

Graduates of the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program at the University of Maine will be prepared to sit for the initial Board of Certification (BOC) exam, and once completed to achieve state licensure wherever they choose to practice. By the end of their MSAT program of study, students will have the skills and knowledge necessary to uphold the BOC's practice standards and code of professional responsibility for certified athletic trainers:

### PRACTICE STANDARDS

#### Standard 1: Direction

Athletic Trainers render 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

Athletic Trainers implement measures to prevent and/or mitigate injury, illness and long-term disability.

#### Standard 3: Immediate Care

Athletic Trainers provide care procedures used in acute and/or emergency situations, independent of setting.

#### Standard 4: Examination, Assessment and Diagnosis

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

#### Standard 5: Therapeutic Intervention

Athletic Trainers determine 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 outcome assessments are utilized to document efficacy of interventions.

#### Standard 6: Program Discontinuation

Athletic Trainers 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

Athletic Trainers document all procedures and services in accordance with local, state and federal laws, rules and guidelines.

## CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Code 1: Patient Care Responsibilities

- 1.1 Renders quality patient care regardless of the patient's age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic protected by law.
- 1.2 Protects the patient from undue harm and acts always in the patient's best interest and is an advocate for the patient's welfare, including taking appropriate action to protect patients from health care 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.
- 1.8 Does not practice athletic training, or otherwise render patient care, while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or any other substance that may or is likely to impair the Athletic Trainer's ability to render quality, skilled care to the patient.

### Code 2: Competency

- 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

- 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 including, without limitation, applicable state licensing and ethical requirements.
- 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 committed by themselves and/or by another Athletic Trainer that is related to the practice of athletic training and/or that may impact the Athletic Trainer's ability to practice athletic training in accordance with "BOC Standards of Professional Practice."

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 themselves or by another Athletic Trainer that is related to athletic training.

3.13 Complies with applicable local, state and/or federal rules, requirements, regulations and/or laws related to mandatory reporting when identified as a "mandatory reporter" or "responsible employee."

3.14 Cooperates with BOC investigations into alleged illegal and/or unethical activities and any alleged violation(s) of a "BOC Standard of Professional Practice." Cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing candid, honest and timely responses to requests for information and/or documentation.

3.15 Complies with all confidentiality and disclosure requirements of the BOC and existing law.

3.16 Does not endorse or advertise products or services with the use of, or by reference to, the BOC name without proper authorization.

#### Code 4: 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 health care delivery.

#### Code 5: Social Responsibility

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

6.1 Does not participate in deceptive or fraudulent business practices.

6.2 Seeks remuneration only for those services rendered or supervised by an Athletic Trainer; 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.