



NATABOC:
Accredited
by the
National
Commission
for Certifying
Agencies

certification update

Online!

a publication of the nata board of certification, inc.

fall 2001

contents

Message from
the President

Protecting the
Credential

End of the
Reporting
Period Draws
Near

Annual
Certification
Fee

Approved
Provider Audit

Inactive Policy

NATABOC
Taking the
High Tech Role

Director
Resigns from
Board

"I Worked So
Hard...."

Foreign Degree
Evaluation

NATABOC
Governance

Online Self-
Assessment

Continuing
Education and
the RD

Examiner
Training

Message from the President

It has been my pleasure to be associated with the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification for over a decade. Beginning as a model and examiner for examinations, I have subsequently served as a Test Site Administrator, a member and eventual Chair of the Examination Development Committee, and on the Board of Directors. It has been my good fortune to be involved in the process. It is now my honor to serve as the President of this important and distinguished organization.

I begin my presidency of a board that has accomplished much and is in place to make significant contributions in the future. A great deal of the credit for the strength of the Board belongs to past-president Russ Cagle. Over the last three years, Russ has overseen the board as it has developed sound strategic objectives that will guide us in the future. He also has allowed a diverse but focused board to mature from a management style of leadership to a governance style of leadership. Russ, we thank you for your tireless efforts and wisdom.

The future for the Board of Certification, based on the strategic objectives, will continue to focus on public protection and protection of the ATC[®] credential for the certificate holder. The NATABOC strategic objectives are;

Strategic Objective 1

Create a national practice standard within all 50 states recognizing the ATC[®] credential as the standard.

NATABOC has developed the gold standard credential for athletic training. We recognize that a strong practice standard at the state level is of the utmost importance for the profession. NATABOC stands committed to helping athletic trainers to develop or strengthen their practice standards. Utilizing the ATC[®] credential has a national standard recognized by all 50 states will protect the public and strengthen the role of the athletic trainer in providing health care to patients.

Strategic Objective 2

Create a diversified credential reflecting employment venues and practices.

The provision of health care remains dynamic. As the Board looks at the recent changes in athletic training education, the diversity of athletic trainers, and attempts to look at the future of health care (see Pew Commission web site <http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu>) we see

Examiner
Training
Program
[Click Here!](#)

For that special
Certified Athletic
Trainer!
A suggestion
from the
NATABOC
[Click Here!](#)

NATABOC Role
Delineation
Study
Order yours
today!
[Click Here!](#)

Program

Continuing
Education
Opportunities
for Credential
Holders

New Approved
Home Study
Programs**

New Approved
Providers of
Continuing
Education

Back Issues

Summer 2000

Winter 2000

Spring 2001

Summer 2001

a changing world. Athletic training in the very near future will be very different than it is now. Athletic trainers will have opportunities to serve their patients in diverse employment venues and practices. This diversification requires a strong certification process that reflects the changes, protects the public receiving the services, and strengthens the credential holder.

Strategic Objective 3

Assure professional leadership and quality service to stakeholders.

Strategic objective 3 requires the Board to continue to attract quality people to the certification process. We stand committed to finding the best and brightest people we can to assure our mission is completed. The second part of strategic objective 3 is instituting and maintaining effective lines of communication. Instituting and maintaining effective lines of communication is hard work. Sometimes it is tiresome work. But it is essential for success. We have improved our communication to you, the credential holders, and we will continue to improve by providing quality oral and written communications on a timely basis.

Earlier in this letter, I mentioned the maturation of the board as a governing body. As a certification Board the NATABOC has a very specific duty; that of protection of the credential and the public served by those who hold the ATC[®] credential. The NATABOC Board of Directors governs the credentialing organization in a manner that may sometimes be confusing. More specific information related to this is included in an article on page on NATABOC governance. I hope that it may clarify how the NATABOC board works for you.

