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ON-LINE

Self-Assessment Examination



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A unique, 75 question multiple choice, examination is presented to each individual. Content experts who develop the BOC Certification Examination wrote the questions in this self-assessment examination.

Who Students preparing for the BOC certification exam and all certified athletic trainers

What 75 question multiple choice examination – choose either test simulation mode or study mode

When The exam is available at any time of the day, every day of the week at www.bocatc.org

Why Determine your areas of strength and weakness in athletic training for future study or to identify your continuing education needs.

Price

\$27.00 US (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)

After completing the examination you will receive a report that is broken down by domains. You can then review each domain and the knowledge and skill statements pertinent to each area. The report will target areas for further study and will link you to resources on the BOC Certification Examination. Also included is a list of textbooks used in exam development.



BOARD OF CERTIFICATION, INC.

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Certification Update

Spring 2005

BOC Board of Directors Announces Change to Exam

The Board of Certification (BOC) is pleased to announce that the certification exam will transition to computer-based exams (CBE). The tentative time table is for CBE to begin in the early spring of 2006. All sections of the current examination program, including the practical, will be integrated into a format that will be delivered via computer.

The function of the BOC examination program is to identify individuals who have met the BOC requirements and have demonstrated a minimal level of knowledge and skill in athletic training as defined by the BOC Role Delineation Study. Foremost in every decision made by the BOC is the effect on public safety. As an organization, the BOC is committed, through its mission and core values, to serve the public by identifying athletic trainers through its examination program, standards of practice and continuing competency and discipline programs.

The BOC has been listening, watching and participating in discussions related to computer delivered testing the past eight to ten years. Directors and staff have attended numerous educational sessions during that time, learning from others who have faced the question of whether to computerize delivery of their exams. Our customers (e.g., candidates, certificate holders, educators, employers) have asked with increasing frequency if the BOC has considered offering the exam via computer. They raise concerns

relating to travel time and costs, costs associated with administering the exam, exam security and the reliance on volunteers for successful exam delivery.

What became clear to the BOC Board in 2003 was the need for the Board to engage in a formal feasibility study on this issue. The Board recognizes that the various changes the athletic training community has experienced in recent years have revealed there is also an emotional side to these questions and decisions. To ensure an unbiased review of the facts, Professional Examination Services, Inc. (PES) was selected because of their experience in this very specific project of feasibility studies for examination delivery. What follows is a short description of the process the BOC Board has engaged in over the past 18 months.

The Feasibility Study

The objective of the study was to assess the feasibility of computerizing the BOC examination program. That is, transitioning it from two paper and pencil examinations and a hands-on practical examination to an examination program that could be delivered via computer.

Phase 1—Strategic planning and initial data gathering using subject-matter experts (SMEs) from the BOC

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Farewell...But Not Goodbye

I write this, my last President's letter, with very mixed emotions. As you read this, I am at the end of serving as President of this great organization. What a true honor and pleasure it has been to serve. At the same time I am ready to move on. Move on to the next challenge for myself. Move on and let the great, young leaders take over so this organization continues to thrive.

The internship route to certification, of which I was a product, went away at the stroke of midnight on New Years 2004. While the internship route played a vital role for many years it was time to move on. The profession needed one route to certification for many reasons.

This past February, the BOC Board of Directors voted to move to a computer based testing platform as early as next year. In my 6 years on the board, nothing had as much money, time, and effort applied to it, to study it, learn it and get the final decision right. I truly believe this is a defining moment for the BOC, the public we protect, our future and present credential holders.

The embracing of other technology by the BOC has been another proud accomplishment. Beginning with online registration to each credential holder having their own CE portfolio to track continuing education activity, the use of this technology has served us well. It has made all of our lives easier, saved money that otherwise would have caused increases in exam costs, and saved valuable time.

The lovely home office in Omaha, Nebraska is but one shining star in the BOC galaxy. Denise Fandel and all of the staff there do an awesome job. Professional, competent and friendly, they represent the Board fantastically. During my presidency, I never once had to worry about the day to day operations



of this organization. I knew our staff was handling these matters much better than the Board itself could handle them. The greatest asset of the BOC is our human resources.

The BOC Regulatory Conference began last year. A chance for leaders in the profession to get together and share war stories, learn from others failures and more importantly successes, and hopefully take away experiences that will lead to regulatory victories. By far, this was one of the best things the BOC could give back to the profession.

