

Athletic Training Profession Technical Standards

The Professional Athletic Training Program at Union University in accordance with the National Athletic Trainers Association has adopted the following guidelines of technical standards for entry-level athletic training education.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, P.L.101-336, provides comprehensive civil rights protections to qualified individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II and Title III are applicable to students with disabilities and their requests for accommodations. Title II covers state colleges and universities. Title III pertains to private educational institutions; it prohibits discrimination based on disability in places of “public accommodation,” including undergraduate and postgraduate schools.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 “prohibits all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance from discrimination against individuals with disabilities who are ‘otherwise qualified’ to participate in those programs.” With respect to post-secondary educational services, an “otherwise qualified” individual is a person with a disability “who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the recipient’s education program or activity.”

Given the intent of Section 504 and the ADA, the development of standards of practice for a profession, and the establishment of essential requirements to the student’s program of study, or directly related to licensing requirements, is allowable under these laws. In applying Section 504 regulations, which require individuals to meet the “academic and technical standards for admission,” the Supreme Court has stated that physical qualifications could lawfully be considered “technical standard(s) for admission.”

If an institution can reasonably modify its program or facilities to accommodate the applicant or student with a disability, the “otherwise qualified” applicant or student shall not be excluded. However, an institution need not provide accommodations or modify its program of study or facilities such that (a) would “fundamentally alter” and/or (b) place an “undue burden” on the educational program or academic requirements and technical standards which are essential to the program of study.

The following guidelines embody the physical, cognitive, and attitudinal abilities an entry-level athletic trainer must be able to demonstrate in order to function in a broad variety of clinical situations; and to render a wide spectrum of care to athletes and individuals engaged in physical activity. The guidelines serve to recognize abilities essential to the development of these entry-level abilities.



TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION

The Athletic Training Education Program at Union University is a rigorous and intense program that places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare graduates to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. The technical standards set forth by the Athletic Training Education Program established qualities considered necessary for students admitted to this program to achieve the knowledge, skills, and competencies of an entry-level athletic trainer, as well as meet the expectations of the program's accrediting agency (Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education [CAATE]). The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to the Athletic Training Education Program. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student will not be admitted into the program.

Compliance with the program's technical standards does not guarantee a student's eligibility for the NATABOC certification exam.

The following abilities and expectations must be met by all students admitted to and matriculating through the Union University Athletic Training Program:

1. Students must possess the mental capacity (without assistance from an intermediary) to integrate, synthesize, analyze, and problem solve in order to effectively examine and treat patients with injuries and illnesses. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.
2. Students must possess sufficient cognitive, postural and neuromuscular control, sensory function, ambulation, and coordination to perform appropriate patient examinations and interventions using accepted techniques, as well as accurately, safely, and efficiently use equipment and materials for such purposes. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.
3. Students must annually pass examinations by external entities such as CPR for the Professional Rescuer (or similar certification) and OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Training.
4. Students must possess the ability to communicate (orally and in writing) effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues, including individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds. This includes, but is not limited to, the ability to establish rapport with patients and communicate/document judgments and treatment information effectively. Students must be able to understand and speak the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice. Students must be able to perform the above quickly in an emergency situation and in a timely manner otherwise.
5. Students must be able to document appropriate vaccinations applicable to healthcare professionals and maintain appropriate personal hygiene conducive to the classroom and clinical setting.

6. Students must have the capacity to maintain composure, exercise good judgment, and perform within the standard of care for a student of the same educational level during periods of high stress.

Candidates for selection to the Athletic Training Education Program will be required to verify that they understand and meet technical standards or that they believe that, with certain accommodations, they can meet these standards.

Union University's Office for Disability Services will evaluate documentation from any student who states he/she could meet the program's technical standards with accommodations, confirming that the stated condition qualifies as a disability under applicable laws.

If a student states he/she can meet the technical standards with accommodations, then the University's Office for Disability Services and the faculty of the Profession Athletic Training Program will determine whether the student can meet the technical standards with reasonable accommodations. This may include a review of whether the requested accommodations are reasonable, accommodations do not jeopardize clinician/patient safety, and all coursework, clinical experiences, and internships are deemed essential for graduation.

I certify that I have read and understand the technical standards for selection listed above, and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards **WITHOUT** accommodations. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards I will not be admitted into the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Name

Alternative statement for students requesting accommodations

I certify that I have read the technical standards of selection listed above and I believe to the best of my knowledge that I meet each of these standards **WITH** certain accommodations. I will contact Union University's Office for Disability Services to determine what accommodations may be available. I understand that if I am unable to meet these standards with or without accommodations, I will not be admitted into the program.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Print Name