On behalf of the Board I want to extend our sincere appreciation to the over 200 credential holders who help the NATABOC as committee chairs, committee members, test side administrators, examiner training program facilitators, home study reviewers and qualified examiners. Without your assistance the NATABOC would not be able to maintain its high standards. I also would be remiss, if I did not mention the NATABOC staff in Omaha. It is their competent day-to-day management of the process that allows the board to govern.

In closing I would like to thank you for the opportunity to lead the NATABOC into a very exciting future. As always, please feel free to contact any of the directors or myself with your questions or concerns.

Jeff Ryan, ATC, PT
President, NATABOC
jeffryan1@home.com

Return to top

PROTECTING THE CREDENTIAL - PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

In the [Spring 2001](#) issue of *Certification Update* the NATABOC Grounds for Disciplinary Action were printed. These guidelines are part of the Standards of Practice and Disciplinary Procedures, which govern the deliberations of the NATABOC Professional Practice and Discipline Committee. The cases outlined below are some actual cases that have come before the committee in the past three years.

Failure to comply with state practice acts can impact your NATABOC Certification.

The NATABOC was notified by the State of New Jersey regulatory agency that an individual who had been working under a temporary registration, had been found to have practiced athletic training without having been properly registered. The State of New Jersey filed an administrative order denying registration of this individual with the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners for a period of five years from the date of the order. The order stated, "If, at the end of the five years the individual applies for registration, the order states they will have to demonstrate NATABOC certification and compliance with all NATABOC Continuing Education requirements."

In the NATABOC Standards of Professional Practice, Standard 9 states:

"The NATABOC may revoke or otherwise take action with regard to the application or certification of an individual in the case of:

(9) Non-compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws governing the practice of athletic training

The individual above was sent a letter via certified, return receipt mail, stating their violation of NATABOC standards. He replied and did not supply additional material or request a hearing. The Professional Practice and Discipline Committee, following the procedures outlined in the NATABOC Standards of Professional Practice and Disciplinary Process to Maintain Certification <http://www.nataboc.org/atc/docs/other/standards.pdf> voted to suspend his certification for two years. He must submit annual CEU reports during this time and submit proof of a course in ethics. Failure to comply with the sanctions or any attempt to misrepresent himself as an certified athletic trainer during the sanctions would result immediate certification revocation.

Standard of Care – Certified athletic trainer found to practice outside the Standards

In 1998 a member of the public submitted a letter which alleged that a NATABOC certified athletic trainer had improperly cared for his daughter, a seventh grader, at an off-site track meet.

The professional Practice and Discipline Committee cited the following factual findings in a letter to the individual that were not disputed:

1. He had misevaluated a fracture as a shoulder dislocation and attempted reduction;
2. He did not have permission or authorization to treat the injured minor;
3. The injured minor had already received proper first aid care.

The individual was allowed to maintain his certification status with a notation of censure on his records. Sanctions were also imposed which included providing the Committee a copy of guidelines for job performance, communication tools for communication with parents, and revised record keeping documents.

**The standards were revised in 1999. In addition to the revisions

the current standards use Arabic numbering.

Failure to report Continuing Education activity results in sanctions

The three cases that follow illustrate different ways that individuals have had a change in their certification status because of failure to report their continuing education activity. As the end of the 2000-2002 reporting period nears (December 31, 2002) individuals would do well to read the following cases.

Case 1

An individual called the NATABOC offices to report a change of address. At that time, the NATABOC staff informed him that his certification status was listed as “revoked” for non-compliance with the NATABOC continuing education requirement. A complete review of the case demonstrated that he had received, and signed for, a certified return-receipt letter from the NATABOC notifying him of his suspension and the time frame he had in which to resolve the lack of CEU submission. Additionally, he had received and signed for a certified return-receipt letter from the NATABOC notifying him that his certification status had been changed to “revoked” and that state agencies had been notified of his change of status.

