



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Athletic Training Program

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS**

The Athletic Training (AT) Program at The University of Alabama is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on students enrolled in the professional 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 patients. The technical standards set forth by the AT Program establish the essential qualifications considered necessary for professional program students to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level certified athletic trainer. These standards are also necessary for meeting the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]). All students admitted to the AT Professional Program must meet the following abilities and expectations. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted or retained in the professional AT Program.

Compliance with the AT Program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the BOC certification examination.

Candidates for selection to the AT Professional Program must demonstrate:

1. the ability 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.
2. the ability to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to observe, position, lift and carry or otherwise transport patients. Some tasks require the ability to lift the equivalent of an adult human's body weight and students must also possess sufficient physical stamina to complete long periods of standing, sitting and moving in a variety of clinical settings. Students must also be able to accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients.
3. the ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds; this includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate judgements and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice.

4. the ability to record physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately.
5. the ability to maintain composure and continue to exercise good judgment and to function appropriately during periods of high stress.
6. the perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the AT Program as outlined and sequenced.
7. flexibility and the ability to adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical settings.
8. affective skills and appropriate demeanor and rapport that relate to professional education and quality patient care.

Candidates for selection to and retention in the AT Program will be required to verify they understand and meet these technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet the standards.

The Office of Disability Services will review the documentation of a student who states he/she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodation and confirm that the stated condition substantially limits the student.

If a student states he/she can meet the technical standards with accommodation, then the University will determine whether it agrees that the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodation. This includes a review of whether the accommodations requested are reasonable, taking into account whether accommodation would jeopardize clinician/patient safety, or the educational process of the student or the institution, including all coursework, clinical experiences and internships deemed essential to graduation.

**SIGN & DATE ONE OF THE STATEMENTS BELOW**

**Statement For Students Not Requesting Accommodations**

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection into and retention in the Athletic Training Professional Program 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 AT Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Alternative Statement For Students Requesting Accommodations**

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection into and retention in the Athletic Training Professional Program above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact the Office of Disability Services 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 or retained in the AT Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date