The Lindsey McLean Scholarship was established last year. I have written about Lindsey's great accomplishments with the BOC in a past letter to all of you. Lindsey was a true visionary about where this process needed to go. Lindsey McLean was the first Chair of the then, Certification Committee of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. While many of us know Lindsey as the distinguished Head Athletic Trainer of the San Francisco 49ers and a Hall of Fame member, the scholarship will honor his significant role in athletic trainer certification. Lindsey led the profession through uncharted waters. No athletic trainer would be where they are today or looking to as bright a future as they are, without Lindsey's leadership.

"As I look back I see so much to be proud of over the last several years."

continued on page 2

BOC Board 2004-2005

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Common Questions & Answers from the BOC Staff

Q. Can I take a course from a provider that is not approved by the BOC?

A. Yes, non-approved provider courses that fall within the AT domains can be listed under category E.

Q. What type of documentation do I need from a non-BOC provider?

A. A certificate of attendance that lists your name, the course name, the provider, date(s) and the number of contact hours.

Q. Can I use my CPR Instructor card for my ECCC requirement?

A. No, Instructor cards are not accepted. You will need to have the card that participants of the instruction receive.

Q. What is ECCC?

A. For certified athletic trainers and candidates, ECCC must include the following: adult & pediatric CPR, airway obstruction, 2nd rescuer CPR, AED and barrier devices (e.g., pocket mask, bag valve mask). Examples of courses that provide the ECCC certification are: CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer by the American Red Cross or BLS Healthcare Provider CPR by the American Heart Association. Providers are those adhering to the standards of the International Guidelines 2000 for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care. An EMT card can be substituted for the requirement.

Q. What do I have to do to change my name?

A. Our name change policy is located on our website. You will need to submit a name change request form along with an original document of your name change (marriage license, divorce decree, etc). Notarized photocopies of original documents can be submitted in place of originals.

Q. Can I have Inactive status for maternity leave?

A. No, Inactive status is reserved for an individual on active military duty or in the Peace Corps an individual suffering from serious medical problems

Q. What's the provider number for ARC or AHA?

A. There is no provider number needed for items in category D.

Q. How do I know if a provider is approved?

A. Check the searchable database on the BOC website at www.bocatc.org.

Q. Where do I find a list of Approved Provider's?

A. The searchable database is located on the BOC website at www.bocatc.org.

Q. How do I know how many CEUs I get for Category D?

A. You receive 1 CEU per 1 Contact hour of class time.

Q. How do I document hours for CPR?

A. Write down the number of hours you were in class. No other documentation required. The BOC has information from various agencies on the length of classes.

Q. Can we take online CPR courses?

A. No

Q. I lost my proof that I attended a conference. What do I do?

A. Contact the provider that provided the activity. Request a copy of the documentation.

Q. What happens if I don't submit the total number of CEUs required?

A. If the required number of CEs is not received by the due date, the credential holder will be notified by certified return receipt mail that their certification status has been changed to suspended and the letter will outline what must be done to return to active status.

Q. If I enter my CEUs online, do I need to send original documents or reporting sheet or copy of CPR card?

A. No. Whether reporting online or sending in a reporting sheet for continuing education, please keep all original documentation in your CE file folder in the case of an audit. No need to send your CPR card or any other documentation.

Q. Can I roll over my extra CEUs to the next reporting period?

A. No.

Q. I forgot my username and password?

A. ATC Online™-Please use your 9-digit BOC Certification # as the username and SSN (without dashes) as the password. Contact the BOC office for assistants.

Examination Item Writers:

CERTIFIED ATHLETIC TRAINERS serve as item writers, who develop examination questions for the national entry-level BOC certification examinations. For an application and list of requirements please contact Stacy Arrington, Exam Administration Manager at 877-262-3926 x13.

Call for Reviewers:

The Board of Certification (BOC) is in need of ATs to act as reviewers for home study programs. Beginning with the 2000-2002 continuing education reporting term, each home study course submitted to BOC seeking approval must be peer reviewed by a team of three ATs. The duties of home study reviewers include.