He explained that he had, in fact, done all the required continuing education work, in the proper time frame, (e.g., 1997-1999) but had failed to properly report it. He also did not contact the NATABOC to question either certified letter. He asked what possible recourse there was to this action. Staff advised him that he could appeal the revocation. He was responsible for presenting original documentation of his continuing education activity during the reporting period and he was required to provide a letter of explanation to the Professional Practice and Discipline Committee specific to why he was unable to report his activity in the prescribed time period and why he did not act earlier, in light of the two certified letters.

After submission of the requested materials and deliberation by the Professional Practice and Discipline Committee his certification was returned to active status. However, he was required to submit the following:

- annual reports of his continuing education activity, and;
- annual CPR certification.

The individual was notified that failure to comply with these sanctions would result in **immediate** revocation.

Case 2

Another individual in a situation similar to Case One submitted a letter of appeal and asked to be reinstated. He had also received notices of suspension and revocation. Six months after the revocation notice he submitted evidence of having met the CEU requirement however, he had not met the requirement in the allotted reporting period.

His case was viewed by the Professional Practice and Discipline committee as being different from the case described previously because he had not completed his CEU obligation in the required time period (i.e., some of their CEU activity was completed in 2000)

After deliberation by the Professional Practice and Discipline Committee, the individual was returned to active status. However, they were required to:

- obtain and report on an **annual** basis, **40 hours** of continuing education activity, and;
- annual CPR certification for four years.

The individual was notified that failure to comply with these sanctions would result in **immediate** revocation.

Summary

As an agency accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the NATABOC must demonstrate compliance with many standards. NCCA Standard number 7 deals with the NATABOC's responsibility to the public and to you, the holder of the credential:

7. Responsibilities to the Public and to Employers of Certified Practitioners:

- d. *shall have formal policy and procedures for discipline of certificants, including the sanction or revocation of the certificate, for conduct deemed harmful to the public or inappropriate to the discipline (e.g., incompetence, unethical behavior, physical or mental impairment affecting performance). These procedures shall incorporate due process.*

In addition to the cases described above, the NATABOC has revoked the certification of four individuals since January 1, 2000 because of their convictions on charges related to public safety (e.g., sexual misconduct, battery)

Failure by the NATABOC to act in the cases described above and many others would lessen the credibility and defensibility of the ATC® credential. Foremost in all deliberations by the Board and its committees is the principle of public protection and protection of the credential's integrity.

The NATABOC will continue to publish cases of disciplinary actions in future issues of Certification Update. Individuals with specific questions should contact the NATABOC at staff@nataboc.org or 1-877-262-3926.

The NATABOC Standards of Practice, Discipline Process and Requirements to Maintain Certification can be viewed and downloaded at www.nataboc.org/atc/docs/standards/ or by contacting the NATABOC in [Omaha](#).

[Return to top](#)

THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD DRAWS NEAR

Understand your responsibilities:

- 80 CEUs required*
- CPR certification must be current at the time your reporting

sheet is submitted.

- Reporting sheets may be submitted as soon as the requirements are met.

(<http://www.nataboc.org/atc/educ/docs>)

Year* Certified	Minimum Number of CEU Units Required by December 31, 2002
Before 2000	80 including current CPR certification
During 2000	55 including current CPR certification
During 2001	25 including current CPR certification
During 2002	No CEUs required for the 2000-2002 term

AVOID DELAYS OR RETURNS:

1. Reporting sheets must be signed **and** dated.
2. Must have a front **and** back copy of **current** CPR card **attached** to reporting sheet. Only one CPR certification per year can be credited toward the requirement.
3. All courses in Category A **must** have an approved provider number.
4. Must be sent to the Continuing Education office in Omaha:

NATABOC

4223 S. 143rd Circle, Omaha, NE 68137

5. Must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2002.
6. Activities must have occurred during the current term and after the date of certification.
7. **DO NOT SEND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.** The certified athletic trainer must retain required documentation for a minimum of one-year after the end of the reporting period. Any documents submitted other than CPR certification, will be returned.
8. If your reporting sheet is illegible it will be returned to you.

