athletic Training Program is to provide an innovative curriculum to develop clinical scholars who are committed to delivering high-quality patient-centered care within an interprofessional health care team. We aspire to develop students who are dedicated to maintaining involvement within the profession through clinical practice and service.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Master of Science in Athletic Training Program at Ball State University blends both coursework and clinical education to develop a well-rounded entry-level certified athletic trainer (AT). Ball State University has produced many prominent alumni who are currently employed in the high school, sports medicine clinic, collegiate, occupational health, and professional sports settings.

The Ball State University Athletic Training Program was one of the first educational programs to receive National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) approval as it became an undergraduate minor in 1971. The program has either been approved or accredited since that time. The University has remained strongly committed to maintaining and improving this program as demonstrated by the implementation of the Athletic Training Major in 1987. In 2018, Ball State University granted approval to transition our undergraduate program the graduate level by offering a Master of Science in Athletic Training program. Our program develops the knowledge, skills, and professional attitudes/behaviors necessary for the entry-level athletic trainer. The academic faculty and preceptors continually strive to provide the students with the most current evidence-based clinical guidelines through attendance at workshops and conferences, and through conducting original research.

The program is currently accredited by the Commission on the Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The CAATE accredits programs that prepare athletic training professionals. Accreditation is one step in a process that is meant to ensure a supply of qualified athletic training health care professionals. A program is accredited when it meets the standards established by the CAATE. The standards constitute the minimum requirements to which an accredited program is held accountable. For additional information about the accreditation of athletic training programs, please visit www.caate.net.

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PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Outcome #1: Students utilize quality improvement, health care informatics and evidence-based decision-making to provide patient-centered care.

Objectives:

1. Develop appropriate clinical questions based on patient cases.
2. Demonstrate competency in searching the literature for current evidence.
3. Demonstrate competency in appraising the available literature.
4. Apply the available evidence and patient goals/values to implement safe and effective clinical practices.
5. Incorporate patient-oriented outcome measures to evaluate the quality of the care provided.

Outcome #2: Students demonstrate competence in athletic training knowledge and clinical skills to provide the best possible patient care.

Objectives:

1. Recognize the signs and symptoms of emergency medical conditions and demonstrate appropriate management of emergency conditions.
2. Identify signs and symptoms of common injuries and illnesses.
3. Demonstrate competency in the clinical evaluation of common injuries and illnesses.
4. Prescribe appropriate therapeutic interventions based on the results of the clinical examination.
5. Identify appropriate measures to be taken and apply the skills necessary to prevent injuries and illnesses.
6. Employ appropriate strategies to maintain medical records.
7. Describe appropriate policies and procedures to implement to prevent the incidence and/or severity of injuries.

Outcome #3: Students promote themselves and the field of athletic training through professional and community involvement.

Objectives:

1. Utilize appropriate terminology when in the role of a health care provider.
2. Support professional development and networking through attendance at professional meetings.
3. Recognize the importance of professional membership.
4. Identify the value of community and/or volunteer service through participation.

Outcome #4: Students display the interpersonal skills needed to communicate and collaborate within an interprofessional health care team.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate appropriate communication, through written and verbal strategies, with physicians, emergency personnel, and other health care professionals.
2. Demonstrate appropriate communication, through written and verbal strategies, with patients, coaches, parents, and administrators.
3. Recognize when referral to appropriate professional personnel is necessary, and develop an interprofessional care plan.
4. Demonstrate competence in the ability to disseminate scientific research through written and oral work.

Outcome #5: Students model professional and ethical behaviors when representing themselves as a health care professional.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of and comply with the National Athletic Trainers' Association Code of Ethics when engaging in clinical practice.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of and comply with the policies and procedures contained within the Ball State University Athletic Training Handbook.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of and comply with the Board of Certification Standards of Professional Practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge with continuing education requirements in order to practice as an athletic trainer.

Outcome #6: Students display empathy to improve interaction with patients to facilitate positive health outcomes.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and skills of relational communication with patients.
2. Demonstrate the skills needed to attend to patients need in various settings and various patient interactions.
3. Demonstrate the skills needed to understand patient needs such as active listening and seek to improve patient health outcomes through shared-decision making.
4. Demonstrate the ability to create a relational space with patients in which there is safety and caring.

ADDITIONAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM

Once admitted into the program, there are extra costs associated with the Ball State University Athletic Training Program. These costs are in addition to tuition, room and board, and fees charged by the university, and include the following:

- Transportation and temporary living costs required for travel to off-campus clinical education sites (gas, public transportation fees, etc.) and clinical immersive educational sites (temporary housing, food, transportation, etc.). These costs will vary by student and where their clinical education clinical site is located.
- Clothing costs to meet clinical education dress code requirements (\$35-\$200, as students choose).
- Annual TB test and influenza vaccination and other required immunizations as required by the University (cost varies).
- Yearly background check fee \$30 through CastleBranch (required vendor).
- One-time subscription fee for Typhon Group tracking software (\$90).
- Costs associated with maintaining current emergency cardiac care certification (adult/pediatric) for the professional rescuer (cost varies).
- Cost associated with attendance at professional conferences (cost varies).
- Annual National Athletic Trainers' Association student membership fee (\$75) *Recommended*

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants must meet the admission requirements established by both the Ball State University Graduate School and the Athletic Training Program. Detailed information regarding the application process can be found at www.bsu.edu/gradschool.

The program utilizes two platforms for the admissions of students into the program, Ball State University's Slate platform and Athletic Training Centralized Application System (ATCAS). After a student applies to the program through either Slate or ATCAS, the application will be reviewed by the Athletic Training Admission & Retention committee that consists of the three athletic training faculty and two clinical staff athletic trainers. The materials will be reviewed to insure that the candidate meets the minimum qualifications and then a decision will be made to determine if the candidate will be granted an interview. Interviews will be conducted virtually through Zoom for all candidates, even for

those current Ball State University students to make sure all applicants are treated fairly and consistently throughout the admission process. Candidates will be notified within one week of the interview if they are being offered a spot in the program.

Once students have completed their formal application in Slate and have been recommended for admission to the graduate school, the Dean of the Graduate School will contact them with official acceptance to Ball State University.

ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from an institution recognized by a regional accrediting association
- Ball State must receive transcripts from all colleges and universities you attended, including dual credit courses earned while in high school.
- Overall GPA of 2.75 (3.0 preferred) on a 4.0 scale from the undergraduate degree-granting institution
- Formal letter of application, including a personal statement
- Current resume or curriculum vitae
- TOEFL scores (international students)
- Minimum of 30 hours of athletic training observation in at least two different clinical settings and with two different athletic trainers completed within 18 months prior to application ([Observation Hours Form](#))
- List of three references who can speak to potential success as a healthcare professional; one must have supervised the applicant during the observation experience
- Current certification as an emergency cardiac care for healthcare provider (upon entry to the program)
- Completion of the pre-requisite topic areas with a minimum grade of "C" or better:
 - Human Anatomy (3 credits)
 - Human Physiology with Lab (3 credits)
 - Chemistry with Lab (3 credits)
 - Biology with Lab (3 credits)
 - Physics (3 credits)
 - Exercise Physiology (3 credits)
 - Psychology (3 credits)
 - Nutrition (3 credits)
 - The course must include relationship of diet to health and disease, principles of nutrition, and life cycle nutrition, nutrition as an energy source and utilization of various nutrients.
 - Statistics (3 credits)
 - The course must include descriptive statistics, correlations, and an introduction to inferential statistics.
 - Biomechanics (3 credits)
 - If you cannot take a biomechanics-type course, you will need to take an additional physics course.

MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR RETENTION

Once admitted into the athletic training program, the students' academic and clinical progress will be evaluated each semester. The student who continues to demonstrate satisfactory academic and clinical progress in the program will continue to the next semester. If a student is struggling with coursework or other academic issues, they should be proactive and discuss these issues with their academic advisor, immediately. We strive to connect students with the appropriate resources and guidance to improve academic performance in our program. Our program curriculum was developed for students to complete courses in a sequential order. Not completing a course, in the planned sequence, could affect the ability to graduate, on time. Student's not meeting satisfactory academic progress will be placed on probation for one semester to remedy the deficiencies. If these deficiencies are not corrected, the student may be dismissed from the athletic training program. This decision is made by

the Program Director in conjunction with the Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee. Actions on behalf of the Committee will be documented and discussed with the student.

If a student is found to be in violation of a *Ball State University Athletic Training Program Handbook* policy, the *NATA Code of Ethics*, or the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*, or if the student demonstrates academic dishonesty or professional misconduct, the situation will be reviewed with the Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee and appropriate actions (warning, probation, dismissal from program) will be taken. Depending on the committee's decision, student may be removed or prevented from taking athletic training courses as well as removed or prevented from engaging in clinical education. Actions on behalf of the Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee will be documented and discussed with the student.

Students who withdraw from the athletic training program will need to re-apply to be re-admitted. On an individual basis, the required application materials may be slightly modified (as approved by Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee). **If a student wishes to withdraw from a course, they should discuss this with their academic advisor before taking the necessary steps, as this decision could affect their ability to graduate on-time.*

The following guidelines will be used to evaluate each student at the end of each semester in order to remain in good standing in the athletic training program:

1. Must satisfy (with or without accommodation) the mental, cognitive, emotional, and physical technical standards involved in completing the requirements for program completion. See Appendix B for the *Ball State University Athletic Training Program Technical Standards*.
2. Must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the Athletic Training Program
3. Students must earn a "C" or better in all athletic training courses. Any student who receives a grade lower than a "C" in any athletic training course will be required to retake the course.
4. Maintain current certification in emergency cardiac care, at the level of a professional rescuer or healthcare provider (adult and pediatric). Should a student's certification lapse, they will be removed from their clinical education experience pending re-certification and will receive a point deduction in their respective *Clinical Education* course.
5. Remain in compliance with requirements related to clinical education (e.g., TB testing, influenza vaccination, criminal background check).
6. All students are required to abide by the policies and procedures contained in the *Ball State University Athletic Training Program Handbook*, including the *NATA Code of Ethics* (Appendix C) and the *BOC's Standards of Professional Practice* (Appendix D). Any violations of these policies, any case of academic dishonesty or professional misconduct can result in probation or dismissal from the program.

