

## ATHLETIC TRAINING CLINICAL EXPERIENCES AND SUPPLEMENTAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

### DEFINITIONS (as defined by the CAATE)

- **CLINICAL EDUCATION** - a broad umbrella term that includes three types of learning opportunities to prepare students for independent clinical practice: athletic training clinical experiences, simulation, and supplemental clinical experiences.
  - **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE** - direct client/patient care guided by a preceptor who is an athletic trainer or physician. Athletic Training clinical experiences are used to verify students' abilities to meet the curricular content standards.
  - **SIMULATION** – an educational technique, not a technology, to replace or amplify real experiences with guided experiences that evoke or replicate substantial aspects of the real world in a fully interactive manner.
  - **SUPPLEMENTAL CLINICAL EXPERIENCE** - Learning opportunities supervised by health care providers other than athletic trainers or physicians.

### CLARION UNIVERSITY MSAT PROGRAM

The MSAT Program is a very dynamic and hands-on academic experience incorporating learning over time through classroom work that transcends to clinical education experiences.

Individual clinical education plans reinforce the sequence of formal instruction of athletic training knowledge, skills, and clinical abilities, including clinical decision-making and professional behaviors, by providing opportunities for authentic, real-time patient care. MSAT students are provided opportunities for independent clinical practice during athletic training clinical experiences, simulation, and supplemental clinical experiences. Assigned clinical education experiences, coupled with the academic progression, allow for increasing levels of clinical responsibility leading to autonomous practice within level of competency upon graduation. Students will be directly supervised by a Preceptor, who is physically present and has the ability to intervene on behalf of the AT Student and patient/client. A student must be instructed on clinical skills, either in a course, lab, or clinical situation, prior to performing those skills on a patient.

Students have opportunities for clinical rotations with Athletic Trainers in numerous settings - on-campus intercollegiate athletics, other universities, high schools, physician's offices, and rehabilitation centers. Students also have opportunities for clinical experiences and interprofessional interactions with other health care professionals, including physicians, surgeons, nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and chiropractors. The variety of rotations allow the student to engage in the continuum of care that prepares a student to function in a variety of settings with patients engaged in a range of activities with conditions described in AT knowledge, skills, and clinical abilities.

**PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE** – three practicum experiences occur during the first academic year in the MSAT program to reinforce the sequence of formal instruction of athletic training knowledge, skills, and clinical abilities, including professional behaviors and progress towards decision-making.

MSAT students enrolled in Practicum courses are expected to document a minimum of 100 clinical hours per practicum experience which must include supervised clinical education. A minimum of 85 clinical hours is required to pass the course; the maximum

hours that can be accrued is 140. To meet this requirement, AT students will need to schedule 12-16 hours per week with their assigned preceptor.

**CLINICAL IMMERSION EXPERIENCE** – during the second year in the MSAT Program, students complete two 15-week clinical immersion rotations which provide opportunity for authentic, real-time patient care and greater autonomy in decision making. The second year of the MSAT includes distance-based education with a focus on clinical research and global (whole-patient) patient care principles in preparation for the BOC examination and autonomous clinical practice. Distance-based education allows students to complete their clinical immersion experiences at different clinical sites across the country.

MSAT students enrolled in Clinical Immersion Experience are expected to document a minimum of 400 clinical hours per immersion experience which must include supervised clinical education. A minimum of 350 clinical hours is required to pass the course; the maximum hours that can be accrued is 560. To meet this requirement, AT students will need to schedule 25-35 hours per week with their assigned preceptor.

#### **CLINICAL EDUCATION ATTENDANCE**

Consistent attendance is expected of an AT Student for each clinical rotation. During the initial meeting with the preceptor, the clinical hours and expectations will be established. A student is expected to be present during all designated clinical hours.

Students must use good judgment when taking an absence. Examples might include personal illness, family emergencies, and death in the immediate family. Sudden conflicts, illnesses, or emergencies do occur, albeit rare. In the event that a sudden conflict arises, the student must notify the Preceptor prior to the absence by phone or in person. Only in the most extreme conditions (e.g., death in the immediate family, hospitalization) will this notification be waived. *Family obligations, employment, travel, and previous plans are not generally accepted as excused absences.*

If a student fails to attend a clinical rotation at the designated time or has an unexcused absence, the student is subject to a written warning utilizing the *Incident Report*. Multiple written warnings for the same offense can result in a disciplinary action within the program of probation, suspension or dismissal.

#### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

All costs incurred during athletic training clinical experiences (e.g., travel, housing, parking) are the responsibility of the student.