

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, go to http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/athletic_training_education. After September 15, 2008, all future postings and discussions will be conducted on the NATA Think Tank – Educator forum.

Interesting Websites and Resources

1. Video Orthopaedics Journal: <http://www.vjortho.com>
2. LiveText
<http://www.iusb.edu/%7Elivetext/index.htm>
<http://www.millikin.edu/edtech/livetext.asp>
http://college.livetext.com/help/user_guide.3.0.2.html
<http://www.cedu.niu.edu/ceduhelp/livetext.html>
<http://www.emich.edu/coe/livetext/faculty/index.html>
<http://www.cwu.edu/~ect/lt/createdocs.html>
3. AT Education Blog:
<http://ateducation.blogspot.com>
4. Lecture materials – Medco Sports Medicine
<http://www.medco-athletics.com/lectureseries>

Student Point System (April 1, 2008 – 4 postings)

Using a student point system can help quantify and grade some of the miscellaneous tasks or expectations that students are completing before graduation. Concordia University (Wisconsin) instituted a Professional Development Unit (PDU) program that requires students to earn 25 PDUs each school year. At the end of a three year program, students would earn 75 PDUs—the same amount of CEUs required by the BOC during the same period. The categories students must complete include: professional association involvement or memberships (NATA, district, state, ACSM, NSCA, AT student association), volunteer clinical experience (outside program requirements), paid student experiences,



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attendance at conferences/seminars, and volunteer assistance for exams, workshops, etc. The University of South Carolina also has a professional points program.¹

Clinical Experience Level of Our ATC Educators (April 4, 2008 – 2 postings)

In the past ten years it appears that is an increasing number of young professionals in athletic training who are progressing quickly through academia with very little clinical experience. There may be good reasons why. Some athletic trainers may rush into or back to more advanced schooling because they enjoy learning or it is required for career advancement. Some ATs may want to complete their doctoral degrees before they start a family or their family grows. Those who lack “real world” experience could potentially influence the preparation of AT students. Perhaps in these cases, these instructors or doctoral students should be encouraged to get more clinical experience, even as little as few hours per week.

ATrack - Use and Feedback (August 16, 2008 – 5 postings)

The new ATrack system is very discipline and profession specific, which suggests it is a good choice for use by athletic training programs. There are several advantages to using Atrack: 1) a program can customize the online evaluation tools, documenting clinical hours, and track patient encounters; and 2) Going paperless is usually a good idea. The disadvantages may be: 1) students must be NATA members to gain access; 2) cost—unless programs require their students to pay for this through program or course fees; and 3) universities that have two entry-level programs (i.e, bachelors and masters) have had difficulty accessing ATrack as one program.

Fingerprints and Background Checks (August 26, 2008 – 6 postings)

Some off-campus clinical sites may be requiring fingerprint and background checks on students before they begin rotations. Prices for fingerprinting range from free to \$60. Some background checks may include federal, state, or regional.

References

1. Gardiner A, Mensch JM. Promoting professional development in athletic training. *Ath Ther Today*. 2004;9(4):30-31.