APPEAL PROCESS

A student has the right to appeal any decision made by the Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee. The appellant must submit a letter to the director of the Athletic Training Program Director within 10 working days of receiving notification of an adverse decision. The letter should contain reasons as to why the decision is being appealed and why it should be reversed. A conference to discuss the appellant's appeal will then be held with the student, The Athletic Training Selection & Retention Committee, 1 current athletic training student, the Chair or Associate Chair of the School of Kinesiology and/or 1 College of Health faculty member. After hearing the student's appeal, a final decision will be rendered and the appellant will be notified.

If a student wishes to appeal a grade, the procedures to do so may be found in the *Ball State University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Please go to www.bsu.edu/studentcode.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The curriculum of the MS in AT program consists of both didactic and clinical courses. The didactic courses will consist of a blended learning format that allows students to take ownership of their learning experiences.

62 Credit Hours

Year 1, Summer, 9 Credits

- AT 601 Intro to Clinical Practice (3)
- AT 691 Evidence Based Practice in Healthcare (3)
- AT 605 Emergency Procedures (3)

Year 1, Fall, 13 Credits

- AT 611 Musculoskeletal Evaluation I (3)
- AT 613 Therapeutic Interventions I (3)
- AT 615 Medical & Pharm. Intervention and Treatment (3)
- AT 617 Healthcare Documentation and Informatics (1)
- AT 670 Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training I (3)

Year 1, Spring, 14 Credits

- AT 612 Musculoskeletal Evaluation II (3)
- AT 614 Therapeutic Interventions II (3)
- AT 693 Practice-Based Research (2)
- AT 619 Behavioral Health (3)
- AT 671 Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training II (3)

Year 2, Summer, 6 Credits

- AT 673 Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training III (6)

Year 2, Fall, 11 Credits

- AT 675 Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training IV (5)
- AT 653 Advanced Diagnostic Techniques (2)
- AT 659 Administration and Leadership (3)
- AT 657 Seminar in Athletic Training (1)

Year 2, Spring, 9 Credits

- AT 695 Research in Athletic Training (3)
- AT 677 Clinical Experiences in Athletic Training V (6)

CLINICAL EDUCATION

Clinical education is the cornerstone of athletic training education as it provides students with “real-world” opportunities to integrate the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom on patients under the supervision of a preceptor. Prior to engaging in clinical education experiences, students will be required to sign an Informed Consent, Acknowledgement of Risks, and Release of Liability form (Appendix E). This form will be signed prior to the start of the first clinical experience and will be valid for the remainder of the student’s time in the program. The *Foundational Behaviors of Professional Practice* will be required and evaluated during all clinical education experiences. The clinical portion of the student’s education is a component of each *Clinical Education* (AT 670, AT 671, AT 673, AT 675, AT 677)

course. To ensure a meaningful educational experience and to remain in good standing with CAATE, strict clinical education requirements and guidelines are upheld by the program.

Clinical education experience placements are made based on course sequencing, site availability, and student needs and goals. A student's preference will be considered, but is not guaranteed. Students are required to complete a minimum of six (5) semesters of clinical education. During the first two clinical education experiences (fall and spring in year 1) in the program, students will engage in clinical education on campus or within a drivable distance from campus. During the first clinical experience (AT 670), students will be assigned to four, 4-week rotations at a variety of athletic training settings. These include, but are not limited to, secondary schools, college/university, industrial/manufacturing, clinic/outreach, performing arts, etc. Starting in the second clinical education experience (AT 671) in the spring semester, students will complete a semester long rotation in a traditional athletic training setting. During experience, students will be temporarily pulled out of their rotation to complete a general medical clinical experience on campus or at a local family practice clinic. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 15 hours during this one week experience. Over the course of the remaining three semesters in the program, the student may be assigned to on-campus or off-campus clinical education experiences that will be immersive clinical education. During immersive clinical education experiences, students are expected to engage in clinical education as their primary focus. There will be asynchronous coursework that will aim to further engage the students in their clinical experience without interfering or disrupting the educational nature of the experience. When assigned to an off-campus clinical education experience, the student should be prepared to fulfill requirements for that site (e.g. background check, immunizations, orientation) as well as plan for temporary relocation and/or transportation to that clinical site. If a student believes that a clinical experience site poses a risk to their health and/or safety, they may cease participation at such site. If a suitable clinical site cannot be obtained as a replacement, progression through the remaining clinical experiences may be delayed and this may also potentially delay graduation.

Students are to refrain from applying skills during their clinical education experiences which have not first been instructed and evaluated either in the classroom or by the preceptor. This is to ensure safety of both the patient and the student. If, however, a learning opportunity arises where the student may gain experience with a clinical skill but the clinical skill has not yet been taught or assessed in a required course, the preceptor may instruct the student on the clinical skill so that the student may benefit from that situation.

CLINICAL EDUCATION SUPERVISION

Although one of the major goals of a clinical experience is for students to become autonomous in their skills & decision making, students should never confuse autonomy with unsupervised practice. Students will ALWAYS practice athletic training under the supervision of a BSU preceptor. Autonomy, as practiced by students, refers to becoming proficient to the extent that they collaborate in making and implementing decisions regarding the care of their patients. Students should work to become competent and comfortable in decision-making, but all care-related decisions made by students must be reviewed with their preceptors prior to implementation. Clinical experiences will frequently involve student autonomy in activity and collaboration in decision making, but students are never the primary care provider for a patient or team. To this end, it is wholly incorrect for a student to see themselves as "the athletic trainer" for a team or to look at their time in clinical experience as "covering" a practice or a game. Instead, clinical experiences must be seen from an educational perspective and the students must see themselves as being there to learn, develop and/or refine clinical skills, and to foster an understanding and appreciation of all aspects of the profession.

The BSU Athletic Training Program does not support unsupervised clinical education experiences, nor are they considered part of the student's clinical education experience. Students may not represent themselves as an athletic trainer or perform athletic training activities outside of their clinical education experience. However, there may be unplanned times that a student is briefly unsupervised. During these uncommon times, students should not perform athletic training skills. If a student finds themselves in a situation in which they are unsupervised, they may act voluntarily as a first aid provider only, and can only provide first aid services, which will be viewed as non-compulsory.

This voluntary opportunity may be refused by the student at any time. A student's refusal will have no detrimental effect on the student's clinical education evaluation or standing in the program.

CLINICAL EDUCATION EVALUATION

Students will be regularly assessed on their performance in the clinical education setting. The preceptor who supervises the student will complete each required evaluation. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the preceptor is aware that the evaluation is due, and that it needs to be completed. The student will be evaluated at the mid-point of the experience, which will provide feedback regarding progress up to this point, strengths, and help to establish specific skills and goals to accomplish for the remainder of the experience. The student will also be evaluated at the end of the clinical experience. This evaluation will be more detailed, providing feedback regarding the student's *Foundational Behaviors and Professional Practice* as well as level-specific knowledge and skills. For both of these evaluations, it is expected that the student and preceptor will meet in person to discuss the preceptor's evaluation prior to the evaluation being submitted. Failing to have clinical evaluations submitted on time will result in a grade penalty in the student's respective *Clinical Education* course.

CLINICAL PATIENT and HOUR TRACKING

All students are required to complete daily time logs and patient case logs in Typhon to document the time engaged in clinical education. Every patient that a student interacts with should be logged in Typhon. Students should get in the habit of logging their patient cases and their time logs every day in order to stay current. Case logs and time logs will be checked and verified weekly on Monday mornings by the Clinical Education Coordinator. Preceptors will also be approving their assigned student time and case logs on a weekly basis. Failure to maintain up-to-date records of clinical hours and patient cases will result in a grade penalty in the student's respective clinical education course. Accurate patient encounter tracking through patient case logs is vital to assessing a students' learning needs as they progress through the program. Students should only track those hours for which they were engaged in clinical education. Travel time (to/from clinical education sites), food/snack breaks, homework breaks, social visits, and other miscellaneous instances should NOT be included in the daily time log. Each clinical course syllabus lists the patient case log and daily time log requirements.

CLINICAL EDUCATION INFECTIOUS ILLNESS POLICY

Students are required to refrain from engaging in clinical education when they are ill. The Ball State University Athletic Training Program Infectious Illness Policy (Appendix F) and COVID-19 Policy (Appendix G) are designed to ensure the safety of the patient and protect the student. Upon admission into the program, all students are required to read and sign these policies.

CLINICAL EDUCATION STUDENT MISCONDUCT PROCEDURES

In the event that students are conducting themselves inappropriately (e.g., violating dress code policy, making patient care decisions without discussing the situation with the preceptor, engaging in inappropriate conversations while in the presence of patients, students, staff, or others, displaying a poor attitude, etc.) while engaged in clinical education, the following procedures are to be followed:

1. Preceptor meets privately with the student to verbally discuss the behaviors that are inappropriate. The preceptor will discuss the facts surrounding the misbehaviors (dates, setting, patients/others involved, specific behaviors identified). The preceptor will give suggestions to the student regarding how the behaviors can be rectified.
 - If the preceptor is a graduate assistant athletic trainer, the preceptor will inform his/her supervising staff athletic trainer of the student misconduct.