Administrative Actions

If reporting sheet is not received by the deadline: (see: [examples of disciplinary cases related to non-compliance with this requirement.](#))

1. You will be suspended immediately.
2. A certified, return receipt mail notice of suspension will be sent to your address that is on record with the NATABOC. While suspended you cannot:
 - a. represent yourself to the public as a practicing certified athletic trainer or use the initials "ATC[®]" or "C.A.T" after your name.
 - b. serve as a supervisor of students who are satisfying the athletic training requirements for certification eligibility;
 - c. serve as a model or examiner for the NATABOC certification examination;
3. You have until June 1, 2002 to comply with the requirements.

4. On or about June 1, 2002 – revocation notice will be sent via certified return receipt mail. State regulatory agencies are notified of certification revocation for non-compliance with continuing education requirements.

If you wish to appeal an administrative action you must do so in writing to the NATABOC office in **Omaha**.



[Return to top](#)

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION FEE

Obtaining the credential, “ATC[®]” or “C.A.T.[®]” can seem overwhelming. And once obtained, the credential must be “maintained”.

Maintaining your certification requires the following:

- Completion of a predetermined number of continuing education units
- Adherence to the NATABOC Standard of Professional Practice
- Submission of the NATABOC annual certification fee.

WHY A CERTIFICATION FEE?

The annual certification fee is an administrative fee, much like licensing fees. The fee supports the post-certification activities required of the NATABOC. The NATABOC has assessed this fee since 1993.

WHO PAYS?

- Every credential holder (ATC[®]) is required to pay an annual certification fee to the NATABOC. There are differences in how it is submitted.
- If you are a member of the NATA, and membership dues are current, the certification fee is included in your membership dues.
- If you are non-member of the NATA, the NATABOC will bill you directly for the annual certification fee.
- If your certification is in an “INACTIVE” status, the NATABOC will bill you directly for the annual certification fee.

POLICY

- NATABOC receives a list of all certified “Non-members” from the NATA, mid October
- NATABOC invoices all certified “Non-members” and “Inactive” athletic trainers, for the Certification fee. Invoices mailed no later than October 29.
- Invoices for your NATA membership dues are mailed to you on November 1st. (i.e.: Members will receive an invoice for 2002 Membership dues sometime the first week in November.)
- NATA membership dues not paid by September 30 results in

member your membership status changing to “Non-member”

Questions regarding NATA membership policies should be directed to the Membership Office of the NATA in Dallas, 1-800-879-6282 (1-800-TRY NATA)

FAQ's

Q: I paid my 2001 NATA dues in October 2001. Why do I have to pay the certification fee?

A: You were delinquent with your payment for 2001 membership dues. They are due before September 30. If not received by that date, for certification fee billing purposes you are considered a non-member and the NATA will not pay your certification fee on your behalf.

Q: I don't understand, the NATA and the BOC are all one. Why do you do it this way?

A: The NATA and the NATABOC are two separate entities. The NATA is your membership organization. The NATABOC manages your credential and all functions associated with the credential.

Q: I want to pay my membership dues, so I won't miss a year of membership. Do I still have to pay the NATABOC?

A: Yes, if you have received an invoice from the NATABOC. Receipt of that invoice indicates you did not have your current years membership dues paid prior to September 30. You must pay the certification fee to the NATABOC. The NATA will not pay it for you. You can pay your current years membership dues to retain your “join” date.

Q: Will I have to pay both next year?

A: Not if you pay your membership dues prior to September 30.

