**Bellarmine University**

**Athletic Training Program**

**Verification of Technical Standards**

The AT Program is a rigorous and intense program which places specific requirements and demands on the students enrolled in the program. An objective of this program is to prepare students to enter a variety of employment settings and to render care to a wide spectrum of individuals engaged in physical activity. Bellarmine University’s Athletic Training Program (AT Program) is dedicated to equality for all athletic training students. The technical standards, set forth by the National Athletic Trainer’s Association (NATA) and adopted by the Athletic Training Program at Bellarmine University, establish the essential qualities considered necessary for students in 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, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

Technical Standards define the observational, communication, cognitive, affective, and physical capabilities deemed essential to complete this program and to perform as a competent practitioner of athletic training. Students matriculating through this program must be capable of performing the following functions, with or without reasonable accommodations, throughout the professional curriculum, through a continuous evaluation process to determine ongoing proficiency: **Proficiency with the following technical standards does not guarantee a student’s eligibility for the Board of Certification (BOC) examination.**

Candidates for the degree must be able to meet these minimum standards for successful completion of degree requirements. In the event a student is unable to fulfill these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation, the student may not be able to complete the program.

1. Observational Capabilities which require the use of vision, hearing and somatic sensations. Students must be able to:
	1. Participate in lectures and laboratory demonstrations
	2. Obtain information from patients (such as but not limited to obtaining patient history, observation of movement, posture, skin integrity, heart/breath sounds and signs of distress, palpate anatomical structures and presence and degree of edema) to determine variation from normal.
	3. Interpret lectures, laboratory demonstrations and graphic output images (including but not limited to radiographs, DVD and internet resources) in order to receive complex information.
2. Intellectual Abilities which require the student to effectively problem solve. Student must be able to:
	1. Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate and synthesize information in a timely fashion.
	2. To assimilate, analyze, synthesize and integrate concepts and demonstrate problem-solving abilities to formulate assessments and therapeutic judgments and be able to develop effective treatment programs.
	3. Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structures.
3. Perform skills which require coordination of both gross and fine motor muscular movements and equilibrium. Students must:
	1. Be able to be the first responder in a potentially catastrophic injury (e.g., in-line stabilization of cervical spine, rescue breathing, obstructed airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED use)
	2. Safely, accurately and efficiently participate in patient examination using palpation, muscle strength assessment, joint range of motion measurement and other evaluative maneuvers (such as but not limited to grasping, pushing, pulling and holding).
	3. Safely, accurately and efficiently lift and manipulate body parts, assist patients in moving and walking.
	4. Safely, accurately and efficiently manipulate small objects such as equipment dials, tweezers, safety pins and other tools used for examination or therapeutic intervention.
	5. Tolerate physically demanding workloads sustained over the course of a typical work or school day.
4. Students must communicate effectively and sensitively with patients and colleagues. This includes, but is not limited to:
	1. The ability to establish rapport with patients, engage in respectful, non-judgmental interactions with individuals from various lifestyles, cultures, races, socioeconomic classes and abilities.
	2. Perceive and interpret non-verbal communication to elicit information such as mood and activities.
	3. Convey and receive information, in a timely manner, essential for safe and effective care.
	4. Participate in group meetings to deliver and receive complex information and to respond effectively to questions from a variety of sources.
	5. Understand, speak and write the English language at a level consistent with competent professional practice (including but not limited to clear, legible and timely written records, complete forms according to directions, possess computer literacy including keyboarding skills.
5. Students must have the behavioral and social attributes:
	1. To maintain composure and continue to function well during periods of high stress.
	2. Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions in order to foster harmonious working relationships.
	3. Demonstrate appropriate behavior and attitudes to not jeopardize the emotional, physical and behavioral safety of individuals.
	4. To be flexible and adjust to changing situations and uncertainty in clinical situations.
	5. Demonstrate integrity, honesty and ethical behavior, both in the classroom and during clinical experiences.
6. The ability to show perseverance, diligence and commitment to complete the Athletic Training Program as outlined and sequenced.

**OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES**

Bellarmine University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities and full participation for persons with disabilities. It is the University’s policy that no otherwise qualified person be excluded from participating in any University program or activities, be denied the benefits of any University program or activity, or to otherwise be subject to discrimination with regard to any University program or activity. The Disability Services Office provides support services to persons with disabilities to assist them in achieving academic, career, and personal goals. Students may contact the Director, Ronda Purdy, at (502) 272- 8490 or rpurdy@bellarmine.edu, or in person on B-Level of the W.L. Lyons Brown Library – Office B05 A).