2. If misconduct on behalf of the student continues, the preceptor will meet privately with the student to verbally discuss the behaviors that are inappropriate. The preceptor will document the facts surrounding the misbehaviors (dates, setting, patients/others involved, specific behaviors identified), and discuss these facts with the student. The preceptor and the student will both sign the document, indicating that the student has been informed of the facts surrounding the misconduct. The preceptor will forward the signed document to the clinical education coordinator, so that a record can be maintained in the student's file.
 - If the preceptor is a graduate assistant athletic trainer, the preceptor will inform his/her supervising staff athletic trainer of the student misconduct, and the written document will need to be signed by the supervising staff athletic trainer.
3. If the behaviors that are considered misconduct continue, the preceptor will document the facts surrounding the continued misbehaviors (dates, setting, patients/others involved, specific behaviors identified). The preceptor will inform the student that the behaviors are still present, and notify the student that further actions will need to be taken. At this time, the preceptor will initiate a formal meeting to discuss the situations and behaviors with the clinical education coordinator and/or program director. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the documented instances of misconduct and the steps taken by the preceptor to correct the misconduct, the student reaction to feedback regarding the misconduct, and the remediation or disciplinary actions that may need to be taken to correct the misconduct.
4. The student will then be required to participate in a meeting with the preceptor, supervising staff athletic trainer (if the preceptor is a GA), the program director and/or clinical education coordinator. The meeting will again discuss the facts involved in the student misconduct, as well as inform the student of the disciplinary or remedial actions that will need to occur in order for the student to continue to be engaged in clinical education.

Please note: all cases of misconduct will be taken on a case-by-case basis and are dependent on the magnitude of the misconduct. If a behavior/action is considered professional misconduct, as identified by a violation of the *NATA Code of Ethics* or the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*, then a student may be immediately removed from clinical education experiences until the incident is investigated. Instances of professional misconduct may result in immediate probation or dismissal from the program, as determined by the Program Director in conjunction with the Retention Committee.

CLASSROOM, REMOTE LEARNING AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are related to conduct in the classroom, during remote learning, social media and electronic forms of communication (email, texting).. Violations of these guidelines will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the magnitude of the infraction, a violation may be considered professional misconduct, resulting in either probation or dismissal from the program.

Language and Etiquette for face-to-face and remote learning

1. **Be courteous and respectful** to your classmates and your instructor. The *Ball State University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* grants instructors authority to maintain classroom discipline, including asking disruptive students to leave the classroom, and this includes the remote classroom.
 - 1.1 Maintain a formal, respectful, civil, professional tone with *all* course communications, including but not limited to blog posts, discussion boards, and emails. Remember, your instructor is your supervisor and your classmates are your colleagues.
 - 1.2 Use standard American English/medical terminology/common medical abbreviations at all times. This means no text-speak. [Medical acronyms/abbreviations](#) are appropriate, but please use standard terms.
 - 1.3 Avoid derogatory language, obscenity, and hate speech.
 - 1.4 Avoid the use of CAPS, as this indicates shouting.
 - 1.5 This does not mean everyone must agree. Debate and discourse are great for learning, as long as we can be respectful.

2. Dress appropriately for the class and activities at hand. Remember you are representing our program and yourself as a healthcare professional.

Remote Learning Etiquette

1. Be respectful of everyone's time and be on time for online instruction and meetings.
 - 1.1 If you know you are going to be late, please communicate with your instructor and classmates.
 - 1.2 Consider showing up several minutes early, as technological issues happen. This will give everyone time to address those issues and not take away time from instructional time.
2. Dress appropriately. Your appearance should indicate you are prepared and ready to engage in conversation and discussion with your instructor and classmates.
3. Video should be on, unless the instructor indicates otherwise.
 - 3.1 Students should be seated. No laying down in bed, etc.
4. When you are not speaking, mute your microphone.
5. Avoid distracting environments (coffee shops, public outdoor areas, etc.), as these may distract others from online learning.

Social Media Guidelines

1. Students should avoid social media interaction (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, etc.) with student-athletes/patients. Current students are encouraged to "like" the Ball State Athletic Training Program's Facebook page (@BallState.AT) and follow @BSU_AT on Twitter, for current information/news related to the program.
2. Students should avoid social media/electronic forms of communication to discuss health-related issues with student-athletes or patients, particularly if the student is currently engaging in clinical education experiences that may result in interaction with that athlete or patient. This includes Facebook, Twitter, email, and texting, etc. (If the patient/athlete has a medical need, he/she should contact the AT or the appropriate health care professional, not the student).
3. Students should avoid any social media/electronic forms of communication with any athletes or patients who are minors. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, email, and texting, etc.
4. Students should avoid taking any pictures or posting anything about the patients they are providing care to, or patients other students are providing care to, on any social media. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, email, and texting, etc. This is unprofessional and is a HIPAA violation.

Do NOT share any information regarding patient diagnosis, diagnostic imaging, injury-related information, or suggestions for injury care, etc. to any form of social media or electronic forms of communication.

ALCOHOL / DRUG USE POLICY

As a student in a professional program for healthcare providers, it is important that you exercise sound judgment and understand the consequences associated with the misuse of alcohol and/or drugs. Students in the program are expected to abide by all state and federal regulations related to the use of drugs and alcohol. Furthermore, on and off campus violations of University policy and local and state laws related to alcohol and drugs will result in disciplinary action. A violation may be considered professional misconduct, resulting in either probation or dismissal from the program. Any student suspected of drug or alcohol /abuse prior to or during a clinical education experience will be immediately withdrawn from the experience and referred to the Counseling Center for evaluation.

Please refer to the Office of Student Rights and Community Standards for more information regarding the university's policies.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TO CLINICAL SITES

Students will be given the opportunity to gain clinical experience at a variety of locations, including on- and off-campus locations. In the case of off-campus clinical education experiences, students will be responsible for traveling to and from their primary clinical site at their expense. Ball State University will not provide the student with transportation to or housing at these sites, nor will the university or program pay for the student's expenses related to traveling to or housing at those sites. In some cases, the student's clinical education experience will relocate (e.g., for an athletic event) based on the schedule at that site. It is the responsibility of the student to travel to and from the designated site per the arrangements made with the student and preceptor.

Students will be responsible for any tickets, accidents, etc. they may incur while driving to these clinical sites. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to have insurance and to drive responsibly.

STUDENT TRAVEL TO CLINICAL SITES IN ADVERSE WEATHER

In the event of bad weather or hazardous road conditions, each individual student must determine if they feel they can safely travel to the clinical education site. If a student determines it is unsafe, they need to inform his/her preceptor in as much of advance as possible. Students should not abuse this policy or tempt fate. In a nutshell, if the student feels they can arrive and return safely then they should. If the student is unsure of their safety then they should not drive. The student should ride with a safe driver or call the preceptor and inform him/her of the planned absence. It is the student's responsibility to reschedule the missed experience if possible. If the clinical education site is closed due to bad weather, the student is not required to attend the clinical education experience.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION OF INJURED / ILL PATIENTS

Under no circumstance should a student transport an injured/ill patient in any vehicle for off-site emergency care, physician appointments, or any other reason. Preceptors should not ask or expect students to provide such services in their own, a preceptor's, or the institution's vehicle. The issues involved with such actions expose the student, preceptor, and institution to great potential liability. Just as it is the preceptor's responsibility to avoid placing students in such situations, it is also the student's responsibility to inform the program director or clinical education coordinator of any instance in which the student feels they were placed in a compromising situation. If the preceptor has made arrangements to transport an injured/ill patient medical care or a physician appointment, and the student volunteers to accompany the preceptor and patient, the student must be cleared through Ball State University's Transportation Services in order to be covered from a liability standpoint to travel in a university vehicle. In this case, the student would count those hours towards clinical education.

CONFLICTS WITH CLINICAL EDUCATION

The student's first academic responsibility is to attend all courses the student enrolls in each semester. Students may not voluntarily miss or be required to miss classes, especially athletic training courses, to engage in clinical education or for any other activity (e.g., job, extracurricular activity, etc.). Excused absences for these class sessions may only be granted by the instructor for the specific course. If there is a conflict between the scheduled time of a required class and a clinical education experience, it must be resolved with the program director and/or clinical education coordinator, as well as the preceptor the student is assigned to, prior to the start of the clinical education experience. The student is required to communicate with the assigned preceptor ahead of time regarding the schedule for clinical education experiences.

The student's second academic responsibility is to attend all scheduled clinical education experiences. A clinical experience may not supersede a class session unless the instructor for the specific course has given the student an excused absence for the class session. The preceptor may not grant an excused absence for any course. The preceptor

has the authority to determine excused absences from clinical education for assigned students (e.g., day(s) off, personal illness, family emergency).