[Return to top](#)

APPROVED PROVIDER AUDIT

The NATA Board of Certification is proud of the high quality continuing education programs demonstrated by approved providers. In order to maintain this quality, the NATABOC conducts an audit of approved providers annually. Randomly selected approved providers were asked to participate in this audit. Participants submitted the following items from their most recent program:

- attendance record or course roster
- cancellation/refund policy
- promotional material
- evaluation tool
- an outline of the content
- documentation of completion

Two approved providers failed to submit audit materials. They have been suspended and will remain suspended until they complete the audit process. If the approved provider's submission was found to be incorrect, they were asked to correct and resubmit the

appropriate items. If approved providers fail to resubmit corrected items by October 1st, they too, will be given the suspended status.

Currently, the audit is not yet complete. However, the following items have been the most frequently incorrect: 1) promotional material and 2) documentation of completion.

Promotional materials, such as brochures and flyers, must clearly indicate educational objectives, target audience, schedule and format, fee and refund/cancellation policy, credentials of the instructor(s) and number of contact hours or CEUs that will be offered. When advertising their approved provider status they must include the NATABOC Approved Provider Logo and the following statement:

“(Provider Name) is recognized by the NATA Board of Certification, Inc. to offer continuing education for certified athletic trainers.

The **documentation of completion** must include all of the following:

1. number of CEUs or contact hours
2. date
3. participant's name
4. signature of individual verifying attendance
5. provider name and number
6. NATABOC Approved Provider Logo

Unfortunately, it is not possible or practical to audit every approved provider on an annual basis. Therefore the NATABOC asks that if individuals receive incorrect items from approved providers, such as the mentioned items above, to contact the provider. They are responsible for giving the certified athletic trainer the correct information.

Currently there are 864 approved providers and the number increases weekly. The NATABOC will continue to maintain and increase quality continuing education opportunities by conducting audits and recruiting potential approved providers.

The following providers have been suspended as of 09/06/2001 for not submitting materials for the 2001 approved provider audit:

P423 - International Academy of Sports Vision
P2608 - SW Missouri State Univ. – Dept. of Physical Therapy

The following providers have been suspended as of 10/08/2001 for not submitting corrected audit materials by the October 1 deadline:

P1172 - Center of Advanced Therapeutics, Inc
P2451 - Keystone Rehabilitation Systems
P2301 - NSCA – Certification Commission

All must submit audit materials by November 1, 2001. Failure to do so will result in revocation. A list of revoked providers is posted on the NATABOC web site www.nataboc.org.

[Return to top](#)

INACTIVE STATUS POLICY

The events of September 11, 2001 have resulted in some credential holders being called to active duty. The NATABOC Inactive Policy is available to these and other individuals. Use of the Inactive Policy does change your certification status. After reviewing the policy, contact the NATABOC at 877.262.3926 if you have further questions regarding your eligibility for this classification. The application can be downloaded from the web site www.nataboc.org

1. A certified athletic trainer who wishes to have his or her status changed from ACTIVE to INACTIVE must apply for this status with the NATABOC. A \$10.00 non-refundable application fee must accompany each application submitted for approval.
2. ACTIVE is defined as a certified athletic trainer who has met all current certification requirements and has not applied for INACTIVE status with the NATABOC.
3. INACTIVE is defined as an individual who has applied and been approved for this status will have their certification be placed in this category. The NATABOC will notify the individual in writing when they have been approved.
4. State regulatory agencies are notified of changes in status. It is the responsibility of the INACTIVE Athletic trainer to apply for the inactive status annually.
5. Examples of those who might desire INACTIVE status are:
 - a. an individual on active military duty or in the Peace Corps;
 - b. an individual not currently practicing in the field of athletic training; or
 - c. an individual suffering from serious medical problems.
6. While classified as INACTIVE, the certified athletic trainer agrees not to do the following:
 - a. serve as a supervisor of students who are satisfying the athletic training requirements for certification eligibility.
 - b. serve as a model or examiner for the NATABOC certification examination; or,
 - c. represent him or herself to the public as a practicing certified athletic trainer or use the initials "ATC[®]" or "C.A.T.[®]" after his or her name.
7. If classified as INACTIVE for one full year, the athletic trainer's continuing education will be prorated as to not include the year(s) of inactivity. If a certified athletic trainer applies for inactive status and is granted the status he/she must remain inactive for >6 months before CEUs are prorated. Any individual requesting INACTIVE status after June 1 of the final year of a reporting period will not be granted prorated CEUs for that period. Should the athletic trainer remain on INACTIVE status for a full year from the date of application, CEUs will be prorated for the following

period.

