

# Keys to Understanding the Athletic Training Profession

## Key Organizations



### BOC – [BOCATC.org](http://BOCATC.org)

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.

#### What is the BOC's Legal Name?

National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification, Inc. (to be referred as Board of Certification, Inc. or BOC)



### CAATE – [CAATE.net](http://CAATE.net)

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



### NATA – [NATA.org](http://NATA.org)

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.

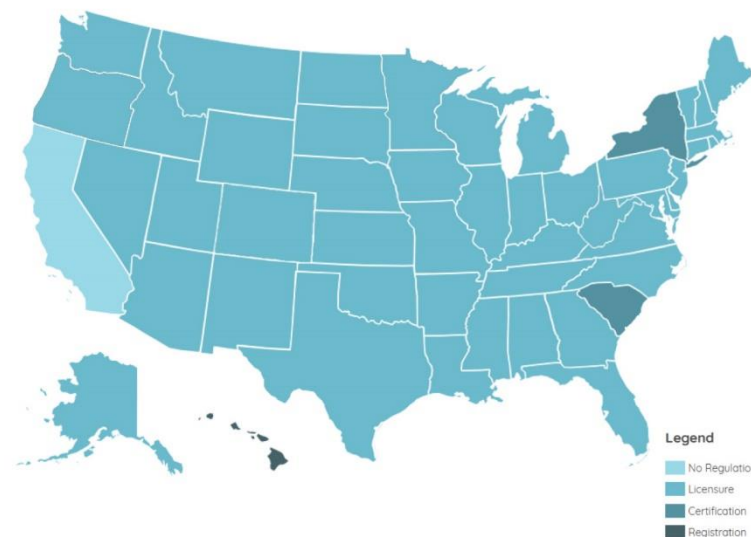


### NATA Foundation – [NATAFOUNDATION.org](http://NATAFOUNDATION.org)

The mission of the NATA Foundation is to support and advance the athletic training profession through research and education.

## State Regulatory Agencies

Currently, 49 states and the District of Columbia regulate the practice of athletic training. Individuals must be legally recognized by the appropriate state regulatory agency prior to practicing athletic training. The BOC exam is recognized by all Athletic Trainer state regulatory agencies to meet their exam requirement. **Compliance with state regulatory requirements is mandatory and the only avenue to legal athletic training practice.**



## Key Components

### Athletic Trainer Education

The “AT Educational Competencies”, published by the NATA and recognized by the CAATE, 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.

### Practice Analysis (PA)

- The PA, published by the BOC, identifies essential knowledge and skills for the athletic training profession and serves as a blueprint for exam development. The PA 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 PA plays a role in defining the entry-level professional in regards to state regulation.
- Domains of professional practice from the “Practice Analysis, 7th Edition”:
  - Injury and Illness Prevention and Wellness Promotion
  - Examination, Assessment and Diagnosis
  - Immediate and Emergency Care
  - Therapeutic Intervention
  - Healthcare Administration and 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.

### Certification Maintenance

- Continuing education is required to maintain BOC certification and current requirements include 50 CEUs every 2 years and current certification in emergency cardiac care.

### Statutory Authority

- The BOC has **no** statutory authority over the practice of athletic training. The BOC can suspend an AT’s BOC certification, which means they can no longer use the trademarked “ATC” credential.