

Support Personnel (Services) in the College & University Athletic Training Department

This document will assist to clarify the role of support personnel/athletic training aides employed or volunteering in the university and college settings. An athletic training aide is an individual who is not enrolled in a CAATE accredited program. Colleges and universities, their employees, and the athletic training aide should have an understanding of the role and established guidelines of the athletic training aide. Athletic training students (ATS) in a CAATE accredited program have clear guidelines which each program should be aware of and adhere to. The CAATE accredited program guidelines will not be addressed in this document.

Athletic trainers (AT) employed in the college or university setting must comply with their state athletic training practice acts, the BOC Standards of Practice, and, if a member, the NATA Code of Ethics. Further, institutions that utilize an athletic training aide should develop and implement a job description along with policy and procedure defining the roles, responsibilities, tasks, duties, and activities that an athletic training aide may or may not engage in within the college or university setting. Appropriate personnel at each institution should review these documents to ensure that the athletic training aide or his/her supervisor does not violate any part of the state practice act, or BOC standards.

Patient safety and welfare is of utmost importance. Athletic training services should be provided only by BOC-certified or otherwise regulated personnel, or students under the direct supervision of such personnel as defined by education standards and/or state practice acts. The athletic training aide must work under the direct supervision of the AT and may not perform functions that require professional judgment or discretion in the practice of athletic training.