Upon admission to the Ball State University Athletic Training Program, students will be required to engage in all clinical education experience courses as part of the graduate curriculum. Clinical education experiences are assigned based on the learning needs of the student as well as the requirements set forth by the program. Clinical education experiences occur outside of the classroom, but include the application of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to patients in a health care setting. Clinical education may occur prior to the start of the academic semester and extend beyond the conclusion of the academic semester. Clinical education experiences may occur at any time class is not in session, and frequently involves mornings, afternoons, evenings, and weekends. It is the student's responsibility to engage in clinical education as assigned while abiding by the number of clinical hours as outlined by the clinical education course syllabus (AT 670, AT 671, etc.) in which the student is enrolled. The occurrence of clinical education (e.g., days, hours, timing) will change based on the clinical education assignment that semester. If the student chooses to participate in extra-curricular activities (e.g., intramurals, , performing arts, clubs), become a member of the military (e.g. active duty, reserve status, ROTC), or commit to part-time employment, the student does so knowing the clinical education requirements are the priority as a requirement of the Ball State University Athletic Training Program. Any other activities or commitments mentioned previously must not excessively conflict with clinical education. To the greatest extent possible, extra-curricular activities and outside commitments must be scheduled around clinical education.

Students submit a "Clinical Education Statement of Understanding" with their application for admission to the program that states the above information. Students are encouraged to work out their clinical education schedule with their preceptor prior to beginning the experience. However, due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., weather conditions) the clinical education schedule may change unexpectedly. In that case, both the student and the preceptor need to be flexible and adapt to the circumstances as best as possible.

CLINICAL EDUCATION DRESS CODE POLICY

In order to promote the professionalism that is required of health care professionals when providing patient care, the following dress code is in effect:

A. General Appearance Information

1. A name badge will be issued to each students and required to be worn at all times during clinical education.
2. Professional presentation as an athletic training student must occur at all times during clinical education experiences. Professional presentation includes appropriate attire, demeanor, and proper hygiene. Discretion should be used concerning make-up, tattoos, jewelry, and piercings.
3. When engaged in a off-campus clinical education experiences, discuss proper dress with the preceptor prior to engaging in clinical education. At a minimum, the policy set by the Ball State University Athletic Training Program applies at all clinical sites.
4. To ensure patient and student safety, the following jewelry items are not permitted to be worn during clinical education experiences: nose rings, eyebrow rings, tongue piercings, long necklaces, excessive finger rings and bracelets, and excessive ear piercings.
5. Personal hygiene requirements include the following: hair must be clean, out of the eyes, and unobtrusive while participating in clinical education experiences. Long hair should be tied back so as to not interfere with patient care. Hands and fingernails should be clean at all times, and fingernails must be at an appropriate length as to not harm patients or serve as a potential health hazard. Facial hair, with the exception of neatly trimmed beard, mustaches or goatees, is not permitted.
6. Appropriate attire must be professional at all times and may not reveal undergarments or body areas that would be considered inappropriate in a healthcare setting.

B. Clothing Attire for Athletic Training Centers/Athletic Practices

1. Collared Shirts/Polos:
 - a. Collared shirts (polo shirts) with the BSU Athletic Training logo are required.
 - b. Collared shirts must be tucked in at all times.
 - c. Clothing should be of an appropriate color when representing Ball State University. This would include clothing worn under the required collared shirts or sweatshirts. Appropriate BSU colors include red, black, white, gray, or tan khaki.
2. Pants/Shorts:
 - a. Pants/shorts should be of appropriate length (shorts should be fingertip length) and worn on or above the iliac crests. A belt is recommended.
 - b. Appropriately-colored (e.g., tan) dress pants/shorts are required
 - c. Black nylon pants are permitted during inclement weather only.
 - d. Ripped or patched clothing, rolled up pants, jeans or jean shorts, mesh shorts/pants, sweatpants, capri pants, or items of clothing where undergarments are exposed are not permitted.
3. Other Clothing Items:
 - a. Sweatshirts or jackets with the BSU Athletic Training logo are permitted when appropriate.
 - b. Shoes, with appropriate socks, must be worn at all times. Shoes must be functional; open-toed shoes, such as sandals, flip-flops, etc. are not permitted. High-heeled shoes are not permitted.
 - c. Hats (with the bill forward) are only permitted for outdoor activities and must include a BSU logo and be in BSU colors. No hats are to be worn when inside the athletic training facilities.
 - d. In cold weather, the outer-most layer of sweatshirts or jackets must contain a BSU or Ball State Athletic Training logo in appropriate Ball State colors.
 - e. Clothing that advertises other schools, alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs are not permitted.

C. Clothing Attire for Indoor/Outdoor Event Coverage

1. For outdoor events, clothing should be based on the above guidelines and coordinated between the athletic training staff and students. In the event of inclement weather, black, red, or gray nylon pants are allowed, as are coats, hats, and gloves that are functional.
2. For indoor events, business/business-casual dress is appropriate, including dress pants for women, and ties/dress pants for men. Dress should always be conservative so that the student is able to provide patient care to the best of his/her ability without exposing undergarments, distraction of hair or jewelry, etc. Socks (dress socks, nylons, in compliance with OSHA) should always be worn, and dress shoes should always be functional (closed-toe, no heels). Please talk with your preceptor for further guidance concerning appropriate dress for indoor events.
3. Travel attire should be consistent with the athletic training staff and should be professional.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS POLICY AND EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

The Ball State University Athletic Training Program requires students to receive formal education and re-training in the area of bloodborne pathogens and biohazardous guidelines on a yearly basis. This training is required prior to students engaging in clinical education experiences. To this end, the program has a written policy related to bloodborne pathogens and an exposure plan. These policies are designed to eliminate or minimize exposure to bloodborne pathogens, as well as define reporting and follow-up procedures in the case of an exposure incident. This plan is developed based on OSHA's (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) bloodborne pathogens standard. See Appendix H for the *Ball State University Athletic Training Program Bloodborne Pathogens Policy and Exposure Protocol*.

THERAPEUTIC EQUIPMENT SAFETY POLICY

The Ball State University Athletic Training Program requires that therapeutic equipment at all clinical sites is inspected, calibrated, and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations. This is required to safeguard the health of the patient and the safety of the student and clinician. Please see Appendix I for details regarding this policy.

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Certification (BOC) provides a certification program for entry-level athletic trainers. The BOC establishes and regularly reviews both the standards for the practice of athletic training and the continuing education requirement for BOC certified athletic trainers. The BOC is the only accredited certification program for athletic trainers in the United States. For more information about the exam, visit www.bocatc.org.

The purpose of the BOC exam is to assess candidates' knowledge in the five domains of athletic training as defined by the current BOC Role Delineation/Practice Analysis:

- Injury and Illness Prevention and Wellness Promotion
- Examination, Assessment and Diagnosis
- Immediate and Emergency Care
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Healthcare Administration and Professional Responsibility

The BOC certification exam contains a combination of 175 scored and unscored (experimental) items including: multiple-choice questions, stand-alone alternative items (drag-and-drop, text-based simulation, multi-select, hot spot, etc.), and focused testlets (scenarios followed by five key/critical questions related to that scenario). Candidates have four hours to complete the exam.

In order to attain BOC certification, distinguished by the ATC® credential, an individual must complete an entry-level athletic training program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) and pass the BOC certification exam. Students who are enrolled and/or registered in their final semester/quarter prior to graduation are eligible to sit for the BOC exam. It is the goal of the BSU Athletic Training Program for all students to take and pass the BOC examination either prior to or upon graduation. BOC exam results for the program can be found on our website at www.bsu.edu/athletictraining.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Scholarship opportunities are available through several organizations. The School of Kinesiology awards one graduate level scholarship each spring. Furthermore, the National Athletic Trainers' Association Foundation offers scholarships, primarily targeted to current students are in a professional program. Go to www.natafoundation.org for more information. The Indiana Athletic Trainers' Association also offers scholarships, and the deadline for this is March 1st. Go to www.iata-usa.org for more information.

Ball State University offers students financial aid packages and grants through the Scholarship and Financial Aid office. Prospective students should contact this office for information and assistance from financial aid counselors. Types of financial aid available include the following: grants, loans, scholarships, and fee remissions.

Appendix A

Ball State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Handbook Acknowledgement

I have reviewed a copy of the current *Ball State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Handbook*, and understand that I am responsible for knowing and understanding the information contained within the handbook. I understand if I have a question about the policies in the handbook, it is my responsibility to seek clarification from the program director of the Ball State University MS in Athletic Training Program. I agree to abide by the written policies and procedures including:

- Academic and program retention requirements
- Clinical education policies, expectations, and professional conduct
- Infectious Disease Policy
- Bloodborne Pathogen Policy and Exposure Protocol

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Ball State University
Master of Science in Athletic Training Program
Professional Conduct and Confidentiality Acknowledgement and Agreement

Please read the following and sign below stating that you are aware of the confidentiality policy and agree to abide by the governance of this policy

My signature below indicates that I, as a student in the Athletic Training Program at Ball State University, in compliance with *HIPAA*, the *NATA Code of Ethics*, and the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*, recognize that I have an obligation to myself, the athletes, patients, coaches with whom I work, preceptors, and to Ball State University, to withhold from anyone, other than my immediate supervisors or other appropriate medical health professionals, any information I acquire professionally or personally which is considered confidential. This includes any information about a patient's medical condition, the treatment of a medical condition, any information which I may acquire in locker rooms, athletic training facilities, physician's offices or otherwise which is considered to be non-public information. The unique opportunity that I have to engage in clinical education as a student will be jeopardized if I violate this confidentiality, may irrevocably destroy the rapport I establish with athletes, patients, coaches, and physicians, and may result in my immediate dismissal from my clinical education assignment, the athletic training program, and/or Ball State University. I also understand that I represent the Ball State University Athletic Training Program at all times, and, as a result, I will conduct myself in a professional manner at all times. I understand that if I fail to abide by this professional conduct statement and the statutes included in the *NATA Code of Ethics* and the *BOC Standards of Professional Practice*, I will incur consequences for my actions and accept that penalty.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Appendix B

Ball State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Technical Standards

I. Overview

The MS in Athletic Training Program at Ball State University is a rigorous and intense 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. The technical standards set forth by the Athletic Training Program 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 (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]).