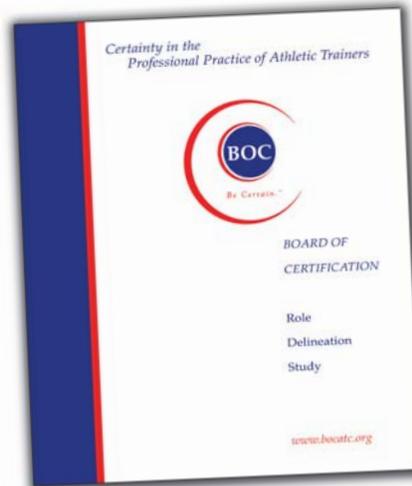
- An opportunity to give back to the AT profession,
- A professional opportunity to interact with peers from different parts of the country,
- An opportunity to gain or strengthen social or professional contacts,
- Personal satisfaction and professional recognition,
- An opportunity for a different experience in your professional development , and
- An opportunity to help shape the future of the AT profession.

If you are interested in being considered as a home study reviewer for BOC, please submit a cover letter and your curriculum vitae to: Board of Certification, Department of Provider Relations, 4223 South 143rd Circle Omaha, NE 68137-4505. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Provider Relations toll-free at (877) BOC-EXAM (877/262-3926).

Role Delineation Study 4th Edition

The BOC Role Delineation Study, Fourth Edition (RD), defines the current entry-level knowledge, skills, and abilities required for practice in the profession of athletic training.

The RD is the blueprint for BOC examinations. It contains the entry-level standards of practice, redefined domains of athletic training, the entry-level job analysis and a review of literature containing over 450 publications. The RD also serves as a guide to determining relevant content areas for continuing education activities.



Special Internet Price:

\$19.95 (US funds) each + shipping.
Mail-in orders \$26.95 + shipping.
NE residents pay 6.5% sales tax.

A shipping charge applies for each Role Delineation order. To enhance accuracy in delivery and tracking purposes the Role Delineations will be shipped via USPS in quantities 1-3 and FedEx Ground for orders greater than 3.

NOTE: The BOC has a 30-day return policy and will refund the purchase price if the request for refund is received within 30 days from the original purchase date. No refunds given for requests received after 30 days.

For International orders and orders over 20, please contact the BOC office at 1-877-262-3926 (877 BOC-EXAM).

Taking Action – Protecting the Public and Your Credential *(continued from pg 3)*

If any member of the public (credential holder, employer, consumer, etc.) feels that an individual has violated one or more of the BOC Standards he/she should follow the procedures outlined in the BOC Standards of Professional Practice and Discipline Process. The complete text of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice and Disciplinary Process can be found on the BOC web site <http://www.bocatc.org/athtrainer/docs/SI-MR-TAB2-489.htm>.

Reporting a violation of the Standards Individuals are strongly encouraged to provide relevant information, with as much detail as possible, in writing to: BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee: 4223 So 143rd Circle Omaha, NE 68137.

These are but some of the many accomplishments I have seen but they are not done alone.

To Paul Grace and Brad Sherman, you took me as a young and sometimes ornery beyond my years exam writer and showed me skills to lead this organization and in life.

To Russ Cagle, the BOC President before me, I thank you for not killing me. I knew it all until Russ taught me the value of seeing things from other people's point of view.

To all of the many volunteers who work so hard on committees and exam administration. The best part of this job is honoring all of you every year at the national convention.

To our staff, as I mentioned before, you run this thing on the day to day basis. As the President and a credential holder I thank you. To each and every fellow Board member I thank you for your efforts, your wisdom, frankness, and most of all your commitment to serve including making the prickly decisions.

To Denise Fandel, a most heartfelt thank you. There is no better administrator of an organization and I can tell you there is no one better to call friend. You are phenomenal.

Lastly, to my wife Nancy and our daughters Lisa and Kaley, you never complained as I flew off to another meeting, planted myself in front of the computer or got on the phone for another conference call. No one gets to achieve success without the selflessness of their loved ones. I thank you for being supportive and for your love.

This organization is on its way up. That is hard to believe considering all the success it has had. There are still many challenges but these will be handled by future leaders. The BOC will continue to be an asset to

the profession and it will continue to protect the public through a gold standard credentialing program.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ryan, ATC, PT
President, BOC

"There are so many people to thank for this great experience. To those not listed I apologize, but you know who you are."

WIN A SONY® CD/DVD PLAYER!

with **ATC** ONLINE™

Get ahead of the game and log in to ATC Online™ to submit your Continuing Education and you will be eligible to win!



