

Content Outline for BOC Orthopedic Practice Analysis

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Athletic Trainers (ATs) are health care professionals who render service or treatment under the direction of or in collaboration with a physician, in accordance with their education and training and state statutes, rules and regulations. As part of the health care team, services provided by ATs include injury and illness prevention, wellness promotion and education, emergent care, examination and clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Individuals become eligible for BOC certification through an athletic training program (bachelor's or entry-level master's) accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Athletic training students engage in rigorous classroom study and clinical education in a variety of practice settings such as high schools, colleges/universities, hospitals, emergency rooms, physician offices and health care clinics over the course of the degree program.

BOC specialty certification is a voluntary process by which an AT's mastery of advanced knowledge, skills and experience in a specialized area of clinical practice, exceeding what is required for entry-level AT certification, is demonstrated and measured against defined predetermined standards, such as completing post-professional education, training and/or experience (e.g., accredited residency) and achieving a passing score on a specialty certification examination. This demonstration serves to enhance the quality of patient care, optimize clinical outcomes, increase cost-effectiveness and improve patients' health-related quality of life in specialized areas of athletic training practice.

The purpose of an orthopedic specialization is to provide formal recognition to specialty-trained ATs who have advanced education or experience in musculoskeletal conditions to improve the health and welfare of the public. The specialized practitioner will optimize outcomes for orthopedic patients by demonstrating a level of advanced knowledge, skill and experience which is identified in the "BOC Orthopedic Practice Analysis." The BOC Orthopedic Specialty Exam is being developed with the highest standards, validity and reliability. The BOC will be seeking third-party accreditation from the National Commission on Certifying Agencies for this exam.

Target Audience

ATs who specialize in orthopedics have specific post-professional education, training and experience in orthopedics. Based on the training and testing required for the orthopedic specialty certification, these ATs use advanced clinical decision making to evaluate and diagnose patients, manage comprehensive care and promote, maintain and restore health.

Domains

Domains are the major responsibilities or duties that characterize orthopedic specialty practice for ATs.

Domain I: Medical Knowledge

Domain II: Procedural Knowledge

Domain III: Professional Practice

Domain I: Medical Knowledge

TASKS

1. Formulate differential diagnoses by interpreting a comprehensive history to determine an appropriate physical examination.
2. Complete a focused physical examination using evidence-based methods to inform the differential diagnosis.
3. Determine the need for appropriate diagnostic testing based on the history and physical examination to inform the differential diagnosis.
4. Synthesize evaluation findings and diagnostic studies consistent with best practice to determine the diagnosis and educate the patient.
5. Formulate the plan of care in collaboration with the interdisciplinary health care team and patient.
6. Analyze outcomes to optimize the continuum of patient-centered care.

Domain II: Procedural Knowledge

TASKS

1. Implement the established plan of care utilizing advanced clinical decision making to incorporate appropriate modifications and ensure optimal patient outcomes.
2. Provide **pre-procedural** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.
3. Provide **intra-procedural** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.
4. Provide **post-procedural** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.
5. Provide **pre-operative** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.
6. Provide **intra-operative** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.
7. Provide **post-operative** care to ensure optimal patient outcomes.

Domain III: Professional Practice

TASKS

1. Establish patient-centered processes and quality care programs that promote value-based care, population health strategies and cost containment to improve patient outcomes.
2. Collaborate as a leader of the interdisciplinary health care team using effective interpersonal and communication skills to ensure optimal patient care.
3. Engage in professional development and reflective practice to support improvement in self and others to enhance patient care.

Weighting of Domains

The “BOC Orthopedic Practice Analysis” identifies the domains and skills specialty-trained ATs in orthopedics must possess in order to provide proficient care for their patients and improve the health and welfare of the public. Advanced education or experience in musculoskeletal conditions is required in the certification program to ensure essential depth in the specialty knowledge base.

The practice analysis serves as the blueprint for determining the content of the Orthopedic Specialty exam. Exam questions represent all three domains of athletic training, with weighting distributed across domains as indicated in the table below.

Domain	Percent of Questions on Exam
Medical Knowledge	46%
Procedural Knowledge	46%
Professional Practice	8%

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This document provides domain and task level information only. The full practice analysis identifies knowledge and skills for each task and an in-depth look at the study and process.

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