II. Admission/Retention Requirements

The following abilities and expectations must be satisfied by all students admitted to the Athletic Training Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation; the student will not be admitted into or retained in the program. Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee students eligibility for the Board of Certification exam.

Candidates for admission and retention in the Athletic Training Program must demonstrate:

- A. The mental capacity to assimilate, analyze, synthesize, integrate concepts and problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm.
- B. 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 treatment of patients.
- C. The ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.
- D. The ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately.
- E. The capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
- F. The perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the Athletic Training Program as outlined and sequenced.
- G. Flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
- H. Effective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

III. Student and Health Care Provider Verification

Candidates for selection to the Athletic Training Program will be required to verify they understand these technical standards. If a student or the program later identifies actual or potential mental, psychological, or physical difficulties in meeting the standards established for the program, the student, with assistance from the office of Disability Services, will use this information to determine if the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation; this review will take into account whether accommodation would

jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all course work and clinical education experiences deemed essential to graduation. The student must inform the program director of any changes in health status which may impact the ability to meet the technical standards.

IV. Certification

At the time of formal application to the professional phase of the program, the student will read and sign the following statement of understanding:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards listed above (section II) and recognize that they must be satisfied in this education program. If I need an adaptation or accommodation for this program based on a disability, I will make an appointment with the office of Disability Services for review of that request.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Applicant Name (Printed)

Physician Verification:

The applicant can meet the general intent (e.g., orientation, clear speech, intact memory, and ability to reach heights ranging from the head of someone sitting down to the floor for purposes of examining a patient) of the technical standards, with or without accommodations:

Signature of Physician

Date

Physician Name (Printed)

Appendix C
National Athletic Trainers' Association
Code of Ethics
(September 28, 2005, Revised 2018)

PREAMBLE

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Code of Ethics states the principles of ethical behavior that should be followed in the practice of athletic training. It is intended to establish and maintain high standards and professionalism for the athletic training profession. The principles do not cover every situation encountered by the practicing athletic trainer, but are representative of the spirit with which athletic trainers should make decisions. The principles are written generally; the circumstances of a situation will determine the interpretation and application of a given principle and of the Code as a whole. When a conflict exists between the Code and the law, the law prevails.

1. Members Shall Practice with Compassion, Respecting the Rights, Well-being, and Dignity of Others
 - 1.1 Members shall render quality patient care regardless of the patient's race, religion, age, sex, ethnic or national origin, disability, health status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
 - 1.2 Member's duty to the patient is the first concern, and therefore members are obligated to place the well-being and long-term well-being of their patient above other groups and their own self-interest, to provide competent care in all decisions, and advocate for the best medical interest and safety of their patient at all times as delineated by professional statements and best practices
 - 1.3 Members shall preserve the confidentiality of privileged information and shall not release or otherwise publish in any form, including social media, such information to a third party not involved in the patient's care without a release unless required by law.

2. Members Shall Comply With the Laws and Regulations Governing the Practice of Athletic Training, National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Membership Standards, and the NATA Code of Ethics
 - 2.1 Members shall comply with applicable local, state, federal laws, and any state athletic training practice acts.
 - 2.2 Members shall understand and uphold all NATA Standards and the Code of Ethics.
 - 2.3 Members shall refrain from, and report illegal or unethical practices related to athletic training.
 - 2.4 Members shall cooperate in ethics investigations by the NATA, state professional licensing/regulatory boards, or other professional agencies governing the athletic training profession. Failure to fully cooperate in an ethics investigation is an ethical violation.
 - 2.5 Members must not file, or encourage others to file, a frivolous ethics complaint with any organization or entity governing the athletic training profession such that the complaint is unfounded or willfully ignore facts that would disprove the allegation(s) in the complaint.
 - 2.6 Members shall refrain from substance and alcohol abuse. For any member involved in an ethics proceeding with NATA and who, as part of that proceeding is seeking rehabilitation for substance or alcohol dependency, documentation of the completion of rehabilitation must be provided to the NATA Committee on Professional Ethics as a requisite to complete a NATA membership reinstatement or suspension process.

3. Members Shall Maintain and Promote High Standards in Their Provision of Services
 - 3.1 Members shall not misrepresent, either directly or indirectly, their skills, training, professional credentials, identity, or services.
 - 3.2 Members shall provide only those services for which they are qualified through education or experience and which are allowed by the applicable state athletic training practice acts and other applicable regulations for athletic trainers.
 - 3.3 Members shall provide services, make referrals, and seek compensation only for those services that are necessary and are in the best interest of the patient as delineated by professional statements and best practices.

- 3.4 Members shall recognize the need for continuing education and participate in educational activities that enhance their skills and knowledge and shall complete such educational requirements necessary to continue to qualify as athletic trainers under the applicable state athletic training practice acts.
 - 3.5 Members shall educate those whom they supervise in the practice of athletic training about the Code of Ethics and stress the importance of adherence.
 - 3.6 Members who are researchers or educators must maintain and promote ethical conduct in research and educational activities.
4. Members Shall Not Engage in Conduct That Could Be Construed as a Conflict of Interest, Reflects Negatively on the Athletic Training Profession, or Jeopardizes a Patient's Health and Well-Being.
 - 4.1 Members should conduct themselves personally and professionally in a manner that does not compromise their professional responsibilities or the practice of athletic training.
 - 4.2 All NATA members, whether current or past, shall not use the NATA logo or AT logo in the endorsement of products or services, or exploit their affiliation with the NATA in a manner that reflects badly upon the profession.
 - 4.3 Members shall not place financial gain above the patient's well-being and shall not participate in any arrangement that exploits the patient.
 - 4.4 Members shall not, through direct or indirect means, use information obtained in the course of the practice of athletic training to try and influence the score or outcome of an athletic event, or attempt to induce financial gain through gambling.
 - 4.5 Members shall not provide or publish false or misleading information, photography, or any other communications in any media format, including on any social media platform, related to athletic training that negatively reflects the profession, other members of the NATA, NATA officers, and the NATA office.

Appendix D

Board of Certification

Standards of Professional Practice

(Version 3.2 Implemented January 2019)

INTRODUCTION

The BOC Standards of Professional Practice is reviewed by the Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) Standards Committee and recommendations are provided to the BOC Board of Directors. The BOC Standards Committee is comprised of 5 Athletic Trainer members and 1 Public member. The BOC Board of Directors approves the final document. The BOC Board of Directors includes 6 Athletic Trainer Directors, 1 Physician Director, 1 Public Director and 1 Corporate/Educational Director.

The BOC certifies Athletic Trainers (ATs) and identifies, for the public, quality healthcare professionals through a system of certification, adjudication, standards of practice and continuing competency programs. ATs are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians to optimize activity and participation of patients and clients. Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations and disabilities.

The BOC is the only accredited certification program for Athletic Trainers in the United States. Every 5 years, the BOC must undergo review and re-accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The NCCA is the accreditation body of the Institute of Credentialing Excellence.

The *BOC Standards of Professional Practice* consists of two sections:

- I. Practice Standards
- II. Code of Professional Responsibility

I. PRACTICE STANDARDS

Preamble

The primary purpose of the Practice Standards is to establish essential duties and obligations imposed by virtue of holding the ATC® credential. Compliance with the Practice Standards is mandatory.

The BOC does not express an opinion on the competence or warrant job performance of credential holders; however, every Athletic Trainer and applicant must agree to comply with the Practice Standards at all times.

Standard 1: Direction

The Athletic Trainer renders service or treatment under the direction of, or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their training and the state's statutes, rules and regulations.

Standard 2: Prevention

The Athletic Trainer implements measures to prevent and/or mitigate injury, illness and long term disability.

Standard 3: Immediate Care

The Athletic Trainer provides care procedures used in acute and/or emergency situations, independent of setting.

Standard 4: Examination, Assessment and Diagnosis

The Athletic Trainer utilizes patient history and appropriate physical examination procedures to determine the patient's impairments, diagnosis, level of function and disposition.

Standard 5: Therapeutic Intervention

The Athletic Trainer determines appropriate treatment, rehabilitation and/or reconditioning strategies. Intervention program objectives include long and short-term goals and an appraisal of those which the patient can realistically be expected to achieve from the program. Appropriate patient-centered outcomes assessments are utilized to document efficacy of interventions.

Standard 6: Program Discontinuation

The Athletic Trainer may recommend discontinuation of the intervention program at such time the patient has received optimal benefit of the program. A final assessment of the patients' status is included in the discharge note.

Standard 7: Organization and Administration

The Athletic Trainer documents all procedures and services in accordance with local, state and federal laws, rules and guidelines.

II. CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Preamble

The Code of Professional Responsibility (Code) mandates that BOC credential holders and applicants act in a professionally responsible manner in all athletic training services and activities. The BOC requires all Athletic Trainers and applicants to comply with the Code. The BOC may discipline, revoke or take other action with regard to the application or certification of an individual that does not adhere to the Code. The Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines and Procedures may be accessed via the BOC website, www.bocatc.org.

