Technical Standards Form

Common Technical Standards for the Athletic Training Program

The following guidelines outline the essential functions of an athletic trainer as described by the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) educational knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA’s), the Board of Certification (BOC) Role Delineation Study, and also meet the expectations of the program’s accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education-CAATE). Candidates for the Bachelor’s Degree in Athletic Training awarded by the University of West Florida are required to meet these technical standards as part of the admission process and must continue to meet these standards for program retention. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without “reasonable accommodation” (according to the Americans with Disabilities Act), the student will not be admitted into the program or be permitted to continue in the program. Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification exam. Contact Student Accessibility Resources (phone #850.474.2387, or uwf.edu/sar) for information on how to request reasonable accommodations for this program.

An athletic training candidate must have aptitude, abilities, and skills in the following five areas:

**Observation**

A candidate should be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of the sense of vision and other sensory modalities. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.

**Communication**

A candidate should be able to speak, to hear and to observe patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications. A candidate must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients. Communication includes not only speech, but also reading and writing skills. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written form with all members of the health care team.

**Motor Coordination or Function**

Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. A candidate should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients including cardiopulmonary resuscitation, application of pressure to stop bleeding, application of bandages for wound care, patient transport, and manual therapies. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the sense of touch and vision.

**Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities**

These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Problem solving, a critical skill demanded of athletic trainers, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the candidate should be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

**Behavioral and Social Attributes**

Candidates must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the physical assessment and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients, coaches, medical professionals, and family members. Empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admission and educational processes.

Candidates must have somatic sensation and functional use of the senses of vision and hearing. Candidates’ diagnostic skills will also be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, they must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch pain and temperature) and sufficient proprioceptive sense (position pressure, movement, stereognosis and vibratory) and sufficient
motor function to permit them to carry out the activities described in the section above. They must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate all information received by whatever sense(s) employed, and they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze and synthesize data.

The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to and matriculating through the UWF Athletic Training Program:

1. Students must possess the mental capacity (without assistance from an intermediary) to integrate, synthesize, analyze, and problem solve in order to effectively examine and treat patients with injuries and illnesses. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.

2. Students must possess sufficient cognitive, postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, ambulation, and coordination to perform appropriate patient examinations and interventions using accepted techniques, as well as accurately, safely, and efficiently use equipment and materials for such purposes. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.

3. Students must annually pass examinations by external entities such as CPR for the Professional Rescuer (or similar certification) and OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Training.

4. Students must possess the ability to communicate (orally and in writing) effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate/document judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.

5. Students must be able to document appropriate vaccinations applicable to healthcare professionals and maintain appropriate personal hygiene conducive to the classroom and clinical setting.

6. Students must have the capacity to maintain composure, exercise good judgment, and perform within the standard of care for a student of the same educational level during periods of high stress.

Applicants to the Athletic Training Program are required to verify that they understand and can meet the above technical standards or that they believed that, with certain accommodations, they could meet these technical standards.

Contact Student Accessibility Resources (phone #850.474.2387, or uwf.edu/sar) for information on how to request reasonable accommodations for this program. Reasonable accommodations cannot be a fundamental alteration to the essential components of the course or program or jeopardize clinician/patient safety for coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.
READ AND SIGN ONLY ONE STATEMENT BELOW:

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards without accommodation. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards I will not be admitted into the program.

__________________________________________  ____________
Signature of Applicant                          Date

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards of selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact Student Accessibility Resources (phone #850.474.2387, or uwf.edu/sar) to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the program.

__________________________________________  ____________
Signature of Applicant                          Date

This Technical Standards document has been reviewed and approved by the Athletic Training Education Committee and the MSH Department Chair.