



## **Technical Standards of the Athletic Training Program**

The Athletic Training Program (ATP) at Eastern Washington 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]).

### **ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

All students must meet the following essential functions, for admission to, promotion through, and graduation from the ATP:

1. Demonstrate the mental capacity to analyze, synthesize and integrate concepts and to problem solve to formulate assessment and therapeutic judgments and to be able to distinguish deviations from the norm;
2. Demonstrate sufficient postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, and coordination to perform appropriate physical examinations using accepted techniques;
3. Demonstrate accurately, safely and efficiently use equipment and materials during the assessment and treatment of patients;
4. Demonstrate 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 judgments and treatment information effectively).
5. Be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice; the ability to record the physical examination results and a treatment plan clearly and accurately;
6. Have the capacity to maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress;
7. Possess the perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the athletic training education program as outlined and sequenced;
8. Have the flexibility and the ability to adjust to the changing environment in the clinical setting;
9. Maintain a professional appearance and have the ability to be timely and dependable;
10. Be able to tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads and function effectively under stress;
11. Be able to successfully demonstrate competence of clinical skills both in the classroom and in clinical settings; and,
12. Possess the affective skills and appropriate demeanor expected in professional education and quality patient care.

All candidates for selection to the athletic training program will be required to verify they understand and meet these essential functions or, if candidates have disabilities, that they will be able to meet these standards with a reasonable accommodation. It is important to note that the essential functions for the academic portion of a professional program are different than the essential functions for a clinical practicum or professional testing. The ability to perform certain skills within a specified time frame is part of what makes up an essential function of the profession. As a result, requests for accommodations such as extended time will be assessed differentially in a clinical practicum or professional skills test than in an academic setting.

If a student needs a reasonable accommodation, it is the student's responsibility to contact Disability Support Services (DSS). Determining what is a reasonable accommodation in the ATP is an interactive process between the student, the director of ATP, and DSS. Once an accommodation is approved, it will be shared with the director of ATP and with all faculty/staff from whom the student takes a class or with whom they complete a clinical practicum, if the accommodation is relevant to the class/practicum. For more information about the reasonable accommodation process, students can consult EWU Policy 402-03 (Accommodating Persons with Disability) or contact DSS at (509) 359-6817.

In the event candidates are unable to fulfill these essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation, they may be prohibited from being admitted into, progressing in, or completing the ATP. Further, compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) for Athletic Training certification examination.

I certify that I have read and understand the essential functions for ATP, 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 or, if admitted, I may not be able to progress in the program or graduate with an athletic training degree.

Name of Applicant (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Or (Alternative statement if requesting accommodations):*

I certify that I have read and understand the essential functions for ATP, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I can meet each of these standards with certain accommodations. I will contact the Office of Disability Support Services at Eastern Washington University 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 or, if admitted, I may not be able to progress in the program or graduate with an athletic training degree.

Name of Applicant (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_