The BOC is giving away a Sony® CD/DVD player to one lucky ATC® who completes

CE via ATC Online™ by July 31, 2005! In order to be eligible for this drawing you must complete your Continuing Education and record it online at ATC Online™ by July 31, 2005.

THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD AUGUST 1, 2005 AND THE WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.

The 2005 Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference...

The 2005 BOC Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference (ATR Conference) will be July 22-23, 2005 in Omaha, Nebraska. The BOC Athletic Trainer Regulatory Conference is designed to create a communication network among state athletic trainer leadership and state regulatory agencies. Program topics are appropriate for all audiences with a vested interest in the athletic training profession and public protection. The conference is open to everyone. Certified athletic trainers will receive continuing education units for participation.

Conference Objectives

Participants will understand the:

1. Importance of the role of regulation in public protection.
2. Importance of the role of the BOC national exam as a state regulatory tool.
3. Relationship between statutory language and state board rules/regulations.
4. Importance of self regulation.

Please visit the BOC website, www.bocatc.org/atc/BOCTODAY/, for details and to download the registration form. Late registrations will be accepted based on availability.



Taking Action – Protecting the Public and Your Credential Reporting Possible Violation of the BOC Standards of Practice

It is the responsibility of each ATC® credential holder to report violations of the BOC Standards of Professional Practice (Standards). The Standards provide a framework for the actions the public can expect from a certified athletic trainer. As the Standards preamble states ... [t]he BOC does not express an opinion on the competence or warrant job performance of certificants; however, it is expected that a certificant or candidate for certification agrees to comply at all times to the following Standards of Professional Practice... Additionally, each certified athletic trainer, when they submit their continuing education report attests that ...[I] have conducted myself as a certified athletic trainer in accordance with the BOC Standards of Professional Practice...

Examples of violations that have been reported and investigated by the BOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An individual was alleged to have practiced as an athletic trainer without a license in a state which has athletic trainer regulation (Standard 9) 2. An individual pled no contests to a sexual misconduct charge (Standard 6) 3. An individual allegedly misrepresented themselves as being BOC certified using another individual's certification number (Standards 1, 2, 4 & 6) 4. A member of the public alleged that their child received negligent care by a BOC certified athletic trainer (Standard 5) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. An individual allegedly divulged the contents of a section of the certification examination to prospective students (Standard 3) 6. An individual divulged the contents of a section of the certification examination to certified athletic trainers (Standard 3) 7. It was alleged that an individual provided care that was not directed by a licensed physician (Standard 8) |
|---|--|

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Continuing Education Reporting - Helpful Hints

December 31, 2005 marks the end of the 2003 – 2005 reporting period. The 2003-2005 Continuing Education Guidelines state continuing education reports must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2005.

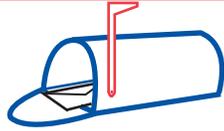
Reminder:

If sending a 2003-2005 CE reporting form by US Mail, be sure it is into the post office for processing to reflect a postmark of on or before December 31, 2005.

If reporting CE on ATC Online™, all entries are date stamped. Your entries must reflect a date of December 31, 2005 or before.

Be Sure to:

US Mail



- Submit early
- Be certain of Categories for listing activities
- Print all information
- Complete all fields
- Enter Date of Activity (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Entries in Category A must have an Approved Provider number listed
- Activities must be completed within the reporting period, Jan. 1, 2005 - Dec. 31, 2005
- Retain all original supporting documentation- do not send documentation to the BOC office
- Do not discard any Emergency Cardiac Care Cards
- Date and sign the form
- Current mailing and email address is on file with the BOC
- Read all correspondence and/or email from the BOC
- Call the BOC office if you have questions

ATC Online™ Services



- Submit early
- Be certain of Categories for listing activities
- Complete all fields
- Activities were completed within the reporting period, January 1, 2003 – December 31, 2005
- Do not send a written form to the BOC
- Retain all original supporting documentation
- Do not discard any Emergency Cardiac Care Cards
- Current email address is recorded with the BOC
- Read all emails from the BOC
- Be sure to log in and complete the submission process.
- Call the BOC office if you have questions
- Be sure to RECORD AS YOU GO

Gift Suggestion

from the BOC
for that
special
AT



The Board of Certification offers a graphically designed certificate, printed in Old English Script with gold embossed BOC logo and seal of certification. Each certificate is professionally personalized with the athletic trainer's name, certification number, and date of certification. The Certificate may be purchased on a 12 x 16 inch hardwood plaque protected by plexiglass, or ordered as the Certificate of Certification only.

