William Woods University
Athletic Training Education Program

Clinical Education and Supervision Policy

The undergraduate Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) at WWU is currently accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). To be eligible for graduation from WWU, athletic training students must meet all of the current academic requirements for their degree including all requirements for completion of the clinical courses. Each clinical course’s hour requirements are to be spread out through the entire academic semester. The clinical experiences must be over a minimum of 5 semesters starting in the spring of their sophomore year. Athletic training students who are also competing in intercollegiate athletics must meet with the ATEP Program Director and their sports coach to discuss the options for completing the clinical courses. This may include taking the clinical course or completing the clinical course during the summer or staying an additional year. Upon graduation, athletic training students who meet all of the program requirements or are in their last semester of course work are eligible to sit for the Board of Certification (BOC) exam.

During the clinical portion of the ATEP, students will be assigned to an preceptor at an ATEP affiliated site and must be directly supervised. Athletic training students will be rotated through clinical assignments to gain clinical experience with a variety of different populations including genders, varying levels of risk, protective equipment and medical experiences. Clinical experiences are designed to provide athletic training students with the opportunity to practice and integrate the cognitive learning with the associated psychomotor skills to develop entry-level clinical proficiency and professional behavior as an Athletic Trainer as defined by the NATA Educational Competencies. The ATEP utilizes affiliated clinical education sites both on and off campus. Athletic training students participating in the clinical portion of the ATEP are required to have their own transportation to all affiliated clinical education sites.

Clinical experiences can only be conducted while the preceptor that the athletic training student is assigned to is physically present and providing direct supervision. The preceptor must be physically present and have the ability to intervene on behalf of the athletic training student to provide on-going and consistent education. At no time shall the athletic training student be left unsupervised by their preceptor while performing a psychomotor skill. When possible the supervising preceptor should consistently interact with the athletic training student to help facilitate the integration of the cognitive learning with the psychomotor skill application in a real-life situation. Preceptors must also provide the athletic training student with performance evaluations. These performance evaluations will be scheduled by the ATEP and the evaluations forms will be provided to the preceptor during their Preceptor Workshop or meeting with the ATEP Program Director.

Each clinical course (Clinical I, II, III, and IV) has a minimum requirement of 250 clock hours of clinical experience and a maximum of 300 clock hours. Athletic training
students are expected to accumulate approximately 15-20 clock hours of clinical experience each week of the academic semester. While opportunities are available to gain additional clinical experience before and after the academic semesters it is not a requirement of the clinical course. Any clinical experience hours obtained before or after the academic semester will count towards the clinical course requirements. Athletic training students should still follow the 15-20 hours per week guidelines. If the student is unable to meet all of the clinical course requirements the student will be given an incomplete. A student who is given an incomplete for any course may not progress through the sequence of courses until the incomplete is removed from their records and a grade given for the course. Only those times that the athletic training student is being directly supervised will count toward the clinical hour requirement. It is the responsibility of the athletic training student to meet with their preceptor weekly to discuss the schedules of the athletic training student and the preceptor. The discussion regarding the weekly schedules must provide the athletic training student the opportunity to gain supervised clinical experience with all the facets of the athletic training work setting including but not limited to: pre-practice duties; practice and game coverage experience; injury and illness evaluations; treatments and rehab; administration; and patient care. Time should also be scheduled to allow the athletic training student appropriate time off from the clinical experience (i.e. one day per week). The scheduled time off should be used by the athletic training student for personal reasons and for their academic studies.