

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Accreditation Allows Athletic Training Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi to Offer National Certification

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Athletic Training Education Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The national certification allows graduates of the program to receive a certification to work professionally in all 50 states.

CAATE, formerly the Joint Review Committee on Education Programs in Athletic Training, is responsible for the accreditation and oversight of 357 professional programs through objective evaluation of academic requirements to ensure that entry-level students meet the required competency standards of practice necessary for excellence in competency. The CAATE is a cooperative sponsorship of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and the National Athletic Trainer Association. The purpose of the CAATE is to develop, maintain, and promote appropriate minimum standards of quality for educational programs in Athletic Training.

According to Dr. Randy Bonnette, associate professor of education and chair of the Department of Kinesiology, previous graduates of the athletic training program were only eligible to receive a license to work in Texas. The national accreditation announced earlier this summer has already sparked a major increase in applications for the University's program.

“We have been working on our accreditation for three years and, since the notification from CAATE, the number of applicants to the athletic training program has more than doubled,” said Bonnette. “The admission process is now so competitive and selective the quality of students will dramatically increase as well.”

Since its inception in 1999, the University's athletic training program has evolved from a specialization in the Kinesiology Department to an academic major. Students in the Athletic Training Education Program receive a bachelor of science with a major in athletic training.

The Athletic Training Education Program prepares students for jobs in high schools, colleges, professional sports and other allied health care settings. Other possible athletic training employment opportunities include corporate health programs, health clubs, clinical and industrial health care programs and athletic training curriculum programs.

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