Visit

www.bocatc.org store/resources

To order now!

THE BOC NEEDS YOUR INPUT...

PROPOSED RD 5 CONTINUING EDUCATION GUIDELINES (Beginning 1/1/2006)

As the end of the continuing education (CE) reporting period approaches in December 2005, the proposed revisions of the Role Delineation Study 5th Edition (RD 5) Continuing Education Guidelines are in the process of being finalized. These guidelines reflect proposed changes that will be reviewed and implemented and are important for all Certified Athletic Trainers. RD 5 Continuing Education File Folders will be mailed out immediately after these changes are approved and will outline the revised guidelines.

Please submit your comments regarding RD 5 Continuing Education Guidelines in writing to the address below. Opportunity for public comment will close June 30, 2005. Comments will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for their final decision in July of 2005. BOC Attn: RD 5 CEU Guideline 4223 So. 143rd Circle Omaha, NE 68137 Fax: (402) 561-0598 Email: shannonl@bocatc.org

1. CE Stagger

Beginning in 2006, the BOC will implement staggered continuing education (CE) reporting. The first three years of implementation will require prorated CE submission. Once the initial implementation is complete you will report your CEUs every three years. Please refer to the table below for your CE reporting schedule: CEUs every three years. Please refer to the table below for your CE reporting schedule:

Last Name Begins With	Number of CEUs	Date CEUs Due	CEUs Due Next
A-G	25	December 31, 2006	75 CEU's due December 31, 2009
H-O	50	December 31, 2007	75 CEU's due December 31, 2010
P-Z	75	December 31, 2008	75 CEU's due December 31, 2011

Credential holders who are certified during or post 2006 will be required to report CE three years from their certification year. In other words, all credential holders certified in 2006 will be required to submit 75 CEUs by December 31, 2009; all credential holders certified in 2007 will be required to submit 75 CEUs by December 31, 2010 and so on.

The Board of Directors recently approved this change in order to streamline the reporting functions at the BOC office. As you can imagine the BOC reviews and receives 20-25 thousand continuing education reports the last year of the reporting period. The CE stagger will alleviate this massive number by reviewing 1/3 of the credential holders each year. As a result, the BOC will increase efficiency and productivity in the CE department, in turn, providing stronger customer service each year. Additionally, BOC Approved Providers will benefit from this change by having a consistent flow with program scheduling.

2. Reduce Number of Required CEUs

The second change is to reduce the number of CEUs required per reporting period from 80 to 75 CEUs every three years. This allows the BOC to divide the CEUs evenly over the three year period.

3. Category Changes

Current Category	Proposed Max No. of CEUs Allowed in the Category	Proposed Change	Clarification	CEU's
A	75	No Change		
B	50	Add exam item writing.	Includes BOC exam developers and other exam developers for other professional exams.	5 per year of active item writing
B	50	Add home study reviewers.	Includes BOC home study reviewers and reviewers of refereed publications.	5 per review (limit 10 per year)
C	75	No Change		
D	0	- Eliminate Category D. - Show proof of ECCC one per year. - Eliminate ECCC for CEUs.	ECCC is very important and quite necessary. ECCC will be required every year rather than once per reporting period to ensure public safety. However, ECCC is now an entry level requirement to become eligible to sit for the exam.	0
D	0	Insert terminology to clarify ECCC.	ECCC must comply with International Guidelines 2000 for Emergency Cardiac Care	0
E	20	No Change		

2005 Certification Examination Schedule

Completed applications must be received by (NOT postmarked by) the prescribed deadline date for the examination date chosen. Exam sites may fill before the deadline date. Mailing an application does not guarantee a seat at any exam site.
 PLEASE NOTE: The exam sites listed below are subject to change.