Code 1: Patient Care Responsibilities

The Athletic Trainer or applicant:

- 1.1 Renders quality patient care regardless of the patient's age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic protected by law
- 1.2 Protects the patient from undue harm and acts always in the patient's best interests and is an advocate for the patient's welfare, including taking appropriate action to protect patients from healthcare providers or athletic training students who are, impaired or engaged in illegal or unethical practice
- 1.3 Demonstrates sound clinical judgment that is based upon current knowledge, evidence-based guidelines and the thoughtful and safe application of resources, treatments and therapies
- 1.4 Communicates effectively and truthfully with patients and other persons involved in the patient's program, while maintaining privacy and confidentiality of patient information in accordance with applicable law
 - 1.4.1 Demonstrates respect for cultural diversity and understanding of the impact of cultural and religious values
- 1.5 Develops and maintains a relationship of trust and confidence with the patient and/or the parent/guardian of a minor patient and does not exploit the relationship for personal or financial gain
- 1.6 Does not engage in intimate or sexual activity with a patient and/or the parent/guardian of a minor patient
- 1.7 Informs the patient and/or the parent/guardian of a minor patient of any risks involved in the treatment plan
 - 1.7.1 Does not make unsupported claims about the safety or efficacy of treatment

Code 2: Competency

The Athletic Trainer or applicant:

- 2.1 Engages in lifelong, professional and continuing educational activities to promote continued competence
- 2.2 Complies with the most current BOC recertification policies and requirements

Code 3: Professional Responsibility

The Athletic Trainer or applicant:

- 3.1 Practices in accordance with the most current BOC Practice Standards
- 3.2 Practices in accordance with applicable local, state and/or federal rules, requirements, regulations and/or laws related to the practice of athletic training
- 3.3 Practices in collaboration and cooperation with others involved in a patient's care when warranted; respecting the expertise and medico-legal responsibility of all parties
- 3.4 Provides athletic training services only when there is a reasonable expectation that an individual will benefit from such services
- 3.5 Does not misrepresent in any manner, either directly or indirectly, their skills, training, professional credentials, identity or services or the skills, training, credentials, identity or services of athletic training
 - 3.5.1 Provides only those services for which they are prepared and permitted to perform by applicable local, state and/or federal rules, requirements, regulations and/or laws related to the practice of athletic training
- 3.6 Does not guarantee the results of any athletic training service
- 3.7 Complies with all BOC exam eligibility requirements
- 3.8 Ensures that any information provided to the BOC in connection with exam eligibility, certification recertification or reinstatement including but not limited to, exam applications, reinstatement applications or continuing education forms, is accurate and truthful
- 3.9 Does not possess, use, copy, access, distribute or discuss certification exams, self-assessment and practice exams, score reports, answer sheets, certificates, certificant or applicant files, documents or other materials without proper authorization
- 3.10 Takes no action that leads, or may lead, to the conviction, plea of guilty or plea of nolo contendere (no contest) to any felony or to a misdemeanor related to public health, patient care, athletics or education; this includes, but is not limited to: rape; sexual abuse or misconduct; actual or threatened use of violence; the prohibited sale or distribution of controlled substances, or the possession with intent to distribute controlled substances; or improper influence of the outcome or score of an athletic contest or event
- 3.11 Reports any suspected or known violation of applicable local, state and/or federal rules, requirements, regulations and/or laws by him/herself and/or by another Athletic Trainer that is related to the practice of athletic training
- 3.12 Reports any criminal convictions (with the exception of misdemeanor traffic offenses or traffic ordinance violations that do not involve the use of alcohol or drugs) and/or professional suspension, discipline or sanction received by him/herself or by another Athletic Trainer that is related to athletic training
- 3.13 Cooperates with BOC investigations into alleged illegal or unethical activities. Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing candid, honest and timely responses to requests for information
- 3.14 Complies with all confidentiality and disclosure requirements of the BOC and existing law
- 3.15 Does not endorse or advertise products or services with the use of, or by reference to, the BOC name without proper authorization
- 3.16 Complies with all conditions and requirements arising from certification restrictions or disciplinary actions taken by the BOC, including, but not limited to, conditions and requirements contained in decision letters and consent agreements entered into pursuant to Section 4 of the *BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Guidelines and Procedures*.
- 3.17 Fulfills financial obligations for all BOC billable goods and services provided.

Code 4: Research

The Athletic Trainer or applicant who engages in research:

- 4.1 Conducts research according to accepted ethical research and reporting standards established by public law, institutional procedures and/or the health professions
- 4.2 Protects the human rights and well-being of research participants
- 4.3 Conducts research activities intended to improve knowledge, practice, education, outcomes and/or public policy relative to the organization and administration of health systems and/or healthcare delivery

Code 5: Social Responsibility

The Athletic Trainer or applicant:

- 5.1 Strives to serve the profession and the community in a manner that benefits society at large
- 5.2 Advocates for appropriate health care to address societal health needs and goals

Code 6: Business Practices

The Athletic Trainer or applicant:

- 6.1 Does not participate in deceptive or fraudulent business practices
- 6.2 Seeks remuneration only for those services rendered or supervised by an AT; does not charge for services not rendered
 - 6.2.1 Provides documentation to support recorded charges
 - 6.2.2 Ensures all fees are commensurate with services rendered
- 6.3 Maintains adequate and customary professional liability insurance
- 6.4 Acknowledges and mitigates conflicts of interest

Appendix E

INFORMED CONSENT, ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS, AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY (BALL STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY - ATHLETIC TRAINING)

Clinical Experience Overview

I, _____, affirm that I have read the Ball State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Handbook and understand the nature of athletic training clinical experiences involving engagement in on-site, in-person activities, as well as remote telemedicine encounters within the umbrella of the athletic training or related professional field.

I understand that Ball State maintains affiliation agreements with organizations/agencies to allow athletic training students to gain clinical education experiences. I further understand that these agreements require that Ball State and its students maintain compliance with site policies, such as the NATA Code of Ethics and BOC Standards of Practice, and certain health requirements such as immunization requirements, drug screens, and criminal background check requirements.

I acknowledge that engaging in clinical experiences may require a degree of skill and knowledge different from other activities and that I have unique responsibilities as a participant in such experience(s). I acknowledge that the Ball State Master of Science in Athletic Training Program has made itself available to more fully explain to me the nature of clinical experiences and the inherent risks, hazards, and dangers associated therewith.

My initials next to each of the following items and my signature on this document signify that: (i) I have read and understand each item; (ii) any questions I may have had have been answered to my satisfaction; and (iii) I will abide by all policies and procedures of the School of Kinesiology and the clinical site at all times while I am enrolled in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program.

Professionalism

_____ I understand I must follow all policies and procedures established by Ball State University and the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program. These policies include, but are not limited to, policies set forth in course syllabi, the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Handbook, the Ball State University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, NATA Code of Ethics, and the BOC Standards of Practice.

_____ I understand that when I participate in a clinical experience, I represent the School of Kinesiology and Ball State University and will demonstrate professionalism at all times.

_____ I agree to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of patients and clients, including, without limitation, abiding by all requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and regulations promulgated thereunder, and abiding by the privacy and security policies of the internship site at which I am assigned. I understand that this precludes, among other things, discussing, messaging, emailing, posting photos, or in any way communicating or sharing information with anyone on any social networking site or otherwise, relating to any clinical experiences in which I participate.

_____ I understand I will be required to provide my own transportation to and from the clinical sites. I understand that it is unlikely I will be compensated for engaging in the clinical experience, and further understand that I will be responsible for paying for parking, meals, and other expenses at the site.

Acknowledgement of Risk (Health and Safety)

_____ I acknowledge that there are certain risks inherent in my participation in the clinical experience, including, but not limited to, risks arising from: (i) driving to and from the clinical site, or while in the course of clinical experience; (ii) unpredictable or violent behavior of certain patient populations served by the clinical experience site; and (iii) exposure to infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, bacteria, airborne pathogens, viruses (e.g., COVID-19), and hepatitis, HIV or other bloodborne pathogens.

_____ I acknowledge that all risks cannot be prevented and could result in illness and/or bodily injury, up to and including death, and I agree to assume those risks. I agree that it is my responsibility to understand and follow the clinical site's policies and procedures designed to identify and control risks, including safety and security procedures and bloodborne pathogen policies, and to obtain any immunizations which the clinical site may recommend or require. I represent that I am otherwise capable, with or without accommodation, to participate in a clinical experience.

_____ Should I require emergency medical treatment as a result of accident or illness arising during the clinical experience, I consent to such treatment. I acknowledge that Ball State University does not provide health or accident insurance for clinical experience participants, and I agree to be financially responsible for any medical bills incurred as a result of emergency or other medical treatments.

_____ I understand that the School of Kinesiology requires that I inform the Athletic Training Program Director or Clinical Education Coordinator of any medical condition I have that could impact my ability to perform the requirements of a clinical experience. I have been informed and understand that certain health conditions may increase my health risk in relation to my involvement with patients who have bacterial and viral diseases. I understand that some vaccinations are contraindicated or have decreased effectiveness in immunosuppressed conditions. I agree to seek sound medical advice in connection with any changes in my health status.

_____ I agree to inform the School of Kinesiology of any medical condition or learning disability which may result in my need for course adaptations or accommodations, and I further agree to cooperate fully with the accommodation review process through the Office of Disability Services.

_____ I certify that I will follow safe practices as set by: (i) applicable local, state and federal governments; (ii) Ball State University; (iii) the School of Kinesiology; and (iv) the clinical experience site.

_____ I acknowledge that participation in the clinical experience site is voluntary, no one is forcing me to participate at such site, and I elect to participate at such site in spite of and with full knowledge of the inherent risks. I understand that in the event I believe continued participation at a clinical experience site poses a risk to my health and/or safety, I may cease participation at such site. I further understand, however, that a decision to terminate participation in a clinical experience may delay my progression in the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program, and potentially delay my graduation.

