

Athletic Training Education Program Writing Plan

The purpose of this document is to outline expectations for Writing Emphasis courses within the athletic training education program. It identifies what the profession of athletic training values in written documentation and in addition what our department values in effective writing. This will be demonstrated in the types of skills we expect our students to develop, and the types of assignments we tend to use in meeting these desired outcomes.

Valued Skills for Written Communication

- Proper use of medical terminology
- Legal Documentation Standards
- Use of concise, direct prose
- Awareness of audience & confidentiality
- Use of evidence and data to support central claims
- Professional appearance and language
- Accuracy and precision, including clear and appropriate references

Writing in our discipline requires the ability to clearly convey information to a wide variety of audiences, youth, parents, physicians, emergency response personnel, etc. Our students need to be able to communicate clearly with all of them. To do so, we believe it is essential that their written documents are professional, communicative, engaging, and authoritative.

Skill Development

We strongly believe that writing is a process. Our students must be able to read, synthesize, and clearly articulate a summary. To do so, we utilize a number of techniques in our classes to teach students these skills. Students enrolled in Writing Emphasis courses within the athletic training Education Program will routinely engage in the following activities to improve their writing:

- Revision and proofreading
- Research and writing
- Critical reading of evidence based research materials
- Presenting effective arguments and supporting them with evidence
- Reading examples of good and bad writing to differentiate
- Multiple writing assignments for a variety of audiences and situations
- Peer review writing assignments
- Exercises that focus on learning to give and receive feedback from their peers
- Assignments requiring use of text and graphics

Types of Resources and Writing Projects

We also expect that to be effective professional written communicator's in athletic training our students must be exposed to numerous forms of professional communication. The following resources are used in and out of classes to create highly effective written communication.

- National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) professional reports
- NATA Position Statements
- Professional Journals
 - NATA Journal of Athletic Training (Quarterly)
 - NATA News (Monthly)
 - Sports Health, A Multidisciplinary Approach (Quarterly)
- Medical Terminology in a Flash, Finnegan & Eagle
- Clinical Skills Documentation Guide
- Professional Standards & Code of Ethics PowerPoints

The following projects, assignments, writing opportunities are used within the athletic training education Writing Emphasis courses to create highly effective written communication skills.

- Academic papers
- Reflective Journals (analysis of clinical experiences and student preceptor interactions)
- Resume' and Cover letter writing and revision
- Summary Reports
- Medical Documentation (SOAP Notes, Injury Evaluations)
- Budget Facility Design Project Requiring revisions throughout semester

Courses

Essentially, all courses taught in the athletic training education program involve critical reading and writing including revisions and appropriate use. However, the athletic training education program currently only offers the following capstone course with Writing Emphasis designation.

AT-425 Administration of Athletic Training