June 26, 2005

Deadline for all applicants is Friday, May 27, 2005

Retake candidates may begin registering for the June 25, 2005 exam Monday, March 7, 2005, 9 AM CST

Atlanta, GA	Concord, NC	Houston, TX	Omaha, NE	St. Louis, MO
Beverly, MA	Dallas, TX	Indianapolis, IN	Orange, CA	St. Paul, MN
Birmingham, AL	Dayton, OH	Lafayette, LA	Orlando, FL	Towson, MD
California, PA	Denver, CO	Lexington, KY	Sacramento, CA	Westfield, MA
Charleston, SC	E. Lansing, MI	Madison, WI	Salt Lake City, UT	
Cheney, WA	Elmira, NY	Minooka, IL	Seattle, WA	
Cinnaminson, NJ	Honolulu, HI	Nashville, TN	State College, PA	

August 7, 2005

Deadline for all applicants is Friday, July 1, 2005

Retake candidates may begin registering for the August 7, 2005 exam Tuesday, May 31, 2005, 9AM CST.

Anderson, IN	Conway, SC	Nashville, TN	Slippery Rock, PA
Beverly, MA	Costa Mesa, CA	Overland Park, KS	St. Paul, MN
Columbus, GA	Dallas, TX	Phoenix, AZ	
Columbus, OH	Grand Rapids, MI	Richmond, VA	
Conway, AR	Milwaukee, WI	Santa Clara, CA	

November 13, 2005

Deadline for all applicants is Friday, October 7, 2005

Retake candidates may begin registering for the November 13, 2005 exam Tuesday, July 5, 2005, 9AM CST.

Albuquerque, NM	Conway, AR	Lafayette, LA	Salt Lake City, UT
Atlanta, GA	Costa Mesa, CA	Madison, WI	Santa Clara, CA
Boise, ID	Falls Church, VA	Omaha, NE	Tulsa, OK
Bowling Green, OH	Indianapolis, IN	Overland Park, KS	Westfield, MA
Chester, PA	Ithaca, NY	Raleigh, NC	

BOC Recognizes and Thanks the Following Retired TSA's

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy Pirog: District 1 • Tom Cannata: District 1 • Diane King: District 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Korene Mayo: District 10 • Amy Schwarz: District 4 North • Mark Cole: District 4 North • Heidi Matthews: District 4 South
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Feature Approved Provider

DESERT SOUTHWEST FITNESS

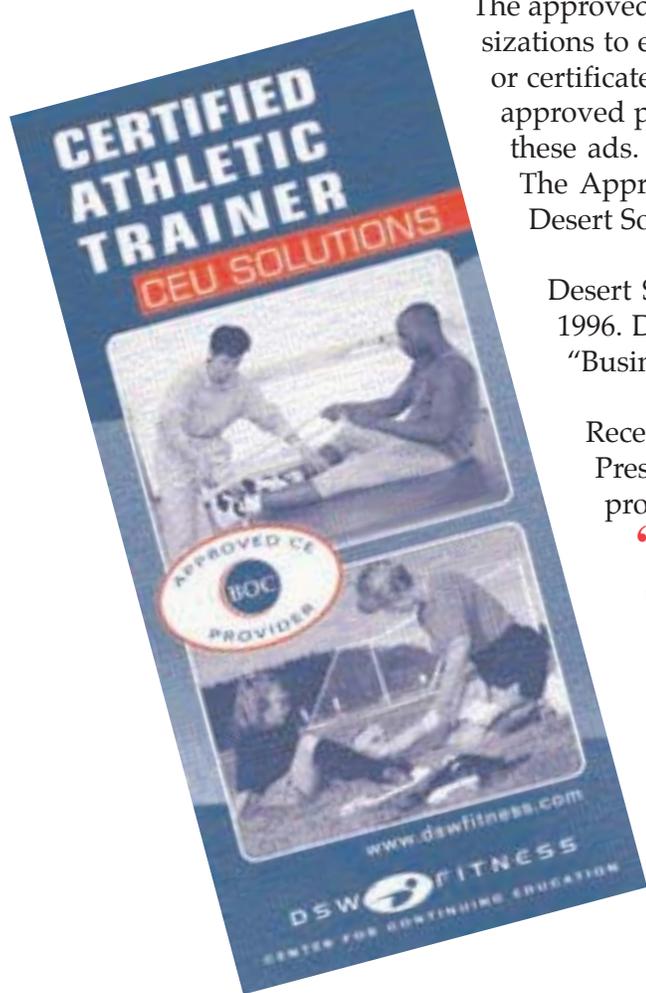
The approved provider logo provides recognition of BOC approved organizations to each certified athletic trainer when looking at advertisements or certificates of attendance. Therefore, the BOC would like to recognize approved providers who use the Guidelines to help identify the BOC in these ads. A BOC approved provider will be featured in each issue of The Approved Provider. This issue's Featured Approved Provider is Desert Southwest Fitness.