_____ I understand I am not automatically enrolled in any health insurance plan by reason of being enrolled as a student at Ball State. I further understand working in a clinical experience setting may expose me to a risk of injury in connection

with patient care and being in the immediate vicinity of potentially ill patients. I further understand that costs associated with any incident at a clinical experience site shall be and remain my responsibility.

_____ I understand that Ball State provides professional liability insurance coverage while I am an enrolled student engaged in clinical experiences which are part of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program. I further understand that such insurance covers students only in their capacity as students within the School of Kinesiology, and does not cover students during personal work, volunteer work outside of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program, self-employment, or other activities outside of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program.

Health Clearance and Criminal Background Checks

_____ I understand that I must submit immunizations required by the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program prior to participating in clinical experiences. I further understand that, as evidence that I have had immunizations, I must submit documentation as required by the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program by any deadline established by the clinical experience coordinator.

_____ I understand that I must submit to any physical exams and immunizations required by the clinical experience site prior to participating in the clinical experience. I further understand that, as evidence that I have had the physical exam and immunizations, I must submit documentation as required by the clinical experience site by any deadline established by the clinical experience site.

_____ I understand that I must submit to and pay all fees and costs related to any state and federal criminal background checks and drug screenings that the School of Kinesiology and/or clinical experience site requires annually or otherwise. I understand that unsatisfactory results from any required criminal history check or drug screening may result in dismissal or suspension from Ball State or failure to be approved for required clinical experiences, and as such may result in my inability to progress through the Athletic Training Program.

_____ I understand and agree that a copy of positive results of a drug screen may be shared with the appropriate School of Kinesiology personnel as well as the following Ball State University offices: Admissions Office, Student Rights and Community Standards, and Executive Director University Compliance. I understand the results may also be shared with the appropriate representatives of any clinical experience site to which I am assigned.

_____ I understand that if my name is on the Indiana Sex and Violent Offender Directory or any other State or National Sex and/or Violent Offender Directory, or if I am required to register on any State or National Sex and/or Violent Offender Directory, the School of Kinesiology may deny registration in the clinical experience course.

_____ I understand that clinical experience sites may require documentation from me or Ball State University that: (i) provides proof that I have completed required health clearance checks or background checks referenced above; (ii) provides information regarding any disciplinary case that may be initiated against me by Ball State University; (iii) includes

my personally identifiable information, such as date of birth, Social Security number, address, etc.; and/or (iv) includes health records or other records that are a requirement for clinical experience assignment and submission to third-party vendors. I understand that such records may be "Education Records" under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and, with that understanding, specifically agree to allow Ball State University to provide to any clinical experience site at which I am assigned (or a candidate to be assigned) any and all such information and documentation then in the possession of Ball State.

_____ I release Ball State University, its Board of Trustees, employees, officers, directors, and agents from any and all claims, causes of action, liability, damages, and costs in connection with or related to my participation in an internship or Ball State's release of any information as described herein. I may revoke this consent to release information at any time by providing written notice of such revocation to the School of Kinesiology. I understand that revocation of this consent may result in my ineligibility to enroll in and/or continue in any internship.

By signing or electronically signing below, I verify that: (i) I have read and understand both this document and the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program Handbook; (ii) any questions I may have had have been answered to my satisfaction; and (iii) I agree to abide by all policies and procedures of Ball State University, the Ball State Athletic Training Program, and the clinical experience site.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

Appendix F
Ball State University
Master of Science in Athletic Training Program
Infectious Disease Policy

Athletic training students have a small but real health risk during their clinical education experiences. They frequently come into contact with patients/athletes who are ill with potentially infectious diseases, and they often are required to tape or bandage wounds that present the potential for contact with blood borne pathogens. In addition, athletic training students who are ill with an infectious disease may present a health risk to patients/athletes. The Ball State University Athletic Training Program aspires to prevent disease exposure to staff, athletic training students, and patients/athletes.

Athletic training students must use universal precautions to limit the exposure to blood borne pathogens. OSHA blood borne pathogen training (or other acceptable training) for medical workers will be conducted annually for athletic training students prior to students engaging in clinical education in the fall. Institutional and program infection control policies will also be reviewed at this time.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provides specific [guidelines for reporting communicable and infectious disease](#). These guidelines are designed to provide for the uniform reporting of diseases of public health importance within the community, in order that appropriate control measures may be instituted to interrupt the transmission of disease, and will be followed by the BSU Athletic Training Program.

Athletic training students must realize that ill health care workers present some risk to the patients/athletes they treat and with whom they come in contact. To limit this risk, the following steps will be followed:

1. Hand washing and good personal hygiene techniques are two of the best measures to prevent communicable diseases. Hand washing should occur after contact with each patient. Additionally, hand washing is encouraged at all times when in contact with a patient or not. In the absence of immediate hand washing with soap and water, antibacterial hand sanitizer may be used. Hand washing with soap and water should occur as soon as possible, however.
2. If an athletic training student is ill, the student will be examined by a physician (or other licensed health care provider) of his/her choice. The physician will determine the appropriate treatment and the amount of time the student will be absent (if applicable) from clinical education experiences.
3. If it is determined that the athletic training student may have a potentially infectious disease, he/she will be asked to relate that information to their preceptor and the Clinical Education Coordinator before their next scheduled clinical education experience.
4. The Clinical Education Coordinator, in consultation with the program's Medical Director, will determine if the athletic training student requires further physician (or other related licensed health care provider) consultation/examination before he/she returns to clinical education experiences. The physician may schedule an examination, bar the athletic training student from reporting to their clinical setting, or permit the athletic training student to report back to their clinical setting.
5. Preceptors may require that an athletic training student who appears ill, be examined by either a physician (or other licensed health care provider) of the athletic training students' choosing.
6. A physician (or licensed health care provider) must examine an athletic training student who misses any clinical education experience due to infectious illness before they are allowed to resume the clinical experience.

Signature of Student

Date

Appendix G

Ball State University Master of Science in Athletic Training Program COVID-19 Policy

Athletic training students have a small but real health risk during their clinical education experiences. In addition, athletic training students who are ill with an infectious disease may present a health risk to patients/athletes. The Ball State University Athletic Training Program aspires to prevent disease exposure to staff, athletic training students, and patients/athletes.

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. **The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people.** Information from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic suggests that this virus is spreading more efficiently than influenza, but not as efficiently as measles, which is highly contagious. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus. We are still learning about how the virus spreads and the severity of illness it causes. In general, **the more closely a person interacts with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.**

Everyone Should:

Wash your hands often

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your cloth face covering
 - After changing a diaper
 - After caring for someone sick
 - After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
 - [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arms' length\) from other people.](#)
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.](#)

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a [cloth face cover](#) in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Always cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect [frequently touched surfaces](#) daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them.** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **Then, use a household disinfectant.** Most common [EPA-registered household](#) will work.

Monitor Your Health Daily

- **Be alert for symptoms.** Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or [other symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- **Take your temperature** if symptoms develop.
 - Students who need a thermometer to complete a daily check will be able to check one out from the Athletic Training program

- Take your temperature daily prior to coming to campus or engaging in clinical education
- Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.

If You Don't Feel Well

If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms, you might have COVID-19. Most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home. If you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider. **Always call your provider prior to going to get medical care.**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, if you are sick, you should follow these steps:

- Stay home, except to get medical care. This includes not going to clinical education and class
- Separate yourself from other people
- [Monitor your symptoms](#) or use the [CDC self-check](#)
 - Seek emergency medical care immediately if:
 - You have trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
- If you are sick wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid sharing personal items

Students who experience COVID-19 symptoms (without a separate diagnosed cause, e.g. asthma, allergies, etc.) should seek immediate medical care. Students may call the Student Health Center at 765-285-8431 to [schedule an appointment](#). Students experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms should immediately inform staff to ensure that proper referrals can be made.

COVID-19 testing sites are [located throughout the State of Indiana](#), including testing sites within Delaware County.

COVID-19 testing will be subject to the same billing process as other lab testing offered through the Student Health Center.

Before Attending Class or Clinical Education

Pre-Screen: Students should take their temperature and assess symptoms **prior to them attending class or clinical education, daily**. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before the individual enters the facility.

Regular Monitoring: As long as the student doesn't have a temperature or symptoms, they should self-monitor under the university's return to campus plan.

Wear a Mask: The student is required to wear a face mask **at all times while on campus or in clinical education**. Furthermore, Face masks/shields are specifically required in the following situations:

1. When in the presence of others (indoors or outdoors) and physical distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in hallways, elevators, stairs, public spaces, and common areas;

2. When in a classroom or laboratory if physical distancing is difficult to maintain;
3. When using campus transportation (such as a shuttle bus);
4. When multiple individuals are in a University vehicle; and

Wearing a face mask/shield is not required when alone in a private office or work space, nor is it required when working behind a plexiglass barrier. This would include, for example, a student at a clinical site, completing medical documentation in a private office, by themselves, or behind a protective barrier in a classroom or laboratory setting.

Social Distance: The student should maintain 6 feet and practice social distancing as clinical education permits at the clinical site.

Disinfect and Clean spaces: Students should clean and disinfect all areas such as exam tables, chairs, exercises equipment, and therapeutic equipment routinely after use.

If You Suspect COVID-19

If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must be cleared by a physician before you can return to in person classes or clinical education and written documentation must be submitted to the clinical education coordinator. Additionally, if you are sick with COVID symptoms, but were not tested for COVID-19, you must be symptom free for a minimum of 7 days and the last 3 days must be fever free (<100F) in order to return to classes and clinical education. However, each clinical site may require more stringent guidelines for the student to follow before returning to clinical education. In those cases, the clinical education sites' policy will supersede this policy.

