

## Column: AT Education Listserv Highlights

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The following is a brief review of selected topics discussed on the Athletic Training Education listserv. It is not necessary to be a member of this listserv to access the archived messages and discussions. To view this listserv, go to: [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/athletic\\_training\\_education](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/athletic_training_education). To post messages you must join the listserv (see instructions below).

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### **How do you convert hard copies of x-rays into electronic files? (January 31, 2006 - 10 postings)**

Some of the suggestions included using a digital camera and using imaging software.

### **What are the policies or requirements for athletic training students to report to clinical education experiences during extracurricular times (i.e., pre-season, winter or spring breaks or after school term ends)? (November 18, 2005 - 27 postings)**

There was mixed debate about whether or not to give a course grade to students for these experiences. It may be nice to compromise with some students so that they can get the learning experiences as well as work a paid job.

Some programs question what to do with students' clinical education hours during these non-class-related times. Students will still record their hours for these times so that their program can track the experiences and total hours accumulated in the AT program. It's true that students and programs do not have to record clinical education hours, but it may be required for state licensure eligibility.

Regardless of the issues encountered at each academic and athletic setting, real-world experiences are intended to be educational. They provide opportunity for the students to demonstrate their commitment. The profession is more than simply



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40 hours/week, Monday-Friday, and more than just in-season or academic year. It's important that students know what they're getting into; and ATCs and program administrators need to understand that these individuals are still students who have other responsibilities outside of athletic training.

### **How can burnout be prevented? What can be done about the number of work hours? (December 2, 2005 - 4 postings)**

There's a great deal of drop out or turn over in the AT profession and within AT educational programs. Ideally, athletic departments should have adequate personnel for all teams. If staff is limited, some athletic programs may limit their work hours by rotating staff between sports rather than simply getting the same sport, athletes, and coaches all the time. It may be necessary to open the athletic training rooms later in the morning, which would give ATCs time to catch up on their paper work, teach classes (if applicable), or do other required tasks. It's also nice to have an athletic administrator who enforces the practice times and athletic training room operations. Burnout could also apply to graduate student assistant athletic trainers, athletic training students, and faculty.

### **There are also polls available on the AT Education Listserv. Below are poll results:**

1. Who currently has (not *should have*) the responsibilities of a Clinical Coordinator for your entry-level AT program? (n = 58)
  - a. Program Director (25%)
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Full-time academic faculty member (50%)
  - c. Part-time academic faculty member (6%)
  - d. Assistant AT – intercollegiate athletics (12%)
  - e. Head AT – intercollegiate athletics (5%)
2. Does your AT program have its own designated classroom or lab? (n = 68)
  - a. Yes – independent of AT rooms (45%)
  - b. Yes – shared with other academic programs (25%)
  - c. No – we use the AT rooms (25%)
  - d. No – we only use academic classrooms (4%)

To Join the AT Education Listserv email: [athletic\\_training\\_education-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:athletic_training_education-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) OR go to the AT Education website and click on "Join This Group." It is also possible to set your subscribing properties to receive emails one/day or week–this is called "Digest." Subscribers can also set their

subscription to “No Email.” With this setting, you would have to go to the AT Education listserv's website to read the emails. Subscribers with Digest and No Email settings cannot receive attachments, but can have full access to the listserv's website. You may also send attachments through posted messages to this listserv