8. A certified athletic trainer who has been ACTIVE during any year of the reporting period must submit continuing education units to the NATABOC at the end of said reporting period.
9. It is the responsibility of the athletic trainer to contact the NATABOC annually to either re-activate their status or to apply for INACTIVE status for the upcoming year. Without notification otherwise, their status will be automatically changed back to ACTIVE.
10. Upon acceptance of their INACTIVE application, the certified athletic trainer will be advised of the number of prorated CEUs they will owe for the current reporting period.
11. A certified athletic trainer whose status is classified as INACTIVE for a **total** of three (3) years must attain a passing score on the written simulation section of the NATABOC certification exam in order to maintain his or her certified status. The NATABOC will review the accumulated time when reviewing the three year portion of the policy.
12. A certified athletic trainer who requests INACTIVE status for three (3) years and fails to take and pass the simulation section of the NATABOC certification examination will have his or her status changed to SUSPENDED. If the certified athletic trainer does not pass the simulation within one year of the date of SUSPENSION, his or her certification status will be revoked.

If an individual wishes to regain his or her certification status following certification revocation, he or she must satisfy the requirements in Section II of the NATABOC Credentialing Requirements.

Approved 4/2001

[Return to top](#)

NATABOC IS TAKING THE HIGH TECH ROAD

The fall issue of the *Certification Update* will be the last issue published on paper. The *Certification Update* is going online. Look for an email notification of the spring issue of the *Certification Update*.

[Return to top](#)

CORPORATE/EDUCATIONAL DIRECTOR RESIGNS FROM NATABOC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allen Flood, NATABOC Corporate/Educational Director since 1998 has resigned from the Board of Directors. Mr. Flood served the NATABOC as the first Corporate/Educational director under its newly reorganized governance scheme. As President of Allen J.

Flood Companies, Inc. of New York, Mr. Flood brought immediate expertise to both the NATABOC and the NATA Reimbursement Advisory Groups in the area of insurance reimbursement.

NATABOC President Jeff Ryan, ATC, PT stated "The position of Corporate-Educational Director was created to bring a unique perspective to the NATABOC board. The perspective of a non-credential holder who professionally interacts with certified athletic trainers and the public that those certificants serve is vital in the Board's discussions. Allen Flood, as an executive involved in insuring athletic programs, has provided that unique perspective for our organization. His professional perspective and personal friendship will be missed."

Don Herrmann, former NATABOC Treasurer, will fill the remainder of Mr. Flood's term. The Board will appoint a new Corporate/Educational Director from a slate of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee in November.

[Return to top](#)

"I worked so hard for NATABOC certification, I hate to just lose it."

In 2001, 326 individuals were notified that their certification had been suspended. Of the 326 letters that were sent via certified, return-receipt mail, 99 were returned to the NATABOC as **unknown, undeliverable or unclaimed**. Almost one-third of the group failed to inform the NATABOC of their current address.

The NATABOC makes its best effort in an attempt to "find" individuals before revoking certification (e.g., certified, return-receipt mail, address service requested mail, internet searches, etc.). These 99 individuals have now been revoked for non-compliance with NATABOC requirements. Once revoked, an individual must begin the process of eligibility and examination again. Since 1982, when the NATABOC became accredited, failure to comply with NATABOC requirements results in suspension and can ultimately lead to revocation of the practice credential.

Don't let this happen to you. You can keep NATABOC aware of all your address changes on-line and avoid possible suspension or revocation of your credential. Log on to www.nataboc.org and update your information today.