By signing or electronically signing below, I verify that: (i) I have read, understand and agree to abide by the recommendations in this COVID-19 Policy document and, (ii) any questions I may have had have been answered to my satisfaction. If you choose to not sign this document, you will not be allowed to participate in clinical education and possibly delay graduation from the program.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____

Appendix H

Ball State University

Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

Bloodborne Pathogen Policy and Exposure Protocol

Part I: Blood borne Pathogen Policy

The Ball State University Athletic Training Program's Bloodborne Pathogen Policy is intended to prevent transmission of bloodborne diseases within the clinical education environment. This policy is developed from and is in alignment with [Ball State University's Environmental Health and Safety Office Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan](#).

Training and education will be provided on a yearly basis for all students prior to beginning clinical or directed observation experiences. The training, as well as the guidelines/policies below, is based off of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) bloodborne pathogens standard. All students are required to utilize electronic resources (power point, video presentation) to review the material prior to taking an online quiz. Students must earn 80% or better on the quiz before engaging in clinical education experiences. Documentation of training is maintained electronically.

All students admitted into the Professional Phase of the program are required to obtain the Hepatitis B vaccination, if not already vaccinated. The University Health Center will provide, at the student's expense, Hepatitis B vaccinations. The vaccine is given by injection on three separate dates. Usually, the first two are given 1 month apart, and the third dose is administered 5 months after the second. After these three doses, the Hepatitis B vaccine is 85-95% effective in preventing Hepatitis B infection in those whom receive the vaccinations.

Be aware of the following bloodborne pathogen guidelines when engaging in clinical education:

- The most serious infections spread through blood and body fluids are Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV; the virus that causes AIDS). Hepatitis B vaccine will protect you from contracting Hepatitis B. There is no known vaccine for HCV or HIV.
- These infections are caused by exposure to blood or other body fluids.
- The most common exposure for athletic training students is treating bleeding and/or open wounds without protective barriers.
- The use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, gowns, masks, and protective eyewear, is the best way to avoid exposure to bloodborne pathogens.
- Immediately and thoroughly wash hands and other skin surfaces that are contaminated with blood, body fluids containing visible blood, or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply. Use antibacterial sanitizer if hand washing is not available.
- Clinical education sites (e.g., athletic training facilities) have various PPE and other engineering controls available for student use such as: Gloves, masks, protective eyewear, gowns, gauze pads, biohazard bags, sharps containers, biohazard containers, absorbent materials, and approved disinfectant/cleaning supplies.
- Disposable articles contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be placed in a suitable biohazard container for storage. Tables and other surfaces should be washed immediately with an appropriate disinfectant.
- All sharp objects such as scalpel blades and razor blades should be disposed of in the designated disposal containers (sharp's container/box).
- Bloodborne Pathogen Guidelines and Exposure Protocols are posted in clinical education sites (e.g., athletic training facilities) as appropriate. These procedures must be strictly followed.

Universal Precautions: Procedures for Handling Spilled Blood and Body Fluids

1. Apply disposable gloves.
2. Use paper towel or other absorbent material to absorb spill.
3. Place used towel/absorbent material in biohazard container or leak-proof plastic bag.
4. Flood area with 1:9 bleach solution, alcohol or sanitary absorbent agent, or other approved cleaning solution.
5. Clean area with paper towels, vacuum (dry or wet), or broom and dustpan.
6. Place used towel, vacuum cleaner bag, or waste in a biohazard container or a leak proof plastic bag.
7. Remove gloves properly (pull inside out).
8. Place gloves in biohazard container or biohazard bag and tie.
9. Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds or use antibacterial sanitizer if hand washing is not available.

Wound Care Procedures

1. Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds or use antibacterial sanitizer if hand washing is not available.
2. Apply gloves, inspect for rips or holes.
3. Place sterile gauze pad over wound; apply direct pressure to control bleeding.
4. Elevate wound site above heart level 5-10 minutes.
5. Clean wound with approved cleaner; use a circular outward spiral pattern to remove debris/bacteria.
6. Apply appropriate wound dressing/closure (e.g., Band-Aid, non-adherent pad, Steri-Strips). Ensure dressing is securely applied.
7. Dispose of all contaminated materials in a biohazard container.
8. Wash work surface with approved cleaner.
9. Remove gloves - pull inside out.
10. Wash hands with soap and water for 15 seconds or use antibacterial sanitizer if hand washing is not available.

Part II: Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Protocol

Upon exposure to blood borne pathogen proceed as follows:

1. Wash exposed skin with soap and water. Flush eye or other mucous membranes with water for 15 minutes. Provide immediate first aid to the area, clean and dress as necessary. Exposure incident means that blood or other potentially infectious materials made contact with:
 - a. Eye, mouth, or other mucous membrane
 - b. Non-intact skin or parenteral contact
2. Inform clinical site preceptor and complete **Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Incident Form** and/or any other necessary documentation for that clinical site.
3. Contact the Head Athletic Trainer and Clinical Education Coordinator as soon as possible but no longer than 24 hours after exposure.
 - a. The Clinical Education Coordinator must contact BSU's Environmental Health and Safety Office at 765-285-2825 either the same or next business day to report the exposure.
4. Determine (through your medical records) your Hepatitis B immunization status to take to your healthcare provider.
 - a. Each athletic training student must have the Hepatitis B vaccine, be in the process of attaining the series at the time of acceptance into the program.
 - b. Documentation of the vaccine will be on file with the Athletic Training Program.
5. Make an immediate appointment with the Student Health Center. If during the weekend, seek attention with primary care physician or an urgent care facility. Contact the Student Health Center on Monday. Blood should be tested for HBV, HCV, and HIV as soon as it is feasible through your health care provider; within 72 hours of incident is best. Your healthcare provider will then assess the need for any post-exposure treatment, and you should follow-up as requested.
 - a. Understand that your health insurance may or may not cover these expenses. However, it is for your benefit to follow through with the recommended procedures.

Ball State University
Master of Science in Athletic Training Program
Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Incident Form

Student Name: _____ Student ID#: _____ DOB: _____

Preceptor Name: _____ Employer: _____

Location of Incident: _____

Date of Incident: _____ Time of Incident: _____

Give a detailed description of how the incident occurred. _____

Name of source individual (if permission granted; if permission not granted or not known, write "unknown"):

Device(s) being used during the incident: _____

Personal protective equipment used during the incident: _____

Actions taken (first aid, clean-up, reporting, etc.): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

This report is to be kept in the student's medical record at the Ball State University Student Health Center. A copy may be given to student or his/her department as requested and consent given.

Appendix I

Ball State University

Master of Science in Athletic Training Program

Therapeutic Equipment Safety Policy

The Ball State University Athletic Training Program requires that therapeutic equipment at all clinical sites is inspected, calibrated, and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The purpose of this policy is to safeguard the health of the patient and the safety of the student and clinician. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the discontinuation of the site for clinical experiences.

Maintenance of Therapeutic Equipment

1. A qualified technician will annually inspect and calibrate applicable therapeutic equipment at all clinical sites. This includes all sites at Ball State University and all off-campus clinical sites where athletic training students are placed.
 - a. All pieces of therapeutic equipment (e.g. hydrocollator, ice machine, paraffin bath, exercise bike) that have electrical power should be inspected annually for safety.
 - b. All therapeutic modalities that have electrical power and are used to administer specific dosage-based treatment (e.g. ultrasound, electrical muscle stimulation) should be inspected for safety, as well as calibrated.
 - c. Sites accredited by the Joint Commission, Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, or other recognized external accrediting agencies are exempt from this requirement but are expected to follow the policies of those agencies.
2. The preceptor(s)/staff at each clinical site must arrange inspection and calibration for the therapeutic equipment.
3. The preceptor(s)/staff at each clinical site must arrange payment (if required) for the inspection and calibration. Ball State University is not responsible for payment or reimbursement for inspection and calibration at clinical sites.
4. Verification of inspection and calibration will be maintained as follows:
 - a. Hard or electronic copies of inspection and calibration records by the preceptor(s) at each clinical site; the method may be determined by the site but the information must be readily accessible at any time by the preceptor(s) for presentation to the Clinical Education Coordinator/Athletic Training Program.
 - b. Visible notification (e.g., sticker, signage) on applicable therapeutic equipment is ideal but not required.
5. The preceptor(s) at each clinical site are also responsible for ongoing maintenance of therapeutic equipment. Any equipment that appears to be unsafe for patient or clinician use shall not be used and shall be clearly marked as not for use until it can be properly inspected and calibrated.
6. The Clinical Education Coordinator will verify regular inspection and calibration of all applicable therapeutic equipment at each clinical site during routine site visits and/or prior to placement of athletic training students at a site.

Procedures for Safe Use of Therapeutic Equipment by Athletic Training Students

1. Athletic training students must be instructed in and must demonstrate competence in the use of specific therapeutic equipment before using said specific therapeutic equipment in the treatment or care of any patient.
 - a. Instruction and evaluation shall occur in the classroom/laboratory setting.
 - b. If a learning opportunity arises where the student may gain experience with therapeutic equipment but formal classroom/laboratory instruction has not yet taken place, the preceptor may instruct the student on the knowledge and skills associated with the therapeutic equipment so that the student may benefit from that situation.
2. Athletic training students will only use therapeutic equipment while under direct supervision of a preceptor.

3. Athletic training students will only apply therapeutic equipment according to manufacturer guidelines or applicable federal, state, and local laws, and according to accepted clinical practice standards.