

Keys to Understanding the Athletic Training Profession

Key Organizations



BOC

The Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) sets the standards for the practice of athletic training. The BOC, accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), is the only certifying body for Athletic Trainers in the US.



CAATE

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) is responsible for the accreditation of professional (entry-level) athletic training educational programs.

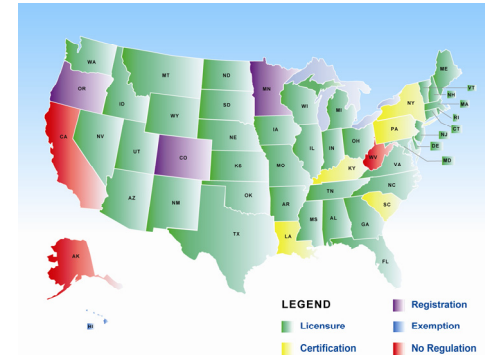


NATA

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) is the national membership organization for the profession of athletic training. The NATA enforces its *Code of Ethics* through an investigatory panel and, when appropriate, informs the BOC and/or state regulatory agency of its decisions.

State Regulatory Agencies

Currently, 47 states have some form of regulation for Athletic Trainers (i.e., licensure, certification, registration or exemption). Individuals must be regulated by the appropriate state regulatory agency prior to practicing athletic training. The BOC exam is a requirement to obtain regulation in 46 of the 47 states; however, the BOC exam is only a precursor to athletic training practice. Compliance with state regulatory requirements is mandatory and the only avenue to legal athletic training practice.



Key Components

Role Delineation Study (RD)

- ➔ The RD, published by the BOC, identifies essential knowledge and skills for the athletic training profession and serves as a blueprint for exam development. The RD validates importance, criticality and relevance to practice for both broad content areas and tasks. This document also determines minimum levels of competency for the purpose of public protection. In addition, the RD plays a role in defining the entry-level professional in regards to state regulation.
- ➔ Domains of professional practice from the *Role Delineation Study, 5th Edition*:
 - Prevention
 - Immediate Care
 - Organization and Administration
 - Clinical Evaluation and Diagnosis
 - Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reconditioning
 - Professional Responsibility

BOC Certification Exam (administered by the BOC)

- ➔ The primary function of the exam is to assess competence in the discipline of athletic training and the role of the Athletic Trainer.
- ➔ The exam requires an individual to graduate from a CAATE accredited athletic training education program in order to be eligible to take the exam.

Athletic Trainer Education

- ➔ The *NATA Competencies and Proficiencies*, published by the NATA, define the educational content of an athletic training education program accredited by the CAATE and have been deemed necessary for effective performance as an entry-level Certified Athletic Trainer.