

Program Planning Summary

Program Designation

Degree Name:	Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training CIP Code: 51.0913
Academic Unit:	Department of Health and Physical Education Richard W. Riley College of Education Winthrop University Rock Hill, SC 29733
Proposed Date of Implementation:	Fall 2008
New Program or Modification:	Modification
Number of Credit Hours in Program:	126 (four year program)

Justification of Need

The Winthrop University Athletic Training Education Program (WU-ATEP) began the national accreditation process in 2001 and was successfully accredited in September 2004. The WU-ATEP is housed within the Department of Health and Physical Education of the Richard W. Riley College of Education. The degree which students in the WU-ATEP currently receive is the Bachelor of Science. The major for these students is "Physical Education, with a concentration in Athletic Training." The first graduating class of the WU-ATEP received diplomas in spring 2006.

Accreditation for athletic training is governed by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The accreditation standards established by CAATE are divided into fourteen major sections (A thru N) and include, among others, requirements for institutional affiliation, faculty qualifications, program director qualifications, academic requirements, and resources. Section I of the CAATE standards defines the requirements for curriculum and instruction and contains five sub-headings. Standard I1 is included below:

- I1.** Description of the Program - The athletic training education program must be an undergraduate or graduate program that offers a major or graduate equivalent in athletic training. The undergraduate major or graduate major equivalent must be:
- I1.1** consistent with other majors offered within the institution,
 - I1.2** identified as an academic athletic training major program in institutional academic publications, and
 - I1.3** indicated on the official transcript of the student as is normally designated for other undergraduate majors or graduate major equivalents at the institution.

Standard I1 is interpreted by CAATE as requiring a major in athletic training. CAATE has not recognized a concentration within a major other than athletic

training as meeting the standard. When the WU-ATEP is reviewed by CAATE for re-accreditation, it is likely to be cited as being non-compliant to this standard unless a change of degree designation is made.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity

For fall 2007, over 40 students have selected the Athletic Training concentration in the Department of Health and Physical Education. The interest in the program has prompted Winthrop University's admissions staff to offer a break-out session dedicated to athletic training during each Preview Day. It is anticipated that the opening of the state-of-the-art Lois Rhame West Health, Physical Education and Wellness Center will increase interest in all majors in the Department of Health and Physical Education, including athletic training.

The goals of the WU-ATEP include producing high quality athletic trainers for employment in educational, clinical, and professional settings and preparing students to pass the Board of Certification national certification examination. Nearly 75% of the students who completed the WU-ATEP in the past two years are pursuing master's degrees. Several have received graduate assistantships and are working in Athletic Training and other related settings while obtaining advanced degrees. It is anticipated that these graduates will continue into full-time employment as athletic trainers upon completion of graduate studies. Additionally, one-half of the WU-ATEP graduates who have taken the rigorous Board of Certification examination have passed. This first-time passage rate is slightly higher than the national first-time passage rate of 46.89% reported by the Board of Certification.

Employment opportunities for athletic trainers in South Carolina are good. The state has strong certification legislation which governs the practice of athletic training. High schools within the state are encouraged to hire athletic trainers to provide sports medicine care for the athletic programs. Several high schools within York County have advertised for qualified athletic trainers in the past six months.

Assessment of Extent to Which the Proposed Program Duplicates Existing Programs in the State

Winthrop University is one of seven institutions in South Carolina which have accredited undergraduate athletic training education programs. The institution that is closest geographically is the University of South Carolina. The other public institutions are the College of Charleston and Lander University. The independent institutions which have accredited programs are Charleston Southern University, Erskine College, and Limestone College. Each institution has a unique student population.

Relationship of the Proposed Program to Existing Programs at the Proposed Institution

The WU-ATEP compliments other programs within the Department of Health and Physical Education. Students in all programs within the department take some common classes including: kinesiology, exercise physiology, and motor learning. Students in the WU-ATEP also take courses outside the department. There is an excellent relationship between the WU-ATEP and the Department of Biology where students take Human Anatomy and Human Physiology. Athletic training students also take course from the Department of Nutrition.

An important component of the education of athletic training students is the opportunity to obtain practical clinical experience under the supervision of experienced athletic trainers. The WU-ATEP enjoys an excellent relationship with the Department of Athletics. The four full-time and two graduate assistant certified athletic trainers employed by the Department of Athletics work closely with the faculty of the WU-ATEP to provide excellent clinical education for the students in the program.

Relationship of the Proposed Program to the Other Institutions Via Inter-Institutional Cooperation

Students in the WU-ATEP obtain practical clinical experience with certified athletic trainers, physicians and nurses in several settings outside of the university. These settings allow the students to develop required skills which may not be utilized in a university sports medicine setting. Each clinical experience setting is formalized by an affiliation agreement. The agreement has been reviewed by legal experts at Winthrop University and by the cooperating agency. The WU-ATEP currently has formal affiliation agreements with the Charlotte Bobcats, Riverview Medical Center, OrthoCarolina Orthopedic Group, and several local high schools.

Additional Costs of Implementing the Program

Since the WU-ATEP is an existing program, which is seeking modification to become a major, it is not anticipated that any significant additional costs will be incurred. The program currently has a tenured assistant professor as the program director and full-time faculty member of instructor rank as the clinical coordinator. Needed upgrades in equipment and supplies are addressed through the standard budget process.

Costs for CAATE membership and other costs related to maintaining accreditation are included in the WU-ATEP budget. The re-accreditation self-study report which will be submitted in summer 2009 for a site visit during the 2009-10 academic year is being factored into the Richard W. Riley College of Education budget.