

Clinical Experience Courses and Module Program Overview:

The Clinical Experience Course are devised such that students receive systematic instruction, practice and objective evaluation on athletic training clinical skills and proficiencies. In addition, Clinical Experience Courses allow students to gain experiences in clinically relevant settings. They document that students have developed, demonstrated, and experienced all the clinical skills and clinical education settings required of entry-level athletic trainers as defined by the 5th edition NATA Athletic Training Program Competencies. The system is modeled after Kenneth Knight's method for developing and assessing clinical skills.

Following admission into the Athletic Training Program, students will begin taking clinical experience courses. Each clinical experience class (KN 258, KN 292, KN 392, KN 393, KN 492, KN 493) is designed to be a laboratory for a previously completed theory class. The theory class and the clinical experience class are integrated with proficiency resulting as an outgrowth of the knowledge base gained in the theory class and the laboratory practice and experiences gained in the clinical course. Clinical courses must be completed over six sequential semesters (3 years).

Each clinical experience course has directed clinical experiences, clinical observations, and proficiency skills modules assigned to it. The modules are arranged so that students develop and experience simple skills first and progressively acquire and complete more complex ones, with modules being placed in the clinical course following the semester of its didactic instruction. The higher level modules also build upon each other requiring skills from previously completed modules be integrated and demonstrated for completion of the module. Students are taught and initially tested on the skill in the theory class (Teach it). They receive modular instruction and supervised practice in the clinical laboratory session (Practice it). They then complete Skill modules through self practice, peer screening, and finally proficiency approval by an Approved Clinical Preceptor (Do it). The clinical experience course provides for the students to practice these skills in natural settings, thus a defined number of supervised hours is required in each clinical courses. Over the course of the entire AT program, students obtain clinical education hours directly supervised by a Athletic Trainer. These hours progressively increase over the students 6 semesters, as students matriculate through the course sequence, learn to integrate skills and think at higher levels. A minimum average of 12 hours per week is required in KN 258 and KN 292, a minimum average of 15 hours per week in KN 392 and KN 393, and a minimum average of 18 hours per week in KN 492 and 493. The student works in conjunction with the Clinical Education Coordinator in scheduling and reporting clinical experience time.

Clinical experiences must involve direct supervision of all ATP students' activities. Unsupervised ATP skill practice is a violation of CAATE and ATP policies and procedures and is not tolerated by the ATP. Students may receive pay or compensation in the field of study as long as there is appropriate supervision, and provided the work does not interfere with their regular academic responsibilities. Academic courses take precedence over any and all clinical experience hours and activities. Every effort will be made to accommodate student's academic schedules.

Since Clinical Experiences are academic courses, they must take precedence over student work schedules. Students who work outside jobs must demonstrate concerted effort to work around assigned clinical experiences and CP's schedules and expectations. Students are expected to participate and attend all aspects of their CP's jobs, including pre and post practice coverage, practice coverage, and event coverage. This includes during the afternoons, evenings, weekends, early mornings, and possibly even when school is not in

session. Students who do not participate in all aspects of the clinical experience or who fail to demonstrate to their CP that Athletic Training is a priority will have points reduced from their clinical modules. The AEP and its faculty and clinical preceptors recognize that some students may need to work, and will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the student schedule. However, ultimately, it is the student's responsibility to arrange their schedule to fit with the CP's work setting.

Besides the modules, each clinical course also has practical and written mid-term and final examinations. These exams are administered by the course instructor and involve student demonstration of clinical skills and proficiency as well as written portions. These exams may draw material and questions from current or any previous semester's modules. Combined, these facets of the system establish a plan for each student's clinical experience, provide a structure for skill acquisition and practice, and allow for and encourage learning and evaluation over time.