Desert Southwest Fitness has been a BOC approved provider since 1996. Desert Southwest Fitness adheres to the policies found under "Business Practices" of the Approved Provider Guidebook.

Recently, the BOC asked Desert Southwest Fitness', Gwen Hyatt, President to comment on the benefits of being a BOC approved provider:

"As a continuing education provider for 25 years, we understand the importance of staying current on the most recent research and applied methods in an evolving industry. Our goal is to provide BOC athletic trainers with continuing education that makes learning, not just earning CEUs, the investment."

~ Gwen Hyatt, President, DSWFitness,
Center for Continuing Education



Certificates of Attendance

Just a reminder to both approved providers and athletic trainers, certificates of attendance must include the following in order to be accepted for continuing education credit:

- Title of the activity
- Date
- Participant's name
- Number of contact hours (or CEUs)
- Signature of individual verifying attendance
- Provider name and number
- BOC Approved Provider Logo

What should you as an athletic trainer do if the certificate of attendance you have received does not contain the above information?

Contact the BOC approved provider who issued the certificate of attendance and request one that does. It is the responsibility of both the athletic trainer and the BOC approved provider to be certain that the documentation issued meets the BOC requirements listed above.

Phase 2—Extended data gathering using SMEs with expertise in such areas as complex simulations, multiple test events (e.g., multiple-choice questions and computer simulations), delivery systems including both hardware and software, and opinions of key stakeholders (public, state regulatory agencies, ATEP, candidates, ATC credential holders, NATA, JRC-AT, employers, other healthcare organizations)

Phase 3—Integration of data gathered and analysis of costs and time frames based on information collected in Phase 2 in regard to:

- (a) *Item development, test construction, and scoring software,*
- (b) *Delivery systems and associated hardware and software,*
- (c) *General assumptions related to test length for the proposed examination and candidate volumes*

Phase 4—Integration and interpretation of data to identify “deal breakers” with regard to key stakeholders

Phase 5—Development and presentation of feasibility report to the BOC Board of Directors

Phase 6—Request for clarification from BOC Board of Directors to PES

Phase 7—Discussion and action by BOC BOD at face-to-face meeting in February

What the study proved

- The three individual components of the BOC testing program demonstrate excellent psychometric characteristics (i.e., the exam sections are psychometrically sound and legally defensible).
- Low-to-moderate correlations among the examinations indicate that the three components are measuring separate and unique knowledge and skills (i.e., each section of the exam measures different parts of the entry-level athletic trainers’ knowledge and skill). The percentages of first-time curriculum candidates passing each component were higher than for first-time internship candidates and repeat candidates.

- This pattern of examination results indicates that performance on the practical examination contributes less independent information to the summative pass versus fail decision for each candidate than does either performance on the multiple-choice examination or the simulation examination. Stated simply, candidates who pass the multiple-choice and simulation examination are highly likely to pass the practical examination.

The Board’s Decision

After careful and extensive review of the data from PES, the Board of Directors has decided to convert the certification exams to a computer based format that assesses cognitive skills, clinical decision making and practical skill applications as outlined in the BOC Role Delineation Study. The new format will allow the BOC to assess the candidates knowledge with regard to many skills and procedures required for higher level critical thinking to a degree not currently possible (e.g., management of an unconscious athlete; a cervical spine injury; obtaining a history). Additionally, this method will allow the BOC to evaluate techniques that could potentially cause serious harm to the population that the athletic trainer serves. The modified format will allow greater breadth of skill and knowledge assessment because the constraints of equipment and space will no longer be factors in the exam administration.

What does this mean for candidates taking the exam in 2005?

Candidates who are taking the exam during 2005 will continue to take the three sections of the examination according to the published schedule. Keeping in mind that the timetable outlined above is tentative, any candidate who has not successfully completed any section of the BOC examination by the end of the 2005 examination year (January/February 2006) will have to successfully complete the modified computer delivered examination to achieve certification. Candidates who will be graduating in the fall of 2005 may choose to delay their exam until 2006 in order to take the new format.