[Return to top](#)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - PLEASE READ

Effective January 1, 2002 NATABOC Candidates who have obtained education from an institution outside of the United States (except Canada) must abide by the following procedures to document compliance with NATABOC requirements:

Proof of graduation (an official transcript) at the baccalaureate level from an accredited college or university located in the United States of America. Graduates of non-U.S. universities may petition for a

substitution of this degree requirement. Such a request will be evaluated, at the candidate's expense, by an independent consultant selected by the NATABOC. The NATABOC will accept credential evaluations from the following organizations:

World Education Service www.wes.org

PO Box Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745
1-800-937-3895

International Education Research Foundation, Inc. www.ierf.com

Credentials Evaluation Service
P.O. Box 3665
Culver City, CA 90231-3665
1-310-258-9451

Candidates who are graduates of non-U.S. universities are required to submit an official letter from the credential evaluation service stating that their international education is the equivalent of a US Bachelor's degree. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate that they have successfully completed coursework in each of the following:

- Human Anatomy
- Human Physiology
- Exercise Physiology
- Health
- Kinesiology/Biomechanics
- Basic Athletic Training
- Advanced Athletic Training

The basic and advanced athletic training courses (or the acceptable alternatives) must be successfully completed in a college or university in the United States or taught by a NATABOC certified athletic trainer in a non-U.S. college or university for academic credit. Candidates are required to submit verification from the non-U.S. college or university that the instructor of record was a NATABOC certified athletic trainer.

[Return to top](#)

ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAM NOW AVAILABLE

The NATABOC Self-Assessment Examination is now available on-line. Visit www.nataboc.org to access the on-line examination. A unique, 75-question multiple-choice examination is presented to each individual. **Content experts who develop the NATABOC Certification Examination wrote the questions in this self-assessment examination.**

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 NATABOC Certification Examination.

[Return to top](#)

NATABOC GOVERNANCE

As a NATABOC certified athletic trainer, the NATABOC is working for you. To help understand how the NATABOC works for you, it may be helpful if you understand how the Board works. As the name states, the NATABOC is a certification board. That makes its governance structure, how it goes about developing standards and deciding issues, different from other boards with which you may be more familiar.

The board you may be most familiar with is the NATA board, the board of your professional organization. A professional organization board promotes the progress of the profession. It does this in many ways. Promoting education and research, assisting in legislative efforts, and enhancing the quality of life of its members are just a few of the ways a professional organization board may act. They serve you and the profession.

The mission of a Board of Certification is much different. The NATABOC mission is:

To certify athletic trainers and to identify for the public, quality healthcare professionals through a system of certification, adjudication, standards of practice and continuing competency programs

In more simplistic terms, the NATABOC mission is protection. It's mission, first and foremost, is the protection of the public. In this mission, the public would be defined as anyone who would have a professional relationship with a certified athletic trainer. Obviously, the patients we care for come to mind, but there are many others whose interests are protected by the certification process. Family members of patients, coaches, athletic administrators, and physicians are others who are protected when interacting with a NATABOC certified athletic trainer. These individuals are assured that they are dealing with a health care professional who met requirements for an examination, passed that examination, and continues to meet standards of practice through continuing competence and a disciplinary process.

The NATABOC also protects you, the credential holder. In developing a credential that is based on and upholds high standards, your credential has strength. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredits the NATABOC. The NCCA can be looked at as the accrediting body for certifying agencies. NCCA accreditation is considered the gold standard. It is a high bar that NATABOC must clear, but it is well worth it. In clearing this bar, the NATABOC does everything it can to protect the public and you the credential holder.

At times, the standards we must meet may seem to clash with what seems to be best for the athletic training profession and the members of the profession. Many of you may have heard NATABOC Board members state that when we make decisions we must take our "athletic trainer hat off". This seems confusing. How could we make a decision that does not seemingly promote the profession? The decision making process is not simple. We must make the decisions that best protects the public and the ATC® credential. We must take the path of least harm. As past NATABOC President Russ Cagle once put it to me, "There is no room for harm when it comes to health care. A decision that may remotely jeopardize protection cannot be made over one that assures greater protection."

An example of this is the use of the ATC® credential on things such things as clothing, travel trunks, and products. Using it would seemingly promote the profession and the credential holder but the NATABOC must regulate its use in these cases. The indiscriminate use of a credential, even in a positive manner, can make it harder to sanction someone who would misuse the credential. A court of law may interpret that the credential is not protected because it was allowed to be used indiscriminately. While the misuse of the credential may be rare compared to the times a credential holder could use it in a beneficial manner, the NATABOC Board must regulate its use in all cases. To do otherwise would jeopardize the credential for everyone who holds it.

Another level of protection is afforded by the make-up of the NATABOC board. The Board consists of nine members who represent the many interests involved in protection of the public and the credential. Six members hold the ATC® credential. To further assure protection, the NATABOC Board also has members who do not hold the ATC® credential. The Public Director serves as a voice for the public, including patients and their families. The Corporate-Educational Director helps the board protect the many professionals that a certified athletic trainer may interact with such as coaches, administrators, league officials, and corporate entities. Lastly, the Physician Director represents the interests of the medical professionals that athletic trainers team with to care for patients. NATABOC standards state that the NATABOC certified athletic trainer works “under the direction of a licensed physician”.

In closing, if you are wondering how the NATABOC board made a decision, especially if at first glance it seems like it is not in the best interest of you or the profession, please try to take your “athletic trainer hat off”. Ask if the decision protects the public and the overall good of the credential. Sometimes we may not like the answer we get. While the answer may be yes, it may not be in our *individual* best interest. I would urge you to consider that this is the price we all pay to have a strong credential that leads to a strong profession. At times we forfeit personal gain for a cause that is bigger than any of us individually.

[Return to top](#)

EXAMINER TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

The NATABOC extends a huge thanks to the over 3000 certified athletic trainers who have participated in the Examiner Training Program since its inception in 1999. Without the assistance of these individuals the NATABOC would have to substantially reduce the number of practical exam seats available. We have added 506 Qualified Examiners since January 1st. This brings our total number to 3,100. On behalf of the certification candidates who are served by your participation, the NATABOC thanks these individuals.

On any given NATABOC exam day 400-800 certified athletic trainers, who are also qualified examiners, are needed to administer the practical exam.

Any individual interested in participating in the program should contact the NATABOC in Omaha at 1.877.262.3926 or via email at sarrington@nataboc.org

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND THE ROLE DELINEATION STUDY

The NATABOC *Role Delineation Study* (RDS) is a detailed job description for the entry-level certified athletic trainer. A RDS defines the work responsibilities and activities of a specific profession. It is sometimes compared to a job analysis. The NATABOC RDS' accuracy has been validated by a group of practicing certified athletic trainers.

Because the NATABOC RDS is a job analysis, it is also used as the guideline for continuing education content. In addition to determining continuing education topic areas, the RDS acts as a resource in other areas as well. The study defines the entry-level standards of practice for credential holders and is the blueprint for the NATABOC certification examination.

The most recent NATABOC RDS (4th Edition) identifies six domains of athletic training. The RDS is reviewed and rewritten every five years. The 5th Edition will be rewritten in 2003.

The content of every program offered for NATABOC CEU credit must fall within at least one of these domains:

1. Prevention
2. Recognition, Evaluation and Assessment
3. Immediate Care
4. Treatment, Rehabilitation and Reconditioning
5. Organization and Administration
6. Professional Development and Responsibility

For a copy of the 4th Edition RDS contact the NATABOC at www.nataboc.org or 877.262.3926. ***The cost of the RDS has been reduced to \$19.95 if you order on-line